

9-2002

## LS 195.84: Ways of Knowing

Robert M. Pack

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## Ways of Knowing

Liberal Studies 195, sections 84 & 85

Autumn 2002 -- TTh 11:10-12:30

Prof. Robert Pack  
section 84, FA 211  
243-2567 (office)  
cnd3199@blackfoot.net

office: DHC 106  
hours: Tth 3:45-5:30  
and by appointment

Prof. Lorina Quartarone  
section 85, LA 308  
243-5637 (office); 251-0325 (home)  
quartaro@selway.umt.edu

office: LA 425  
hours: MWF 11:30-1:00  
and by appointment

### Required texts:

*The Book of Job*. S. Mitchell (transl.). HarperPerennial. 0-06-096959-8.  
*The Bhagavad-Gita*. B.S. Miller (transl.). Bantam Books. 0-553-21365-2.  
Homer. *The Iliad*. R. Fagles (transl.). Penguin. 0-14-027536-3.  
Shakespeare. *The Tempest*. P. Holland (ed.). Penguin. 0-14-071485-5.  
Darwin. *The Origin of Species* (abridged). Norton. 0-393-09219-4.  
Freud. *Civilization and Its Discontents*. Norton. 0-303-30158-3.  
Kafka. *The Penal Colony*. Schocken Books. 0-80521057-1.  
Joyce. *Dubliners*. "The Dead." Random House. 0-394604644.  
"Coursepack #1."  
"Coursepack #3."

**Course Objectives:** to make an enquiry into the various sources, experiences, and types of human knowledge. In essence, we shall engage in a continuing exploration of the primary question "What do we know and how do we come to know what we think we know?" The emphases of the course are engaging in close readings of the primary texts, interpreting, discussing, and writing about those texts.

Please make note of the following important dates:

#### **Thursday, 19 September**

Monday, 23 September

Monday, 14 October

#### **Thursday, 17 October**

Tuesday, 5 November

Monday, 11 November

Wednesday-Friday, 27-29 November

#### **Thursday, 5 December**

#### **Paper 1 Due**

Last day to add/drop by Cyberbear  
(w/refund)

Last day to add/drop by petition (w/o refund)

#### **Paper 2 Due**

Election Day Holiday -- no classes

Veteran's Day Holiday -- no classes

Thanksgiving Break -- no classes

#### **Paper 3 Due (Final)**

<b><u>Course Components:</u></b>	Paper 1	20%
	Paper 2	25%
	Paper 3	30%
	Discussion Participation	25%

**Essays:** As you compose your essays, remember that we will grade you primarily on three components: 1) the *quality* of your *direct response* to the question/topic (no fluff, please!), 2) your *use of directly pertinent quotations* from the texts, and 3) *evidence of thought*. If at any time you receive a grade of 'C-' or lower on an essay, we require that you make an appointment to review it and discuss strategies for improvement.

**Notes & Notebooks:** While we suggest that you take notes during class, we request that you do so sparingly (since note taking generally hinders discussion). It will be important to create a course binder in which to keep your essays and notes from our joint classes, discussions, and plenary lectures. You will find this notebook enormously helpful when you review readings and compose your essays.

**Attendance:** Attendance is crucial. You will find our analyses of texts during class time of great importance, as they will provide material for your essays on each segment. It is also impossible to participate in discussions if you are not present. We do take attendance at each meeting.

**Discussion Participation:** Participation is also a significant factor in your course grade. After each meeting, we indicate in our rosters which students have contributed to the class discussion (contributing means *raising a pertinent question, addressing a question raised* (either by the instructors or classmates) during discussion, or *directing* the discussion toward a *fruitful examination*.. At the end of the semester, the final tally will reflect your level of discussion activity.

**Office Hours:** Our office hours are listed on the first page of this document. You should always feel at ease to visit our office hours and discuss any aspect of the course you wish. It is important to us that you learn a great deal in this course and that you consider us resources in your education. If office hours should prove difficult times for you, please call to make an appointment.

## "WAYS OF KNOWING" -- SYLLABUS

**\*\* nota bene: "Lectures" will meet in LA 308; "Discussions" will meet in FA 211 (Pack) or LA 308 (Quartarone)**

### I. How to "know" God:

#### A. The Source

Readings: *Genesis* 1-4 (handout); "Cosmic Timetable" (handout); Pack: poems about the Big Bang & excerpts from Heinz Pagel's *The Cosmic Code* (#1).

T SEP 3 Lecture/Discussion: Drs. Pack & Quartarone  
Evening lecture: 7pm in DHC lounge. Dr. Pack  
Th SEP 5 Discussion.

