

8 September 2015

Inhabiting Other Lives: Knowing and Understanding

The Honors College, Florida International University

IDH 2004 – Spring 2016

Instructors: Pete Markowitz and Michael Yawney

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:00 PM – 12:15 PM

Classrooms and Professor Contacts:

Lecture/large-group classes meet on Tuesdays & Thursdays in the **Ryder Business, Rm. 130.**

Professor Yawney

Office hours: Thursday 12:30 to 2:30 and Friday 10:30 to 12:30, WPAC 139A; myawney@fiu.edu; 305-348-7545 (o)

Professor Markowitz

Office Hours: T/Th 2:00-3:30 or as arranged CP 209; markowit@fiu.edu; 305-348-1710 (o) or 954-296-5749 (cell)

This syllabus is a “living” document in that it will be continuously updated throughout the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 terms. You can find information about both fall and spring calendars included. You will always find it posted within Blackboard on the “Content” page.

Overview:

At an early point in human history, we started asking questions about ourselves, our fellows, and about the world around us. As we found answers, we developed ways to convey this knowledge and to give it meaning. In this course, we will ask the “big questions” as well as the smaller ones. One important goal is to connect the big questions to the practical issues that are a part of our daily lives. Bridging from the epistemological theme of the first year toward explorations of self and other, it asks questions such as: How does knowledge shape us as individuals, and the world around us? Who are we? How do we define others? What can happen when knowledge becomes power? Does knowledge come with responsibility? What is the relationship of the individual to his community? To explore these questions we will turn to a wide variety of sources, from classic works to science fiction, from ancient myths to assessments of modern science, from documentary film to popular movies.

As we explore these issues during the next two semesters, you will examine different ways of learning, build telescopes, play with chemistry, debate love and hate and pleasure, play the roles of scientists and politicians throughout history, learn new ways of knowledge, be tasked with defending positions you may not agree with, and teach each other ancient, classical and modern arguments. You will be challenged and forced to defend your positions.

The Fall 2015 semester introduced you to two *Reacting to the Past* games. We will continue in the Spring 2016 term with three additional games, set throughout a variety of periods and geo-

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graphic locations. Each game requires you to interact differently, and takes place in a different cultural context. One of the challenges is to figure out how you should correspondingly behave.

Required Reading:

In designing this course, we want to some trouble to keep your textbooks inexpensive and to NOT ask you to buy an entire book if we were only going to use one or two chapters. However any material assigned to you MUST be read – you will need the knowledge for class.

The books are available from many publishers, and any edition is acceptable. Used copies of the texts are encouraged , inexpensive and can be purchased from many online retailers.

Students are responsible for purchasing the following material for the Spring 2016 semester:

1. R. Groff, *The Ruby Sunrise*, Dramatists Play Service, 2006.
ISBN 9780822221401

Other readings will be available online, in the course Blackboard pages. These will be posted as the semester proceeds.

Additional Reading:

The required readings above are a jumping off point. Students are expected to research and read additional materials to prepare more fully for papers, discussions, individual assignments and game exercises. There are a large number of books available about cholera, the history of London, the discovery of new planets, and other related material. However students need to be sure and distinguish between reputable sources and unverifiable books or web pages. [“Just because it is in print does not make it true.”]

Attendance/Classroom Etiquette:

The course will be conducted as a seminar. Students are expected to come to class prepared and participate fully in the discussions.

The use of laptops, cell phones, iPads and other electronic devices is both distracting and too common. There are to be no open laptops, phones or other devices in class unless specifically asked:

THE USE OF LAPTOPS, CELLULAR PHONES, IPHONES, OR ANY OTHER DEVICES FOR VOICE OR TEXT COMMUNICATION IS PROHIBITED.

Class participation is an essential component of your grade. This in turn makes class attendance mandatory. You will be allowed **one** unexcused absence or **one** unexcused instance of tardiness, no questions asked, with no penalty. Note well: this is one absence OR one lateness, not one of each (the logical OR function, not the logical AND function). **Additional lateness occurrences are penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade for each absence.**

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If you notify your professor BEFORE class, these penalties may be excused for emergency situations at the discretion of the professor. If you do not notify the professor before class, there is no possibility of waiving the penalty. Since professors will only consider waiving the penalty for extreme emergencies, we suggest that you save your one excused absence until the end of the semester.

