



Course **The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry BIS 3320-001**
Professor Dr. Susan Chizeck
Term Fall 2011
Meetings MW 1:00- 2:15 CB2 1.204

Tentative syllabus 7/26/11 Classroom CB2 1.204

Professor's Contact Information

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Other Phone n/a
Office Location HH 2.808
Email Address chizeck@utdallas.edu
Office Hours MWF 2:30-4:30 and by appointment.
Other Information Additional information will be provided on the first day of class and throughout the semester.

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions No prerequisites

Course Description

This course is concerned with the systematic study of science and the academic experience. Science is part of the search for knowledge and each approach to science contributes to the totality of knowledge. BIS 3320 will assist students in understanding the way we know things, how to evaluate knowledge and how to find out things we want to understand. In addition, the class is designed to assist the students in understanding the importance of clear communication, documentation, and the use of detailed information to support arguments (how to communicate to others what we know and want to tell others).

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to locate primary sources and evaluate the usefulness of each source based on the criteria discussed in class.
2. Students will be able to concisely paraphrase the findings of studies and properly document sources according to the guidelines set forth by the APA manual.
3. Students will be able to develop a thesis statement and write a paper that discusses the scientific studies that support their claims.
4. Students will be able to describe the differences and similarities between philosophical ideas and scientific facts and/or theories.

5. Students will understand how different disciplines search for knowledge and how they apply the scientific method to research.

Massimo Pigliucci, *NONSENSE ON STILTS: HOW TO TELL SCIENCE FROM BUNK*, Chicago, Univ. of Chicago Press, 2010.

David Snowden, *AGING WITH GRACE*, NY, Bantam Books, 2001.

**Required Texts &
Materials**

Optional: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association

Additional readings are available online.

**Suggested Texts,
Readings, &
Materials**

Assignments & Academic Calendar

[Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates]

Re: Written assignments

The assignments will be explained on the specified day and discussed throughout the semester.

****All** written assignments must be well organized, free of spelling and grammatical errors, double-spaced, and printed in a 12-14 font. Handwritten work will not be accepted. **Do not** e-mail the written assignments to me without permission.

Re: Assigned readings

I require that students complete the assigned readings prior to class. Come prepared to discuss the readings.

****This schedule is subject to modification.**

Aug. 24

W Introduction to the course
What is science? and Choosing a Topic.

Aug 29 & 31

M Lecture: Writing a Proposal (the mini dissertation)
Reading: Snowden, prologue and chapter 1.
Stilts intro and Chap 1

W Library instruction:

Library Instruction Session

****Meet in the library lobby at 1:00pm**

Class will be in MC 2.524 for instruction

Sept. 5 & 7

M .No class Labor Day.

W Lecture: Scientific Method

Readings: Chapter 3-4 of the APA Manual

Snowdon chapters 2.

Stilts Chap 2

Sept. 12 & 14

M Lecture, continue Scientific Method and research

W Lecture: Logic

Reading: Chapter 6 and pp. 198-199 of the APA Manual.

***Proposals are due. We will do peer review in class.**

Sept. 19 & 21

M Guest lecture: how do we know things in anthropology

Reading: Snowdon, chapters 3-4.

W Reading: Stilts chapters 3-4.

Sept. 26 & 28

M **Revised proposals and annotated bibliographies are due!

W Reading: Snowdon, chapters 5

. Stilts Chap 5

Oct. 3 & 5

M Lecture: how do we know things in math and engineering

W Reading: , snowdon chapters 6.

Stilts Chap 6

Oct. 10 & 12

M how do we know things in the humanities?

Checklist for the midterm paper.

Reading: Snowdon chapters 7.

Stilts Chap 7

W Midterm papers are due

Turn in the original proposal, the revised proposal, and the annotated bib along with your midterm paper (in a two-pocket folder). Remember to submit your paper to turnitin.com.

Oct. 17 & 19 **M** Guidelines for the final paper, proving your point
Reading:
Reading: Snowden, chapters 8.
Stilts chap 8

W no class – at conference

Oct. 24 & 26 **M** Reading: Snowden, chapters 9.
W Reading: , Stilts chapters 9.
***Proposals are due for final research paper.**

Oct 31 & Nov. 2 **M** Reading: “The Perils of Obedience”
W Reading: The Stanford Prison Experiment
<http://www.prisonexp.org>
additional materials on e-learning

Nov. 7 & 9 **M** Research as a human enterprise, finding what we are looking
for
W Snowden Chap 10
Stilts Chap 10
****Revised proposals and annotated bibliographies are due.**

Nov. 14 & 16 **M** Reading: Snowden chap 11.
W Reading: Stilts 11.

	M Reading: snowdon chap 12. Stilts chap 12 and end
Nov. 21 & 23	W no class, happy thanksgiving , writing your papers
	M paper drafts due for peer review and turn in.
Nov. 28 & 30	W Reading: discussion continues Review guidelines for the final paper
	M examples of real research dilemmas
Dec. 5 & 7	W discussion continues
Dec. 9	Final papers are due in my office before 3:00 pm. Turn in the original proposal, the revised proposal, and the annotated bib along with your final paper (in a two-pocket folder). Remember to submit your paper to turnitin.com.

Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria	<p>This course requires two 8 page papers with revisions as the major portion of your grade.</p> <p>Preliminary work (revised proposal and bib.) for midterm paper (10%) Midterm paper (25%)</p> <p>Preliminary work (revised proposal, bib-10%, for final paper Final paper (25%)</p> <p>Pop quizzes and in class activities and discussion (15%)</p> <p>Class Participation (10%) Woody Allen once said “85% of life is just showing up” and here you get points for that.</p> <p>A course average of 65 or below may be considered an F.</p> <p>Proper citation of sources is expected. All papers must be submitted to</p>
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Make-up Exams	In-class work cannot be made up. Pop quizzes may be made up at my discretion.
Extra Credit	There will be no extra credit work. No exceptions.
Late Work	Late work will receive a substantially lower grade.
Special Assignments	n/a
Class Attendance	<p>Remember that attendance, class participation, and classroom citizenship (see section below) constitutes 10-25% of your course grade.</p> <p>Class participation means arriving on time, contributing to discussions (including the submission of discussion questions), active listening, and peer editing. Bring your textbooks, notebook paper, and a pen to each class session.</p> <p>*If you are unable to attend class, you are responsible for obtaining the lecture notes from another class member.</p> <p>*Attendance will be taken during each class session. Missing class will have an adverse effect on your final grade.</p>
Classroom Citizenship	<p>Technology Policy: Cell phones must be silenced during class. I do not want to see them or hear them (absolutely no texting). Please, no laptops or ear devices. Violation of this policy will affect your grade.</p> <p>Classroom Conduct: I expect students to be attentive during class. Please, no eating or sleeping! Additionally, reading newspapers, magazines, or studying for another class will not be tolerated. During discussions, I expect students to be respectful of the views of others. No name-calling, swearing, or racist/sexist/homophobic statements. Common courtesy is appreciated. Also, if you are having a problem with another student, please discuss it with me.</p> <p><i>These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.</i></p> <p>For additional syllabi policies: http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</p>

Tentative assignments:

Assignments:

David Snowdon, AGING WITH GRACE, NY, Bantam Books, 2001. Readings as assigned each week. Be prepared to discuss in class.

Massimo Pigliucci, *NONSENSE ON STILTS: HOW TO TELL SCIENCE FROM BUNK*, Chicago, Univ. of Chicago Press, 2010.

Each week we will read a chapter of *Stilts* and discuss it. It is a long and information-dense book. In order to learn by doing, students will be formed into small groups and the group will be responsible for leading the discussion on the weekly chapter. Each member of the group will turn in a short paper of about 2 pages summarizing the main points of the chapter and some ideas for discussion. It will be worth 12 participation points.

Current topic participation: Bring an article from a magazine or other source on an interesting topic and describe their main points and how they support them. Discuss who the author is, what sort of publication it is in, how they present their information, analyze in terms of information on science from the class. Turn in a copy of the original article and a page of analysis. This is worth 5 participation points.

Midterm assignment: the fantasy dissertation

The fantasy dissertation project. Since we will end up with an 8 page paper rather than 250 pages, this can be fun. We will take an observed problem in your areas of study and do a review of the literature. You must use at least 3 annotated bibliography items. Generate a hypothesis about the problem. In our case we will ask opinion and information questions to gather data. Collect your data by asking classmates or friends. Analyze your data (simple percentages should suffice) and discuss. Come to a conclusion.

Final Paper: the research paper

Decide on a topic you want to learn more about and that has some element of controversy or contention. You may expand upon your midterm project or take a new one that is not in your discipline. Using the form of a proper academic essay, write it up. This means introduction, review of the literature (at least 3 new sources), hypothesis, well reasoned presentation of evidence that supports your points, and conclusion.

The bibliography will be an annotated bibliography giving the main hypothesis and what sort of supporting data was used for each source. Look at the author's intent, style, affective content (appeal to emotions), kind of evidence (scientific, historical, quantitative, statistical, testimonial, anecdotal, etc.) and the logic or reasoning processes employed.

All written assignments must be well organized, free of spelling and grammatical errors, double-spaced, and printed in a 12-14 font. Handwritten work will not be accepted.

Do not e-mail the written assignments to me without permission.

Midterm proposals are due Sept 14.

Midterm papers are due October 12

Turn in the original proposal, the revised proposal, and the annotated bib along with your midterm paper (in a two-pocket folder). Remember to submit your paper to turnitin.com #4125390 naturedudes

Preliminary work (revised proposal and bib.) for midterm paper (10%)

Midterm paper (25%)

Preliminary work (revised proposal, bib-10%, for final paper

Final paper (25%)

Stilts chapter and discussion (12%)

Current topic essay (5%)

Class Participation (10%) Woody Allen once said “85% of life is just showing up” and here you get points for that.

So you can get 102 points! A course average of 65 or below may be considered an F.

Proper citation of sources is expected. Any quotes or numbers must be referenced by page numbers in your source. Put the ideas in your own words, digesting what you read. All papers must be submitted to Turnitin.com

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