CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE

Fall Semester 2019
Honors 1110, Introduction to Honors
Library, Honors Program Classroom
Tues/Thurs 9:00 to 10:15

PROFESSORS: Dr. Sue Harley (Botany) and Dr. Christy Call (English)
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OFFICE HOURS: MWF, 10:30-11:20 or by appointment
Wednesday, 1:00 to 2:00 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 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. You should make a habit of annotating each reading by underlining important passages, writing comments on the side of the page, and looking up any unknown words. The ideas that we think through in this class will be big in nature and complex in meaning, so read closely and think thoroughly about the consequences of ideas.

2) **Attendance/Participation/Punctuality:** You may miss 2 class sessions but missing more than 2 will hurt your grade. 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. There will be lots to talk about and lots of opportunities for conversation.

3) **Discussion Posts:** At different points during the semester, you will post a short response to the Canvas discussion page. To earn full credit you must also respond to a post from one of your peers in class. You will find that listening and responding to ideas from others becomes an important way to construct knowledge in this class.

4) **Notebooks:** Your notebook is a record of your learning. It will include 3 sections:
   - **1st Section:** Class prep ~ Write what you already know about a topic, record your initial ideas, and jot down contributions you plan to make in class during our discussions;
   - **2nd Section:** Class Notes ~ Write down key ideas from our class discussions and record any statements of interest that come from your peers. This section should be robust, as we will generate a lot of thinking through dialogue.
   - **3rd Section:** Post Class Reflections ~ After class ideas will still be percolating. In this section you should describe the ways that your understanding has improved or expanded after the readings and after discussion. You may wish to integrate ideas from other courses or experiences from your own life. This section highlights the processing of ideas.

5) **Photograph Assignment:** You will take a photograph that connects visually to ideas we discuss in class and then present the image and talk through these ideas in class.

6) **Climate Change Assignment:** This is a written assignment where you will use at least one credible source to update a topic touched upon in Elizabeth Kolbert’s writings.

7) **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 your ideas in class, you will create a slide that visually conveys your thinking. 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.*
Participation = 10%
Discussion Posts and Assignments = 40%
Notebooks = 35%
- Class prep = 15%
- Class notes = 10%
- Post class reflections = 10%
Final Paper and Presentation = 15%

A = 94 - 100     B = 84 - 86     C = 74 - 76     D = 64 - 66
A- = 90 - 93     B- = 80 - 83     C- = 70 - 73     D- = 61 - 63
B+ = 87 - 89     C+ = 77 - 79     D+ = 67 - 69     E = 0 - 60

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 impractical may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not oblige 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.”

Workload Expectations: As specified in PPM 4.1, you should expect to do 2 hours of work outside of class for each regularly scheduled hour of class.

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.