

Dr Grenville Draper
Dept of Earth Sciences

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IDH1001 The Ideas of Origins --- The Origin of Ideas

Monday (CP197) 15:30--16:45
Wednesday (GC275B) 15:30--16:45

Course Description

The course is designed to encourage students to become self-conscious learners, exploring not only the what, but also the how and why of knowing. The course focuses on the nature of truth and reality and our role in the world each of us has constructed.

Introduction

This course is the first of a series of four, two-semester Honors College courses. This year, your faculty have chosen a path that will, hopefully, lead us to understand how we develop ---construct? imagine? know?--- and then use models of reality to navigate the worlds about us.

As history marches ahead, or stumbles backward, *knowing* and how we come to *know* also undergo critical examination and change,.

Class Objectives

- To, hopefully, as with any class, to exit with many, many more questions than entering.
- To better answer the question: What isn't reality...or, how can reality be *ironic*?
- To become acquainted with how different *knowing systems* compete for their places in constructing reality.

Faculty

| Name | Email | Office | Office Hours | Phone | Section | Wednesday Section |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------|
| Prof. Suman Kakar | kakars@fiu.edu | PCA 352b | | 305 348 5992 | 10 | CP 103 |
| Prof. John Bailly | baillyj@fiu.edu | GL422 | | 305 348 0297 | 09 | CP 115 |
| Prof. Grenville Draper | draper@fiu.edu | PC 316 | 1400-15:15 daily | 305 348 3087 | U11 | GC275 b |
| Prof. Robert Hogner | rhogner@fiu.edu | RB 305a | 14:00--17:00 | 305 348 2387 | U12 | GC271b |

Required Readings

- Frankfurt, H.G., *On Bullshit e*
- Moorehead, A. *Darwin and the Beagle (available at THC)*
- Cabeza de Vaca, A. *The Journey and Ordeal of Cabeza de Vaca: His Account of the Disastrous First European Exploration of the American Southwest*
- Turnbull, C. *The Forest People*
- Leopold, A. *Sand County Almanac: And Sketches Here and Ther*
- Pollan, M., *Botany of Desire*

Class Assignments

- Be prepared in each class session with having completed assigned readings.
- Written assignments are to be in proper grammatical and academic style form. You may contact the [FIU Writing Lab](#) for assistance or guidance on what this means.

Grading

Your grade in this course will be determined by three factors, all of which are judged by your section faculty leader. An **A** grade signifies excellence in Honors College work. **B** signifies good Honors College work. **C** signifies average Honors College work. Your final grade will not be based upon a divine revelation experience by your instructor, nor by a simplistic calculation of grades over the semester. Rather your class grade will be based upon your instructor's professional judgement and related to the following weights:

- 30 %, six quizzes, one per book.
- 40%, six *reflective* essays, one per book
- 20 %, attendance (see also below) and participation in assisting the class in achieving its learning objectives (class participation)
- 10%, final critical essay

Attendance policy

Your final class grade will be determined as follows:

| # of Unexcused Absences | ESTIMATED GRADE | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |
| 0-2 | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |
| 3 | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F | |
| 4 | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F | | |
| 5 | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F | | | |
| 6 or More | F | F | F | F | F | F | F | F | | | | |

Other Class Policies

Academic Integrity

In this learning community, we are expected to act as moral beings governed by a sense of ethics. As such, your first assignment is to read the University's Code of Academic Integrity. Should you decide not to agree with the content of this code, you should drop this course immediately.

In simple language, in this course you will not cheat, misrepresent others' work as your own, lie to the instructor or others in this learning community, or otherwise act unethically. One act crossing that boundary and you will be recommended for expulsion from FIU.

Should questions arise concerning student academic misconduct, official university procedures will be maintained. Should you have any questions about what the terms cheating or plagiarism mean, the FIU Student Handbook may be consulted, or as referenced here.

Physical, mental and sensory challenges

Every effort, where feasible and practical, will be made to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations contact your instructor or the Office of Handicapped Students if not done so already.

Religious observances

Every effort, where feasible and practical, will be made to accommodate students whose practices of belief in the supernatural interfere with class requirements or scheduling; e.g. you practice a religion whose holidays do not result in the University closing or an exam is scheduled during a day of high spirituality. Contact your instructor if such a situation arises.

Class Schedule

Please note that the class schedule is subject to change. As well all three sections' faculty leaders are likely to be away for small portions of the Fall Term as their other assignments so dictate. All such changes, general or travel dictated, will be announced in class.

| Meeting | Description/notes | Reading/assignment |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1 | 29 August Monday: Origins of Instructors Wednesday: Origins of Students | Read Syllabi and Links <READ CLASS POLICIES> |
| 2 | 05 September (University closed Monday) Wednesday: Origins of the University...the University of Ideas | On Bullshit |
| 3 | 12 September On Bullshit QUIZ, First Written Assignment Due | On Bullshit |
| 4 | 19 September M: Lecture W: Discussion | Darwin and the Beagle |
| 5 | 26 September (Honors College Convocation Monday) W: QUIZ | Darwin and the Beagle |
| 6 | 03 October M: Lecture W: Discussion | Darwin and the Beagle |
| 7 | 10 October M: Reflection Due W: Written Assignment Due | The Forest People |
| 8 | 18 October M: Lecture W: QUIZ | The Forest People |
| 9 | 25 October M: Written Assignment Due W: Discussion | Cabeza de Vaca |
| 10 | 01 November M: Lecture W: QUIZ | Cabeza de Vaca |
| 11 | 07 November M: Written Assignment Due W: Discussion | Sand County Almanac |
| 12 | 14 November M: Discussion W: QUIZ | Sand County Almanac |
| 13 | 21 November M: Reflective Essay Due W: Discussion | Botany of Desire |
| 14 | 28 November M: Discussion W: QUIZ & Written Assignment Due | Botany of Desire |
| 15 | 05 December (Classes End 08 December) Summary and A Look Ahead | Final Critical Essay Due. This is a critical essay of your previously submitted six written assignments. |