The Idea of Origins and the Origin of Ideas
IDH 1001
Fall Term 2007

The Idea of Origins and the Origin of Ideas—This 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. The primary text for the course, Ten Theories of Human Nature, discusses important movements in the development of culture. We will spend the year discussing these theories and what they teach us about “origins,” and we will try through discussion, fieldwork, and group and individual research to trace their impact on ourselves and on the world in which we live.

Faculty
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All instructors are available by appointment.

Required Texts and Material:
Required Handouts:
Various Myths  (Due 9/4)
Bill Bryson, “How to Build a Universe”  (Due 9/11)

Texts:
Leslie Stevenson, Ten Theories of Human Nature (Due throughout semester)
Herman Hesse, Siddhartha (Due 9/20)
Plato, The Death of Socrates (Due 9/27)
Barbara Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed (Due 10/18)
Viktor Frankl, Man’s Search for Meaning (Due 10/30)

Structure: This course is conceived as a full-year course, but is divided into semesters for scheduling and grading purposes. Through a combination of small group and large group meetings, we will meet for discussions, lectures, and presentations.

Expectations: We are excited about the intellectual adventure we are embarking on together in The Honors College. We, the faculty, have spent a great deal of time reading and thinking about our course. We also have enjoyed discussing ideas – dismissing some and embracing others. These discussions have enabled us not only to stretch ourselves intellectually, but also have allowed us to get to know one another in new ways, and not surprisingly, to get to know ourselves better. We hope we create an atmosphere in our classrooms that will encourage you to join us in this same spirit. Although we are acutely aware of the importance to students of receiving good grades, and while we are eager for all of you to do so, we hope that you participate in our Honors class primarily to discover the joy of exploring new ideas and the value in learning to become discerning thinkers. Not simple tasks! We have set the same high standards for your performance as we have set for ourselves. We think we have developed a rigorous, creative course that will challenge you and, we hope, delight you. We are confident that what you learn and how you learn during the coming year will produce benefits that will last you a lifetime.
Grades: Your grade will be determined by attendance (10%), reaction papers and/or journals (20%), projects and papers (50%), and participation (20%). Many students don’t realize that poor attendance results in a lack of participation, accounting for 30% of the final grade.

Writing requirements will be discussed by the individual instructors, but in general are less formal than papers and should be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.

Please note: You may have three excused absences for the term; every additional absence will affect your final grade.

Students found guilty of academic misconduct, which includes plagiarism (see [http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/immuno/citewell/ethicite.html](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/immuno/citewell/ethicite.html)), will receive a grade of F in the course and will be subject to further disciplinary action.

Class Schedule: All Tuesday 1400 – 1515 large group sessions will be held in GL 100A unless otherwise noted on this syllabus. We have scheduled a few class meetings during the 1230 – 1345 Honors Activities Hour. Please pay close attention to the syllabus so that you arrive at class at the correct hour and in the correct place.

T August 28  Large group: Introduction to the Freshman Honors Seminar. Discuss why the notion of origins is interesting to us as a species and important. Discuss the different approaches to accounting for nature and its behavior that have evolved over history.

TH August 30 Small group: Discuss Rival Theories (10T).


TH Sept. 6 Small group: Discuss Myth and reading material.

Friday Sept. 7 Honors Night at the Wolfsonian


TH Sept. 13 Small group: Discuss lecture and Bryson.

T Sept. 18 Large group: Eastern religions. Guest lecture by Sandy Avila. Confucianism and Upshandic Hinduism (10T) due.

TH Sept. 20 Small group: Discuss Eastern religions and Siddhartha.

T Sept. 25 Large group: Discuss Plato (10T)

TH Sept. 27 Small group: Discuss Death of Socrates

M Oct. 1 Honors Convocation (Attendance mandatory)

T Oct. 2 Large group: Discuss Aristotle (10T)

TH Oct. 4 Small group: Discuss Kant (10T). Handout assignment.

1230 Sections 1 and 2 GL 280
T Oct. 9  1300 Large group: View *Hotel Rwanda*

TH Oct. 11  Small group: Discuss movie. Submit research topic.

1230 Sections 3 and 4 GL 280

T Oct. 16  Large group: Discuss Marx (10T)

TH Oct. 18  Small group: Discuss *Nickel and Dimed*. Discuss research assignment.

T Oct. 23  Large group: *No Exit* performance. Read Sartre (10T)

TH Oct. 25  Small group: Discuss Sartre (distribute final assignment)

T Oct. 30  Large group: Discuss *Man’s Search for Meaning*

TH Nov. 1  Project presentation, report on ideas and action taken. Research paper due.

T Nov. 6  Large group: Discuss Darwin (10T)

TH Nov. 8  Small group: Discuss Darwin (teams for final due)

T Nov. 13  Large group: Discuss Freud (10T).

TH Nov. 15  1300 Large group: View *High Heels* (script due)

T Nov. 20  Small group: Discuss movie and Freud

TH Nov. 22  Thanksgiving

T Nov. 27  Large group: Course summary, evaluations. Prepare for presentations

TH Nov. 29  Small group: Prepare for presentations

T Dec. 4  Small group: Class Presentations

TH Dec. 6  Large group: Class Presentations

There is no Final Exam for IDH 1001

*Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.*

*Misconduct includes: Cheating – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. Plagiarism – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.*