

9-2014

## HONR 121L.86: Ways of Knowing

Susann Meachelle Bradford

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## HONR 121L: WAYS OF KNOWING

Section 86, DHC 117

T. Th. 8:10-9:30 a.m.

Fall 2014

**Instructor:** Dr. Sue Bradford

**Office:** DHC 106

**Office Hours:** T, Th 9:30 - 10:30 and by appointment

**Email:** [sue.bradford@umontana.edu](mailto:sue.bradford@umontana.edu)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Using a diverse selection of readings representing more than two thousand years of human experience and numerous cultures, we will explore 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 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 these 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

*Tao Te Ching* by Lao Tzu. Stephen Mitchell, Perennial Classics

*The Book of Job*. Trans. Stephen Mitchell, Harper Perennial

*Lysistrata* by Aristophanes. Trans. Douglass Parker, Signet Classics

*Euthyphro, Apology, Crito* by Plato. Trans. F. J. Church, Library of Liberal Arts

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

*Tempest* by William Shakespeare. Pelican

Course Pack (CP) available at University Bookstore

Additional readings will be posted on Moodle

### CLASS SCHEDULE

\* Indicates combined class in DHC 119

\*\* Indicates a Plenary Lecture (Wednesday, 7-8pm, GBB 106)

T 8/26            Introductions & Syllabus Review; Pyle: "Moonlight Redux: or, Gone for Good" (CP)

Th 8/28            Stevens "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" (CP)  
                     Yanagi "Seeing and Knowing" (CP)

T 9/2             Lao Tzu: *Tao Te Ching*

Th 9/4             *Genesis* 1-4: Creation, Cain & Abel (CP)  
                     **Honors Convocation** 7 p.m., U.C. Theater

T 9/9	<i>The Book of Job</i> , pp. 5-65
<b>**W 9/10</b>	<b><u>Plenary Lecture #1</u></b> - Prof. Gary Hawk, "Oh my, God"
Th 9/11	<i>The Book of Job</i> , pp. 69-91
T 9/16	New Testament Parables: The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, The Lost Sheep, The Syro-Phoenician Woman (2 versions), and The Woman Caught in Adultery (CP)
<b>*Th 9/18</b>	Aristophanes: <i>Lysistrata</i>
T 9/23	Plato: <i>Euthyphro</i> <b><u>Essay #1 is due</u></b>
<b>**W 9/24</b>	<b><u>Plenary Lecture #2</u></b> - Prof. Ron Perrin, "The Transition from Mythology to Philosophy in Ancient Greece"
Th 9/25	Plato: "Allegory of the Cave" (CP), <i>Apology</i>
T 9/30	Aristotle: excerpts from <i>Metaphysics</i> , <i>Physics</i> , and <i>Nichomachean Ethics</i> (CP)
<b>*Th 10/2</b>	Euclid: <i>Elements</i> , Book I, Definitions, Prop. 1-5 (CP) Galileo: <i>Two New Sciences</i> , selections (CP)
T 10/7	Descartes: <i>Discourse on Method</i> , Parts I, II, IV and VI
Th 10/9	Darwin: selections from <i>On the Origin of Species</i> and <i>The Descent of Man</i> (CP) <b><u>Essay #2 due</u></b>
T 10/14	Carson: selections from <i>Silent Spring</i> and <i>Lost Woods</i> (Moodle)
<b>*Th 10/16</b>	DuBois: <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> , selections (CP)
T 10/21	Harding-Davis: <i>Life in the Iron Mills</i> (CP)
<b>**W 10/22</b>	<b><u>Plenary Lecture #3</u></b> - Prof. Pat Burke, "Pika, Persons and the Practical Imperative: Ethics in the Age of Global Climate Change"
Th 10/23	Black Elk Speaks: selections (CP)
T 10/28	Earling: "Real Indians" and "Bad Ways" (CP)
Th 10/30	Arendt: "Truth and Politics" (CP)
<b>T 11/4</b>	<b>HOLIDAY, Election Day</b>

Th 11/6	Dickinson: selected poems (CP) <b><u>Essay #3 Due</u></b>
T 11/11	<b>HOLIDAY, Veterans Day</b>
<b>*Th 11/13</b>	Shakespeare: <i>Tempest</i>
T 11/18	Shakespeare: <i>Tempest</i>
Th 11/20	Wordsworth: Selected poems (CP)
T 11/25	Frost: Selected poems (CP)
Th 11/27	<b>HOLIDAY, Thanksgiving Weekend</b>
T 12/2	Bishop, Plath, Videlock, and Millay: Selected poems (CP) <b><u>Essay #4 Due</u></b>
Th 12/4	Carver: "A Small Good Thing" (Moodle)
<b><u>Finals Week:</u></b>	<b>Tuesday, Dec. 9, 10:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.</b> <b>No assignments will be accepted after this time.</b>

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is vital to the other students and the educational process. If you must miss class, notify the Instructor in advance. You are still required to turn in assignments on time. Unavoidable absences may be excused at the instructor's discretion. Requests to excuse absences require documentation to explain the reason for absence. More than 2 unexcused absences will lower your grade. Students with 6 or more unexcused absences will automatically receive an F in the course.

**Participation:** Students are expected to participate in class discussions. Come on time and be prepared! Participation will account for 15% of your overall grade.

**Plenary Lecture Responses:** There will be three Plenary Lectures on Wednesday evenings in GBB 106, 7pm-8pm. These will be recorded to accommodate schedule conflicts. Students are required to complete brief response papers for each of the plenary lectures. These should be 1-2 pages in length (typed, double spaced). Plenary response papers will account for 5% of your overall grade.

**Essays:** During the semester we require four typed essays, each of which will address course themes. You will receive specific topics in advance of their due dates. Essays should be at least 4 full pages in length, not counting a cover page or Works Cited page. Essays account for 80% of your overall grade.

**Essay Re-Writes:** Because this course fulfills a General Education writing requirement (W), we require you to revise and resubmit at least one of your first three essays as a way to improve your writing, and potentially earn a higher grade. Re-writes are due within 10 days after graded essays have been

returned.

**Late Work:** Papers are due in class on or before the date listed in the syllabus. Unless you have made specific arrangements with the Instructor, assignment grades will be lowered by one grade level (A becomes A-) for each class day the assignment is late.

**Grades:** 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; meet 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

**Overall Grades:** In assigning the final grade, we give particular attention to the following considerations from the University catalog's description of the Davidson Honors College:

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..."

In assigning grades, we will consider the quality and effort evident in student work and participation, as well as any noticeable signs of improvement and development over the course of the semester.

**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.

**Student Conduct:** Students are expected to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php). You can read this online at [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)

**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.

**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 VOICE/TDD.

**Writing Program Assessment:** All writing courses participate in the University-wide Writing Program Assessment. This will require you to submit a "blinded" copy (i.e., name removed) of one revised paper to the writing committee via Moodle. Detailed instructions will be provided later in the semester.