

SPRING 2010

DESCRIPTION

This course is part of Sacred Heart University's common core sequence *The Human Journey*. Each course in *The Human Journey* will address four fundamental questions of human meaning and value. These four questions will serve as the unifying frame for all the courses in *The Common Core: The Human Journey*. This particular course engages students in a study of the relationship between Psychology and the Catholic intellectual tradition and the four core questions of human meaning and value. Psychology is the science of human behavior and mental processes. The Catholic intellectual tradition - which is characterized by rigorous intellectual inquiry, a search for truth, and an openness to scientific ideas - and the science of Psychology have much to offer one another in helping us to understand more fully ourselves as human persons. This examination of psychological science will be framed by four enduring questions of human meaning and value.

The four questions:

- (1) What does it mean to be human?
- (2) What does it mean to live a life of meaning and purpose?
- (3) What does it mean to appreciate and understand the natural world?
- (4) What does it mean to forge a more just society for the common good?

OBJECTIVES

Students will demonstrate:

- (1) An understanding of the scientific approach in Psychology and its engagement with the Catholic intellectual tradition.
- (2) An ability to analyze critically works and ideas from Psychology as they relate to the four questions of human value and meaning that are the focus of the Common Core Courses.
- (3) An ability to think critically about, analyze, discuss, and write about Psychology with an aim to understanding human beings and the social and material environments in which they live.

TEXTS AND SCHEDULE

Selected readings from various sources (all will be posted on Blackboard)

ASSESSMENT/REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Class exercises, activities, and participation
- (2) Weekly Blackboard discussion of posted questions
- (3) Oral presentations on class readings and written summary of the reading

- (4) Final Essay Exam
- (5) Attendance at Three Colloquia: Blog posting for each colloquium

COLLOQUIA

- (1) Sports and the Spiritual Life, Monday, March 1, 2010, 7:00 p.m. Edgerton Theatre
- (2) The Milgram Experiment, Wednesday, April 14, 2010, 2:00 p.m. University Commons
- (3) The Value of Nothing, Monday, April 19, 2010, 7:00 p.m. University Commons

CLASS POLICIES

1. You are allowed two absences from this class. More than two absences will work to lower your final grade.
2. Please turn off your cell phones before class and please use your computer only to take notes for our class. Please do not use your computer to do anything that is not related to our class.
3. Be on time for class. Repeated lateness will result in a lower final grade.
4. Please use the bathroom before class or after class, but NOT during class.
5. Plagiarism or cheating will result in failure. Please consult University Policy on Academic Integrity.

OFFICE AND HOURS

SC124, Academic Building, Science Wing

Messages may be left with Deanna Bradshaw, Administrative Assistant,
bradshawd@sacredheart.edu

Thursday: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Friday: 10:00 – 12:00 noon
Other hours by appointment

Telephone #s: 396-8020, 255-2767 (home)
E-mail: lorism@sacredheart.edu

Students are invited and encouraged to schedule as many appointments with me as needed throughout the semester.

GRADES

1. Class participation = 10%
2. Blackboard discussion = 40%
3. Oral presentations and written summary = 20%
4. Colloquia Blogs = 10%
5. Final exam essay = 20%

GRADING CRITERIA

A = excellence in use, quality, level and expression of ideas; excellence in thesis, structure, organization, development, coherence, clarity, logic; excellence in language, vocabulary, sentence style and structure; excellence in format, grammar, mechanics

B+ = very good

B = above average, good

B- = good

C+ = average

C = satisfactory

D+ = unsatisfactory

F = failure

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GRADES – GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE

A = 4.00

A- = 3.75

B+ = 3.50

B = 3.00

B- = 2.75

C+ = 2.50

C = 2.00

D+ = 1.50 Not Graduate

D = 1.00 Not Graduate

F = 0.00 Failure

I = 0.00 Incomplete

W = 0.00 Withdrawn Officially – No Penalty

WF = 0.00 Withdrawal While Failing (Unofficial)

ESTIMATE OF NUMERICAL VALUE OF LETTER GRADES:

A = 100-95

A- = 94-90

B+ = 89-87

B = 86-83

B- = 82-80

C+ = 79-75

C = 74-70

D+ = 69-65

D = 64-60

F = 59 or less

SCHEDULE:

I. Topic: **Science and Religion
Reason and Faith**

- Readings: (a) Science and Religion, Barbour (Other Readings)
(b) The Area of Interaction, Polkinghorne (Other Readings)
(c) Psychology as Science (Other Readings)
(d) God has always been a puzzle
(e) The Origins of the Universe (The Language of God, Ch. 3)
(f) Science and Religion as World Builders (When Worlds Converge, Ch.23)
(g) The Evolution of God
(h) And God Created Darwin
(i) Statement on the Catholic intellectual tradition
(j) God vs. Science

Dates: 1/25, 1/27, 2/1, 2/3, 2/8, 2/10

II. Topic: **What does it mean to be human?**

- Readings: (a) Whatever Became of the Soul, Jeeves
(b) What is Human Nature, Miller
(c) Humanity: Mind, Body, Problem, Polkinghorne
(d) The Mind-Brain Problem, Barash
(e) More Than Machines
(f) Brain-Mind Connection, Jeeves
(g) Free Will Chapters, Jeeves
(h) Skinner – What is Man?
(i) Being Human: A Personal and Mostly Catholic Perspective
When Worlds Converge, Ch. 22)
(j) Skinner – Freedom
(k) The Blank Slate (Other Readings)
(l) We May be Born with an Urge to Help

Dates: 2/15, 2/17, 2/22, 2/24, 3/1, 3/3

III. Topic: **What does it mean to live a life of meaning and purpose?**

- Readings: (a) The Moral Instinct
(b) Polkinghorne – Search for Knowledge & Wisdom (Other Readings)
(c) Happiness, Time (Other Readings)
(d) A Behavioral Systems Approach to Love
(e) Buss – Evolution of Love
(f) Kenrick – Evolutionary View of Love
(g) Freud – Civilization and Its Discontents
(h) Freud – The Question of God
(i) Experiencing Flow
(j) Is Your Job Your Calling? (Other Readings)
(k) Jeeves – Finding your Path
(l) Jeeves – Giftedness
(m) Frankl – Man's Search for Meaning

Dates: 3/15, 3/17, 3/22, 3/24, 3/29, 3/31

IV. Topic: What does it mean to appreciate the natural world?

Readings: (a) The Good Guys
(b) Green IQ
(c) What do you want to do for the world?
(d) Hardin, "Tragedy of the Commons"

Dates: 4/7, 4/12

V. Topic: What does it mean to form a more just society for the common good?

Readings: (a) The Psychology of Prejudice
(b) Zimbardo, Chapter 13
(c) Milgram, Chapters 14 and 15
(d) Barash, Power (Other Readings)
(e) Four Roots of Evil (The Social Psychology of Good & Evil, Ch. 4)
(f) The Evolution of Evil (The Social Psychology of Good & Evil, Ch. 5)
(g) Statement on the Catholic intellectual tradition

Dates: 4/14, 4/19, 4/21, 4/26, 4/28, 5/3