

9-2014

## HONR 121L.85: Ways of Knowing

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**WAYS OF KNOWING -- HNR121L-85,  
AUTUMN 2014**

Tuesday/Thursday 9:40-11:00 a.m.  
Section 85, DHC 118

Prof. Pat Burke

Office: DHC 106; Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00-2:00 p.m. and by appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Using a diverse readings representing more than two thousand years of human experience and numerous cultures, we will explore alternative ways of knowing: scientifically, experientially, spiritually, rationally and mythologically. In the process we will become acquainted with some of the deepest reflections on the divine, the natural world, the self and society. We will be alert for cracks in our apparent certainties and consolations in the midst of our doubts. As we critically examine these texts, we will also consider their ethical implications for how we should act. Informed by class readings, plenary lectures, and discussions, we will work toward a deeper understanding of our own ways of knowing.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

*The Book of Job.* Trans. Stephen Mitchell, Harper Perennial  
*Tao Te Ching* by Lao Tzu, Trans. Stephen Mitchell, Harper Perennial  
*Three Plays of Euripides*, by Euripides, Trans. Paul Roche. WW Norton  
*The Last Days of Socrates*, by Plato. Penguin  
*Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Houghton Mifflin  
*The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. Pelican  
Course Readings (available on Moodle)

**Key**

**M** = readings available on Moodle. Note you must print the “Moodle” readings prior to class and bring them with you.

**\*JS** = Joint class sessions with Nathalie Wolfram’s class in DHC 119

**\*\*Plenary Lectures** = Required Wednesday evening sessions. These will be held in the Gallagher Business Building (GBB) Room #106 from 7pm-8pm on three Wednesdays during the semester; September 10<sup>th</sup> (GBB 106), September 24<sup>th</sup> (GBB 106), and October 22<sup>th</sup> (GBB 106).

**No Electronic Devices (cellphone, laptops, ipods etc.) are permitted in the classroom without prior approval. If you are using a device during class I will ask you to leave.**

## CLASS PLAN

- T 8/26 Introductions, Syllabus & Overview of Course Expectations  
Robert Michael Pyle, "Moonlight Redux: or, Gone for Good" (M1)
- Th 8/28 *Tao Te Ching*
- Tu 9/2 *Genesis* 1-5.5, 11, 22: Creation stories, Cain & Abel, Tower of Babel (M2)
- Th. 9/4 *The Book of Job*, 5-65
- Tu 9/9 *The Book of Job*, pp. 69-91
- \*\*W 9/10 Plenary Lecture #1, Gary Hawk, "Oh My, God," in GBB #106, 7-8 p.m.**
- Th 9/11 Parables: The Prodigal Son, The Good Samaritan, The Syro-Phoenician Woman (2 versions), The Woman Caught in Adultery (M3)
- \*Tu 9/16 Milton, selections from *Paradise Lost* (M4) **Joint Session DHC #119 (Wolfram)**
- \*\*W 9/24 Plenary Lecture #2, Ron Perrin, "The Passage From Mythology to Philosophy in Ancient Greece," in GBB 106, 7-8 p.m.**
- Th 9/18 Euripides, *The Bacchae*
- Tu 9/23 Euripides, *The Bacchae* **Essay #1 is Due**
- Th 9/25 Plato, *Apology*; and "Allegory of the Cave" (M5)
- \*Tu 9/30 Aristotle, *Metaphysics* and *Physics*, selections (M6) **Joint Session DHC #119 (Burke)**
- Th 10/2 Bacon, *Novum Organum* (M7)
- Tu 10/7 Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Parts I and II
- Th 10/9 Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Parts III, IV & V.
- T 10/14 Darwin, Selections from *On the Origin of Species* (M8) and *The Descent of Man* (M9)
- Th 10/16 Darwin II, and Blake, Frost (M10)
- T 10/21 Carson, *Silent Spring*, Chapters 1-5, 8, 9
- \*\*W 10/22 Plenary Lecture #3, Pat Burke, "Pika, Persons and The Practical Imperative: Ethics in the Age of Global Climate Change" GBB 106, 7-8:00 p.m.**

