CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE

Fall Semester 2018
Honors 111, Perspectives in the Humanities
Library, Honors Program Classroom
Tues/Thurs 9:00 to 10:15

PROFESSORS: Dr. Sue Harley (Botany) & Dr. Christy Call (English)
TY 416 Elizabeth Hall, 462
sharley@weber.edu ecall2@weber.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Tues-Fri, 12:30–1:20 pm
or by appointment
Tuesday, 2:00 to 3:00
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course examines how knowledge is produced, what it is used for, and what it means. Specifically, the course examines ways of knowing and questioning through science and literature. These ways sometimes correspond to each other and sometimes diverge. We will map the various intersections and differences to arrive at a greater understanding and appreciation of the ways that different disciplines construct knowledge.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien
The Road by Cormac McCarthy

A variety of other readings are posted to the Canvas page. You should print these readings, annotate them, and bring them to class for review and discussion. (Please consult the course schedule regularly.)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
• Students will demonstrate knowledge of different philosophical, literary, and scientific traditions.
• Student will analyze literature and scientific readings to understand disciplinary standards and terminologies, as well as trans-disciplinary concepts.
• Students will demonstrate critical thinking that is open-minded, objective, and as free from bias as possible.

REQUIREMENTS:
1) Reading is essential in this class, and reading well will mean reading attentively and, very often, more than once through any given text. As mentioned, it is important to annotate the readings by underlining important passages, writing comments on the side of the page, looking up unknown words, etc. The ideas that we think through in this class will be big in nature and complex in meaning so read closely and think about the consequences to the ideas you encounter.

2) Attendance/Participation/Punctuality: You may miss 2 class sessions but missing more than 2 will hurt your grade. Additionally, due dates still stand even if you miss class. Coming to class more than 10 minutes late constitutes an absence. Please avoid being tardy as it is disruptive to our discussions. Also, please note that a percentage of your class grade is based on participation. You should attend class consistently and share your ideas about the course material.

3) Discussion Posts: At times during the semester, we will ask that you post a short response to the Canvas discussion page. To earn full credit you must also respond to a discussion post from one of your peers in the class. You will find that listening and responding to ideas from others becomes an important way to learn in this class.
4) Notebooks: Your notebook is a record of your learning. It should include 3 sections:
   • 1st Section Class Prep: Write what you already know about a topic, record your responses to discussion
     questions when they are provided, and jot down other contributions that you anticipate sharing during
     our discussions;
   • 2nd Section Class Notes: Write down key ideas from our class discussions, record any statements of
     interest that are voiced from your peers. You may also make connections with other courses or your own
     lived experiences.
   • 3rd Section Post Class Reflections: Describe the ways that your understanding has improved or developed
     after the readings and the class discussion.

6) Photography Assignment: You will take a photograph that connects visually to ideas we discuss in class
   and then present these ideas during class.

7) Climate Change Assignment: This is a written assignment where you will use at least one credible source
   that updates or follows up on a topic from Kolbert's writings.

8) Final Paper and Project: At the end of the semester, each of you will present a brief but substantive
   project that showcases your learning. In addition to writing a paper and presenting in class, you will create a slide
   that visually represents your ideas. As we move closer to the due date more information about the paper and
   project will be provided. We will talk through this assignment in-depth.

   *Please note that rubrics for all course requirements will be provided on Canvas.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation = 10%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts and Assignments = 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notebooks = 35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Class prep = 15 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Class notes = 10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Post class reflections = 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper and Presentation = 15%</td>
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UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Dishonesty: As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is “the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person’s or group’s ideas or work.” Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism are subject to failure of a specific assignment, or, in more serious cases, failure of the entire course.

Children in the Classroom: According to PPM 4-23, children are not allowed in classrooms except through prior approval. In this class setting, we ask that you avoid bringing children.

Core Beliefs: According to PPM 6-22 IV, students are to “[d]etermine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with a student’s core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not obligate the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal. This request must be made to the instructor in writing and the student must deliver a copy of the request to the office of the department head. The student’s request must articulate the burden the requirement would place on the student’s beliefs.”

Disability Accommodation: PPM 3-34 notes: “When students seek accommodation in a regularly scheduled course, they have the responsibility to make such requests at the Center for Students with Disabilities before the beginning of the quarter [semester] in which the accommodation is being requested. When a student fails to make such arrangements, interim accommodations can be made by the instructor, pending the determination of the request for a permanent accommodation.”

Emergency Closure: If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via the course Canvas page.