

9-2014

HONR 121L.83: Ways of Knowing

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Recommended Citation

Wolfram, Nathalie, "HONR 121L.83: Ways of Knowing" (2014). *Syllabi*. 2391.
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Fall 2014

Ways of Knowing

Davidson Honors College 121 Section 83

Tuesday/Thursday 9:40-11

DHC 118

Instructor: Nathalie Wolfram

Office Location: Office for Civic Engagement 018 (DHC lower level)

Email: nathalie.wolfram@umontana.edu

Course Description

What do we know? What do we think we know? How do we know what we know (or what we think we know)? Thinkers in every age have grappled with the questions of how we can know the divine, the physical world, the self, society, and conflict. This course will draw from primary texts in literature, philosophy, and science to explore a variety of approaches to these fundamental questions. Through discussions and plenary lectures, students will develop their own responses to the question of how we know, guided by the authors and texts we examine.

Texts

The Book of Job (translated by Stephen Mitchell)

Tao Te Ching (translated by Stephen Mitchell)

Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Pelican)

Descartes, *Discourse on Method* (Prentice Hall)

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

Additional readings on Moodle. **You must print these readings and bring them to class. Do not bring them on a laptop or electronic reader, except with approval.**

Plenary Lectures

All sections of Ways of Knowing will meet for 3 plenary lectures over the course of the semester. All plenary lectures will be held from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in GBB (Gallagher Business Building) 106.

Assignments

All assignments are due on Moodle by the time specified on the syllabus. See the assignment sheet for details about formatting and citation.

Revision Policy

You may revise one essay for a maximum increase of one full letter grade (e.g. C+ to B+). To be eligible to revise, you must 1) meet with a tutor in the Writing Center to discuss your revision strategy and 2) attach a 1-paragraph narrative to your revised essay explaining whom you met with at the Writing Center, what you discussed, and how you revised your essay.

Academic Honesty

The University of Montana's policy on academic honesty states that "students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion." Please consult me if you are uncertain about the standards of academic honesty.

Attendance

You may miss one class for any reason, no questions asked. Subsequently, each unexcused absence will lower your grade by 1/3 of a letter (e.g. B+ to B). If you are sick or need to miss class for legitimate reasons, speak with me as far in advance as possible to make sure that your absence is excused.

Expectations

- Stow your phone and all electronics, including laptops, for the duration of class.
- Bring the text to class.
- Participate actively and respectfully.

Bonus Assignments

At any time during the semester, you may complete up to 2 bonus assignments. Each successfully completed assignment will raise your overall semester grade by 1.5 points on the 100-point scale.

- 1) Attend a performance, exhibit, or other cultural event either on- or off-campus and write a brief (1-2 paragraph) response explaining how the event connects with a major theme from our class or presents an alternative way of knowing. Do not simply summarize what you saw.
- 2) Complete a volunteer service activity through the Office for Civic Engagement (<http://www.dhc.umt.edu/oce/>) and write a brief (1-2 paragraph) response about how the experience shaped your understanding of your community and/or your role in it. OCE's Service Saturdays program runs several times throughout the semester and is a great way to try out a new opportunity without a long-term commitment. If you already volunteer through another program, you are also welcome to write about that experience. See 9/9 and 9/10 on the schedule below for information about the Volunteer Fair.

Grading

Paper 1	20 %
Paper 2	25 %
Paper 3	25 %
Reflection paper	10 %
Participation	20 %

Schedule (subject to change)

Date	Reading (complete prior to class)	Assignment
Tuesday, Aug 26		Optional: Shakespeare in the Parks, "As You Like It," 6 pm on the Oval
Wednesday, Aug 27		Academic Convocation at 8 pm on the Oval
Thursday, Aug 28	Tao Te Ching	Tim O'Brien, conversation with first-year students, 3:10-4 pm, UC Theater ~AND~ Public lecture, 8 pm, Dennison Theater
Tuesday, Sept 2	Genesis selections	
Thursday, Sept 4	Genesis selections	
Tuesday, Sept 9	Book of Job	DHC Convocation , 7 pm in the UC Theater (required) Volunteer Fair , UC Atrium, 10-2 (optional)
Wednesday, Sept 10		Plenary Lecture: Gary Hawk, "Oh My, God" (required) Volunteer Fair , UC Atrium, 10-2 (optional)
Thursday, Sept 11	New Testament Parables	

Tuesday, Sept 16	Joint session: Milton, selection from <i>Paradise Lost</i>	
Thursday, Sept 18	The Bacchae	Paper 1 due on Moodle by 5 pm
Tuesday, Sept 23	The Bacchae	
Wednesday, Sept 24		Plenary Lecture: Ron Perrin, “The Transition from Mythology to Philosophy in Ancient Greece” (required)
Thursday, Sept 25	Plato selections	
Tuesday, Sept 30	Joint session: Aristotle	
Thursday, Oct 2	Bacon	
Tuesday, Oct 7	Descartes	
Thursday, Oct 9	Descartes	
Tuesday, Oct 14	Darwin & Blake and Frost selections	
Thursday, Oct 16	Darwin & Wordsworth	Paper 2 due on Moodle by 5 pm
Tuesday, Oct 21	Wordsworth	
Wednesday, Oct 22		Plenary Lecture: Pat Burke, “Pika, Persons and the Practical Imperative: Ethics in the Age of Global Climate Change” (required)
Thursday, Oct 23	Silent Spring	
Tuesday, Oct 28	Joint session: Arendt and	

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	McKibben	
Thursday, Oct 30	Joint session: Foucault	
Tuesday, Nov 4	No class—Election Day	
Thursday, Nov 6	Tempest screening	
Tuesday, Nov 11	No class— Veterans' Day	
Thursday, Nov 13	The Tempest	
Tuesday, Nov 18	Joint session: The Tempest	
Thursday, Nov 20	Earling	
Tuesday, Nov 25	Library visit	Paper 3 due on Moodle by 5 pm
Thursday, Nov 27	No class— Thanksgiving	
Tuesday, Dec 2	Dickinson & Frost	
Thursday, Dec 4	Carver	Reflection paper due on Moodle before class