

IDS 190 01P Science: Wars and Peace
Fall 2004
Professor Laura Otis
N-306 Callaway Center
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Science: Wars and Peace

Course Objectives: This class aims to make you think more about what knowledge is and how social factors can influence definitions of knowledge. It will introduce you to a great variety of writers from different cultures who have considered what and how much people can know. The course has been organized around a series of questions that challenge assumptions Europeans and Americans have made up to now about what it means to know things.

Course Requirements: To succeed in this course, you will need to write weekly 1-2 page reading responses to questions given by the instructor. You will also need to write two 4-6 page analytical essays in which you develop original arguments about ideas in the readings. It is crucial that you come to each class having done the reading listed for the day and that you participate actively in discussions about it. Since some people are more talkative than others, the quality as well as the quantity of your in-class comments will be considered.

Grading Policy: Your final grade for the course will be based on the grades of your two essays (30% each), your top ten reading responses (20%) and your class participation (20%). Your first essay may be revised one time, and the grade on the revision will replace the original grade unless it is lower than the original grade.

Attendance and Lateness Policy: Students with more than three unexcused absences will lose half a letter grade. For example, if your final grade is an A- and you have missed more than three classes without a legitimate reason, you will get a B+. Two unexcused latenesses will count as an unexcused absence. Legitimate reasons for missing class are an incapacitating illness or a family emergency.

Class Readings: Jerome Lawrence's Inherit the Wind, Pedro Calderón de la Barca's Life Is a Dream, and George Bernard Shaw's Mrs. Warren's Profession are available at the bookstore. The films The Matrix and Koyaanisqatsi can be seen at the library media center. All other readings are on electronic reserve and can be obtained through the Emory Library website.

Who Defines Intelligence?

- Aug. 26 Charles Dickens, Hard Times, ch. 1 & 2
- Aug. 31 Stephen Jay Gould, The Mismeasure of Man, selections
- Sept. 2 Samuel Butler, Erewhon, “The Book of the Machines”

How Do You Create Knowledge?

- Sept. 7 Presocratic Philosophy
- Sept. 9 Aristotle, “On the Parts of Animals,” Books 1 & 2

How Do You Organize Knowledge?

- Sept. 14 Jorge Luis Borges, “The Library of Babel”
- Sept. 16 Umberto Eco, The Name of the Rose, selections

How Does Knowledge Relate to Faith?

- Sept. 21 The Bible, Genesis 1-3
- Sept. 23 Charles Darwin, Origin of Species, ch. 3 & 4
- Sept. 28 Jerome Lawrence, Inherit the Wind

Can Bodies Know?

- Sept. 30 René Descartes, Meditations 1, 2 & 6
- Oct. 5 Antonio Damasio, Descartes’ Error, ch. 10 & 11
Oliver Sacks, “The Disembodied Lady”
- Oct. 7 Andy and Larry Wachowsky, The Matrix
First Essay Due
- Oct. 12 Fall Break

What Is Visual Knowledge?

Oct. 14 Marshall McLuhan, Understanding Media, ch. 1, 6, 9 & 20

Oct. 19 Godfrey Reggio, Koyaanisqatsi

Who Defines Reality?

Oct. 21 Miguel de Cervantes, Don Quixote, vol. 1 ch. 2, 8, 16, 21, 22; vol. 2 ch. 10

Oct. 26 Pedro Calderón de la Barca, Life Is a Dream

Oct. 28 Jorge Luis Borges, "The Circular Ruins"
Revised First Essay Due

Can Drugs Enhance Knowledge?

Nov. 2 Thomas DeQuincey, Confessions of an English Opium Eater, selections

Nov. 4 Jim Morrison, "Celebration of the Lizard"
Richard Doyle, "LSDNA"

Who Controls Knowledge?

Nov. 9 Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto, ch. 2

Nov. 11 Arthur Koestler, The Case of the Midwife Toad

Nov. 16 George Bernard Shaw, Mrs. Warren's Profession

Nov. 18 Howard Zinn, A People's History of the United States, ch. 1 & 9

Do Women and Men Know Differently?

Nov. 23 S. Weir Mitchell, Wear and Tear, selections
Carol Gilligan, In a Different Voice, Introduction and ch. 2

Nov. 25 Thanksgiving

Can We Turn Science War to Science Peace?

- Nov. 30 James Watson, The Double Helix, ch. 2, 10, 23, Epilogue
Evelyn Fox Keller, Reflections on Gender and Science, selections
- Dec. 2 C. P. Snow, The Two Cultures
- Dec. 7 Alan Sokal, “Transgressing the Boundaries” and “Revelation”
- Dec. 9 **Second Essay Due** (no class meeting)