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HONR 121L.87: Ways of Knowing

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WAYS OF KNOWING

HC121, Fall 2014

T, Th 12:40-2 p.m.

Gary W. Hawk, Section 81, Room 118; Dr. Soazig Lebihan, Section 87, Room 117

Prof. Gary W. Hawk

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Prof. Soazig LeBihan

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Office Hours: Friday 2-5 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Using a diverse selection of readings representing more than three thousand years of human experience and numerous cultures, we will explore various ways of knowing, including rational/quantitative, relational/sympathetic, sensory/empirical, and narrative/mythological ways of knowing. In the process we will become acquainted with some of the great ideas about the divine, the natural world, and the self both in solitude and society. We will be alert for cracks in our apparent certainties and consolations in the midst of our doubts. As we look into our texts, we will also consider the ethical implications that flow from their various perspectives. Informed by class readings, plenary lectures, and discussions, students will work toward a deeper understanding of their own ways of knowing.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Book of Job, Stephen Mitchell translation, Harper Perennial

Three Dialogues, Plato, Trans. F. J. Church; (We'll use only "The Apology")

The Tempest, William Shakespeare, Penguin Books

Discourse on Method, Rene Descartes. Trans. Laurence Lafleur, Library of Liberal Arts

Tao Te Ching, Stephen Mitchell translation, Harper Perennial

Carson, Silent Spring

N.B. Shorter readings have been placed in a Moodle Shell instead of a Course Pack and some readings can be accessed online. Please follow syllabus carefully (Instructions follow).

Optional but recommended: Diana Hacker, Nancy Sommers, A Pocket Style Manual (hackerhandbooks.com/pocket)

Key: *=Both sections meet in joint session in Room 119.

M=Moodle

Class Plan

T 8/26 Introductions and getting acquainted.
 Class themes and approaches. Outline of course.
 Assignments and Guidelines for WOK papers. Suggestions for Success.
 Opening Exercise

Th 8/28

Reflections on Ways of Knowing: Yanagi. "Seeing and Knowing"; selected poems by Elizabeth Bishop and Walt Whitman (M)

T 9/2 Introduction to Chinese Classical Poetry, Tao Te Ching (Introduction and Text)

Th 9/4 Tao Te Ching, Part II

Th 9/4 Davidson Honors College Convocation, UC Theater, 7 p.m.

***T 9/9** Introduction to the Bible: Genesis 1-4; Hoagland. "Please Don't" (M)

Wednesday: Plenary Lecture #1: "Oh My, God," Prof. Gary W. Hawk, 7 p.m.
Gallagher Business Building, Room #106

Th 9/11 The Book of Job (Introduction and text)

T 9/16 The Book of Job, Part II (Whirlwind and Epilogue)

***Th 9/18** Selected readings from The New Testament: Parables and Teachings (M).
 Haiku Assignment (Due Tuesday)

T 9/23 Selected Classical and Modern Haiku and Commentary (M).

Wednesday 9/24 7 p.m., Plenary Lecture #2: The Passage From Mythology to Philosophy, Prof. Ron Perrin, **GBB #106**

***Th 9/25** Introduction to Philosophy: Plato, The Republic (Allegory of the Cave) (M);
The Apology

***T 9/30** Selected Readings from Euclid and Galileo, (M). Class Demonstrations.

***Th 10/2** The Shift into Modernism: Descartes, Discourse on Method (Introduction and Text)

T 10/7 An Enduring Problem in Philosophy: Truth vs. Opinion. Arendt. "Truth and Politics" (M)

Th 10/9 Darwin, On The Origin of Species; Selections from The Descent of Man (M)

T 10/14 The Abiding Influence of Darwin: Carson, Selections from Silent Spring (Read, Introduction, A Fable for Tomorrow, The Obligation to Endure, The Elixirs of Death).

