The Idea of Origins and the Origin of Ideas

Fall 2008

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Have you ever wondered where ideas originate? 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 course challenges students to become independent, introspective and self-motivated learners.

This course will embrace the nature of ideas. Through the use of ethical themes, students will be asked to confront and challenge their personal and social belief systems. Using text and other modes of information gathering, students will be asked to critically assess how individuals and groups develop ideas and learn to think and act in the way that they do. Global and generational contexts will be used to examine past, current and future ideas and how these ideas effect us on micro and macro levels.

Honors Fellows  Office Office  Hours Phone  email
Prof. H. Cornely  HLS 435  after class 3:30- 5:00  (305)348 -1968  cornelyh@fiu.edu
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Prof. M.O. Thiruunarayanan  ZEB 344A  TBA  (305)348-2085  thiru@fiu.edu

Required Texts and Activities

Freakonomics
Levitt, S. & Dubner (2005)

Revolutionary Wealth
ISBN: 978-0-385-52207-6

Selected Readings either provided by the instructors or purchased at the Campus Copy Center
Daily News Reports
Honors Convocation
Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is one form of academic misconduct, and the Honors College adopts the definition of the university’s Code of Academic Integrity, according to which plagiarism is

The deliberate use and appropriation of another’s works 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 the ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

1. Term papers acquired online or from other sources;
2. Copying of original material without attribution;
3. Use of other students’ work;
4. Copying and pasting, verbatim, information from Internet sources, without quotation marks and correct citation.

Charges of Academic Misconduct may be brought against an Honors student by an Honors faculty member. For more information concerning this matter, all students are urged to review the following website: http://honors.fiu.edu/plagiarism.htm

Course Structure & Student Evaluation:

Structure: This course is conceived as a full-year course, but is divided into semesters for scheduling and grading purposes. There will be required readings and activities throughout each semester. See the attached course outline for specifics. Classes will be held bi-weekly, using large and small group formats. Assignments will be distributed by your instructor throughout the semester.

Expectations:

Grades: Your grade will be determined by attendance & participation (20%), reflection papers & other related assignments (15%), leading small class discussions (15%), a final project/research paper & poster (30%) and in-class assignments or pop quizzes related to reading or lecture material (20%). Many students do not realize that poor attendance will make a difference to the final grade and attendance will be kept by all instructors.

Reflection papers, in general are less formal than a research or term papers but should be typed, double-spaced, using one-inch margins and free of spelling and grammar mistakes.

Grade Distribution:

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Good Citizenship Activities:

As members of the Honors College community you are strongly encouraged to participate in “good citizenship activities” as discussed in the Honors College Handbook (available online).
FINAL PROJECT

In small work groups, you will select an idea presented by the authors of course reading materials. Using the idea, or a combination of ideas, students will (1) research the history (background) of the idea, (2) briefly provide a review of the related research to further examine the issue, (3) identify how as a group, you developed your new or modified idea (i.e., group processing) and, (4) present your idea and paper to the class. Students will be required to create a poster-presentation that will presented in an open forum. Selected projects will be submitted to the SRAI Spring Conference. Student projects selected for presentation at the SRAI will earn 10 points toward their final grade in IDH 1008 Spring semester.

Tentative Fall 2008 Outline

TUE 8/26   LARGE GROUP. – De Francesco, Cornely, Thiruunarayanan
Course overview & introductions. Discussion: What’s an idea?

THU 8/28   SMALL GROUP
Introduction to class expectations. Small group format. First assignment (see attached description).

TUE 9/2    LARGE GROUP – De Francesco, Cornely, Thiruunarayanan
Assignment 1 due.

THU 9/4    SMALL GROUP
Discuss how ideas help or hinder our existence.

TUE 9/9    LARGE GROUP
Guest Lecture: Economic Principles
Students read Introduction to Freakonomics: The Hidden Side to Everything

THU 9/11   SMALL GROUP
Discuss Freakonomics introduction & guest lecture.

TUE 9/16   LARGE GROUP
Freakonomics Chapters 1 & 2. Assignment 2 introduced to students (see attached description).
Lead: Dr. DeFrancesco

THU 9/18   SMALL GROUP
Freakonomics: Discuss Chapters 1 & 2

TUE 9/23   LARGE GROUP
Freakonomics, Chapters 3 & 4. Assignment 2 presented
Lead: Dr. Thiru

THU 9/25   SMALL GROUP
Assignment 2 due & discussed.

TUE 9/30   LARGE GROUP
Freakonomics. Chapters 5 & 6.
Lead: Dr. Cornely

THU 10/2   SMALL GROUP
Discuss Chapters 5 & 6

TUE 10/7   LARGE GROUP
Quiz 1 . Freakonomics.

THU 10/9   SMALL GROUP
Introduction to Revolutionary Wealth

MONDAY OCTOBER 13 – HONORS CONVOCATION- attendance mandatory

TUE 10/14   LARGE GROUP
Assignment 3 presented. Revolutionary Wealth - About the Tofflers
Lead: Dr. DeFrancesco

THU 10/16   SMALL GROUP

TUE 10/21   LARGE GROUP
Revolutionary Wealth – Parts 1 – 4 (Chapters 1-14)
Lead: Dr. DeFrancesco

THU 10/23   SMALL GROUP
Assignment 3 due

TUE 10/28   LARGE GROUP
Revolutionary Wealth – Parts 5 - 7 (Chapters 15 – 36)
Lead: Dr. Thiru

THU 10/30   SMALL GROUP

TUE 11/4    LARGE GROUP
Revolutionary Wealth – Parts 8 – 10 (Chapters 37 – 50)
Lead: Dr. Cornely

THU 11/6    SMALL GROUP

TUE 11/11   VETERAN'S DAY – UNIVERSITY CLOSED

THU 11/13   SMALL GROUP
Quiz on Revolutionary Wealth

TUE 11/18   LARGE GROUP – HOW TO MAKE A POSTER
Lead: Dr Cornely

THU 11/20   STUDENTS WORK ON PROJECTS

TUE 11/25   STUDENTS WORK ON PROJECTS

THU 11/27   THANKSGIVING DAY – UNIVERSITY CLOSED

TUE 12/2    STUDENTS WORK ON PROJECTS

THU 12/4    SMALL GROUP – POSTER PRESENTED TO SMALL CLASS

TUE 11/9    FINALS WEEK ◆ POSTERS DUE ◆ STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
First Assignment:

Answer the following questions and be prepared to discuss them during the next class session. This will also be the first assignment you turn in to your professor – so make a great first impression!
(Remember: Reflection papers, in general are less formal than a research or term papers but should be typed, double-spaced, using one-inch margins and free of spelling and grammar mistakes.)

1. Who are you?
2. What is the best idea you have ever had? Explain.
3. What types of ideas have others had that have changed the world for better or worse? Explain.