Th 10/23	Carson, <i>Silent Spring</i> , Chapters 12-17; McKibbin, “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math” (M11) <b><u>Essay #2 is Due</u></b>
*T 10/28	Arendt, “ <i>Truth and Politics</i> ” (M12) <b>Joint Session DHC #119 (Burke)</b>
*Th 10/30	Foucault, Selections (M13) <b>Joint Session DHC #119 (Wolfram)</b>
T 11/4	<b>No Class—Election Day</b>
*Th 11/6	Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i> —Helen Mirren <b>Joint Session DHC #119</b>
T 11/11	<b>No Class—Veterans Day</b>
Th 11/13	Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i> , Acts 1, 2 & 3
*T 11/18	Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i> , Acts 3, 4 & 5 <b>Joint Session DHC #119 (Pack)</b>
Th 11/20	Earling, Selections (M14 & M15) <b><u>Essay #3 is Due</u></b>
T 11/25	Library Visit and Research Project
Th 11/27	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class</b>
T 12/2	Frost, Berry and Merwin, Selected Poems (M16, 17, 18, 19))
Th 12/4	Dickenson, Selected Poems (M20; Carver, “A Small Good Thing” (M21)
<b><u>Final:</u></b>	<b>Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.</b> <b>No assignments will be accepted after this time.</b>

## **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADES**

**Attendance & Active Participation:** Regular attendance and active participation is expected. The quality of your class participation will affect your grade. Please come to class on time; your peers and instructors appreciate courtesy. 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 (4 or more unexcused absences result in course failure).

**Assignments:** During the semester we will require three typed essays, each of which addresses course themes. The essay assignments will be given at least two weeks in advance of their due dates. Essays should be at least six (6) pages in length, not counting a Works Cited page. Students are also expected to submit a plenary lecture response the following Tuesday after each of our three plenary lectures. The latter should be typed and at least one page in length. The exam during the Final Exam period will cover our readings from November 20<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Grading Criteria:** Assignment grades will reflect the following criteria of judgment:

- F: Failure to meet minimum requirements
- D: Unsatisfactory, but some effort to meet minimum requirements
- C: Satisfactory; meets minimum requirements of assignment but not much more
- B: Good to Very Good; thoughtful reflection, good analysis, clear writing style
- A: Excellent depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and writing style; demonstrates creativity and mature analytical skills in going beyond the primary requirements of the assignment

**Re-Writes:** As *Ways of Knowing* fulfills a General Education writing requirement, you may elect to re-write and re-submit any of your first three essays in the effort to earn a higher grade. Rewrites must be submitted no more than 10 days after a graded essay has been returned.

**Late Work:** Assignments are due in class on or before the date listed in the syllabus. Unless you have made a prior agreement with me I will take off one grade level (A becomes A-) for each class day an assignment is late.

**Overall Grades:** In assigning the final grade, I give particular attention to your preparedness for and participation in class. The following from the University Catalog's description of the Davidson Honors College describes some of the key characteristics of this course:

Honors courses...are conducted in a seminar format, "*emphasizing critical thinking, the development of written and oral communications skills, direct contact with the faculty, and the use of original texts...*"

- Each of the three essays will count for 20% of your grade (60% of total).
- Each Plenary Response Paper will count for 5% of your grade (15% of total).
- The quality of your participation during class will count for 15% of your grade.
- The Final in-class exam on the readings from 11/20-12/4 will count for 10% of your grade.

**Incomplete Grade:** Please see the criteria that must be met for an Incomplete (I) in the University catalog. No exceptions will be made for these criteria.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is representing another's work as one's own, a serious violation of academic integrity. Please review the University's plagiarism definition and policy in the catalog; "*Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion.*" If you have any doubts about plagiarism and attribution of others' work, please consult your Instructor.

**Student Conduct:** All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. You can read this online at [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student\\_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php).

**Students with Disabilities:** The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students [DSS]. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. (406) 243-2243