#### B. Faith & Revelation

Readings: *Genesis* 22 (Abraham & Isaac) & excerpts from Kierkegaard's "Fear & Trembling" (#1).

T SEP 10 Lecture: Dr. Pack

Reading: selections from the Book of John (#1)

Th SEP 12 Lecture: Dr. Borgman  
T SEP 17 Discussion

#### C. Seeking Justice

Reading: *The Book of Job* (Mitchell translation)

Th SEP 19 Lecture: Dr. Pack; **Paper 1 Due**  
T SEP 24 Discussion

#### D. Hinduism

Reading: *the Bhagavad-Gita*

Th SEP 26 Lecture: Dr. Quartarone

### II. Nature & Science

#### A. Rationalism & Empiricism

Readings: Selections from Pre-Socratic Philosophers (#3); Plato: "Allegory of the Cave" (#1), "Diotima's ladder" (#3); selections from Aristotle (#1)

T OCT 1 Lecture: Dr. Quartarone  
Th OCT 3 Discussion

#### B. Historical Perspective

Reading: Selections from Thucydides (#3)

T OCT 8 Lecture: Dr. Drake

### C. Visions of Nature

Readings: Mill: selections from "On Nature" (#3); **Nota bene: all poetry readings appear in Packet #3.** Wordsworth: "Tintern Abbey"; "The World is Too Much With Us"; Frost: "The Wood Pile"; "The Most of It"; Ovid: selections from *Metamorphoses*; Cox: excerpt from *The Secular City*

Th OCT 10 Lecture: Dr. Pack  
T OCT 15 Discussion

### D. Theory of Evolution

Readings: Darwin: *The Origin of Species*; Dawkins: selections from "The Selfish Gene" (#3); Chaisson: selections from "Cosmic Evolution" (#3)

Th OCT 17 Lecture: Dr. Pack; **Paper 2 Due**

### E. Evolution & Morality

Reading: Shakespeare: *The Tempest*

T OCT 22 Lecture: Dr. Pack  
Th OCT 24 Discussion

## III. THE SELF AND SOCIETY

### A. Social Constraint versus Instinct

Readings: Freud: *Civilization and Its Discontents*; Blake: "A Poison Tree"; Frost: "Home Burial"; Hardy: "Channel Firing"; Dickinson: "I started early, took my dog"; Nesse: excerpts from *The Evolution of Psychodynamic Mechanisms* (#3)

T OCT 29 Lecture: Dr. Pack  
Th OCT 31 Discussion (all meet in LA 308)  
T NOV 5 Holiday

### B. The Unconscious Mind

Readings: Kafka: *Metamorphosis*; Wordsworth: "One Summer Evening"; Thomas: "Fern Hill"; Jarrell: "The Truth"

Th NOV 7 Lecture: Dr. Pack  
T NOV 12 Discussion

### C. The Birth of the Individual

Reading: Homer: *Iliad* (Books 1-6, 9, 10, 14, 16, 18-22, 24); Auden: "The Shield of Achilles" (#3)

Th NOV 14 Lecture: Dr. Quartarone  
T NOV 19 Lecture/Discussion  
Th NOV 21 Discussion

### D. Possessions & Obligations

Reading: selections from Marx (coursepacks #1 & 3)

T NOV 26 Lecture: Dr. Quartarone  
Th NOV 28 Holiday

### **E. Language & Metaphor**

Readings: Pinker: selections from "The Language Instinct" (#3); Lakoff: "Metaphors We Live By" (selections,#3); William Carlos Williams: "The Sea-Elephant"

T DEC 3 Lecture: Drs. Quartarone & Pack

W DEC 4 Plenary Lecture: Native American Reflections 7pm

### **F. The Uses of Art**

Readings: Yeats: "Lapis Lazuli"; Nemerov: "Walking the Dog"; Keats: Ode on a Grecian Urn; Frost: The Need of Being Versed in Country Things; Stevens: Large Red Man Reading

Th DEC 5 Lecture: Dr. Pack; **Paper 3 Due**

### **G. Men and Women**

Readings: Diamond: excerpts from *Why is Sex Fun?* (#3); Joyce: *The Dead*; Keats: "La Belle Dame Sans Merci"; Wordsworth: "Nutting"; Hardy: "The Well-Beloved"; Robinson: "Eros Turannos"; Frost: "Two Look at Two"; Ovid: "Teiresias" (#3); Weil: "The Iliad: A Poem of Force" (#3); Cummings: if everything happens

T DEC 10 Lecture: Dr. Pack

Th DEC 12 Discussion (joint meeting)