Th 10/16 The Romantic Perspective in Poetry: Wordsworth. Selected Poems (M)

T 10/21 The Same Impulse in a Different Voice: Poems Hopkins. Selected Poems (M)

Wednesday 10/22, 7 p.m., Plenary Lecture #3 “Pika, Persons and the Practical Imperative: Ethics in the Age of Global Climate Change.” Prof. Pat Burke, GBB#106

Th 10/23 Now in a Modern Idiom: Poems of Plath and Merwin (M); Oliver (handout)

T 10/28 Meeting Ourselves: Freud, “Thoughts for the Times on War and Death” (http://www.sophia-project.org/uploads/1/3/9/5/13955288/freud_waranddeath.pdf)

Th 10/30 Introduction to Self and Society: Davis. “Life in the Iron Mills” (www.gutenberg.org/files/876/876-h/876-h.htm)

T 11/4 Election Day (No classes)

Th 11/6 Self and Society, continued: Dubois. “The Souls of Black Folk” (<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/408/408-h/408-h.htm>) Read these chapters: “The Forethought,” Chapter I., Chapter II and Chapter IX

T 11/11 Veterans Day (No Classes)

Th 11/13 Carver. “A Small, Good Thing” (M)

T 11/18 Gallagher. “The Lover of Horses” (M)

Th 11/20 Shakespeare. “The Tempest” Acts I-III

T 11/25 Shakespeare. Acts IV-IV, Discussion and Readers’ Theater

Th 11/27 Thanksgiving (No Class and Lots of Pie)

T 12/2 A Native American Perspective: Earling. “Real Indians” and “Bad Ways” (M)

Th 12/4 Evaluations. Rilke, Chapter 4 from Letters to a Young Poet (http://www.carrothers.com/rilke_main.htm) and (M) “I Live My Life”

Final Essay Tuesday December 9**Assignments and Grades:**

Attendance and Active Participation: You are expected to read all of the assigned material in advance of the date on the syllabus. You are expected to attend class and participate in discussion about the readings. Regular attendance and participation in the class is mandatory. Your attendance is vital to the other students and the educational process. If you must miss class, notify the instructor in advance. Unexcused absences will affect your grade (7 or more unexcused absences result in course failure). See Addendum for more information.

Readings

The course is packed with readings, some within Moodle (UMOnline), some online, and some in the texts themselves. You need to read the material before coming to the class when we are scheduled to discuss it. If a reading appears in Moodle, the best students highlight passages **and** take notes **before** coming to class. In some cases we will instruct you to come to class prepared with questions you present to the other students. In this and other ways we are asking you to take responsibility for your own education.

Plenary Lectures

Ways of Knowing faculty also present three Plenary Lectures. We expect you to attend. These lectures synthesize and unify course material and can be extremely helpful to our understanding of the readings and their implications. If work or another class conflicts with the scheduled lecture, you may watch the lecture on iTunes U or check out a DVD of the lecture the day after it is presented (discs in DHC office, see Marissa).

Written Assignments:

Ways of Knowing is a writing course (W). This means that we require you to pay attention to the quality of your writing and the thinking that underlies it. Therefore, our sections require you to write four (4) essays, one of which will be your final essay. These essays will be based on prompts that you will receive well in advance and that will address some of the most challenging themes of the course and reflect topics that seem most interesting during our discussions. You also have the option of re-writing one (1) of your essays with the goal of receiving a higher grade. A re-write must be arranged in advance with your professor.

Ways of Knowing Grades:

Your grade will be based on the quality of your writing and thinking in response to the four essay questions and possible re-write. In the event that your grade hovers between one grade and another, your active participation in class and noticeable signs of improvement over the course of the semester may influence your final grade. Each essay, including the final one will be given equal weight (4 X 25pts. = 100pts.). Papers are due in class on or before the date listed in the syllabus. Unless you have made

a prior agreement, we will take off one grade level (A becomes A-) for each class day an assignment is late.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration among students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS).

“Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic WOK Syllabus, continued

standards or retroactive modifications. (For other options see <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>)
Students with disabilities may obtain assistance with the registration process and the relocation of classes through Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or (406) 243- 2243 VOICE/TDD.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

The fate of Montana Senator John Walsh may be the ultimate cautionary tale about plagiarism. Therefore, all students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. It is available for review at: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php. We define plagiarism as representing another's work as one's own. It is strictly forbidden, and it is not nearly as satisfying as representing your own thoughts well. Students must always be very careful to acknowledge another person's wording and ideas in written work.