Fall 2014 Grading Scale

This scale displays the minimum number of points that you need to earn for each letter grade.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50	45	<45

Theater Projects (15%)

We will read *The Ruby Sunrise* and over the course of the semester do research and design projects related to the play

Game 1 (20%)

Challenging the USDA Food Pyramid

Game 2 (20%)

Climate Change in Copenhagen.

Game 3 (20%)

Ways and Means

Short-Answer Quizzes (15%)

In order to demonstrate your understanding of the material, there will be a quiz after each group of lectures/movies/readings/chapters/articles. You can expect a quiz to be given on each day readings are due and immediately after a guest lecture/movie.

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Honors College Requirements and Policies

Registration in this course implies an acceptance of and compliance with the Honors College policies for students and the FIU Code of Academic Integrity.

Honors Citizenship Requirements

Beginning in Fall 2014, Honors College students are required to accumulate at least **20 citizenship points** each academic year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities. Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate **10 citizenship points**. See <http://honors.fiu.edu/academics/policies/citizenship/>.

Student Portfolios

The Honors College will be using a portfolio method to assess students' learning outcomes. The portfolio allows for maximum flexibility in gauging student learning. Students decide (with instructor consultation) what "artifacts" or assignments to include for consideration in their portfolios to demonstrate successful achievement of each of five key student learning outcomes over the 4-year Honors experience. See www.honors.fiu.edu/portfolios.

Academic Misconduct Procedures and Penalties

In The Honors College, the term "honor" refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Consequently, an Honors College student found responsible for academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.

An Honors faculty member may bring charges of academic misconduct against an Honors student if the faculty member suspects plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. The faculty member will decide whether to pursue informal resolution, file formal resolution charges, or take no further action, and will follow the procedures outlined in the Honors College website (<http://honors.fiu.edu/academics/policies/>), and the Academic Misconduct Procedures, available at <http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm>.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

FIU Code of Academic Integrity – <http://www.fiu.edu/~dwyere/academicintegrity.html>.

FIU Honors College Student Handbook – <http://honors.fiu.edu/handbook0910.html>

FIU Honors College Plagiarism Policy – http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_plagiarism.html

Religious Observances

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements or scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor *at the beginning of the semester* of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

Physical, Mental and Sensory Challenges

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center, if you have not done so already.

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SPRING 2016 CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Day	Topic	Assignment Due for Class
1/12/16	T	Introduction	
1/14/16	Th	Types of Reading	
1/19/16	T	The Ruby Sunrise	Read play <i>The Ruby Sunrise</i>
1/21/16	Th	Food Pyramid: Preparation	Read Gamebook, required reading
1/26/16	T	Food Pyramid: Preparation	<i>The Ruby Sunrise</i> assignment due
1/28/16	Th	Food Pyramid: Game Session 1	Read factional readings, rolesheets
2/2/16	T	Food Pyramid: Game Session 2	
2/4/16	Th	Food Pyramid: Game Session 2	
2/9/16	T	Food Pyramid: Post-Mortem	
2/11/16	Th	The Ruby Sunrise: Research Projects	Research project due
2/16/16	T	Climate Change, 2009: Preparation	Read <i>Climate Change</i> gamebook
2/18/16	Th	Climate Change, 2009: Preparation	
2/23/16	T	Climate Change, 2009: Game Session 1	<i>Food Pyramid</i> paper due
2/25/16	Th	Climate Change: Game Session 2	
3/1/16	T	Climate Change: Game Session 2	
3/3/16	Th	Climate Change: Post-Mortem	
3/8/16	T	The Ruby Sunrise: Design Presentations	Design project due
3/10/16	Th		
3/19	Th	Ways & Means, 1935: Preparation	Gamebook p. 1-15, 28-38
3/14-19		SPRING BREAK	
3/26	Th	Ways & Means, 1935: Preparation	Gamebook p. 39-69
3/31	T	Ways & Means, 1935: Preparation	
4/2	Th	Ways & Means, 1935: Game Session 1	
4/7	T	Ways & Means, 1935: Game Session 2	

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4/9	Th	Ways & Means, 1935: Game Session 3
4/14	T	Ways & Means, 1935: Post-Mortem
4/16	Th	TBA
4/21	T	TBA
4/23	Th	TBA
