



Course BIS 3320:003
Course Title The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry
Professor Dr. Larissa Werhnyak
Term Fall 2016
Meetings MW 10.00-11.15 (HH 2.502)

Professor's Contact Information

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Office Hours TTh 10.00-11.30 & by appointment. (Please provide me with advance notice of your intent to visit my office hours.)

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions No pre-requisites.

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 pervasive influence of science in our culture and will increase the student's breadth of intellectual inquiry. In addition, the class is designed to assist students in understanding the importance of clear communication, documentation, and the use of detailed information to support arguments.

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.

Required Texts & Materials

Gaarder, *Sophie's World: A Novel About the History of Philosophy*. (ISBN-13: 978-0374530716)
Snowdon, *Aging With Grace: What the Nun Study Teaches Us About Living Longer, Healthier, and More Meaningful Lives*. (ISBN 13: 978-0553380927)
Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) (ISBN-13: 978-1433805615)

Major Deadlines

September 7:	Paper 1 proposals
September 28:	Revised Paper 1 proposals & annotated bibliographies
October 12:	Paper 1 (submit in hard copy AND electronically)
November 9:	Paper 2 proposals & annotated bibliographies
November 30:	Philosophical foundations
TBA:	Paper 2

Further information regarding each assignment will be provided on the expanded schedule, in class, and on relevant assignment sheets.

Grading Criteria

Paper 1 proposal & bibliography:	10%
Paper 1 final draft:	25%
Paper 2 proposal & bibliography:	10%
Philosophical foundations:	5%
Paper 2 final draft:	25%
Reading quizzes/responses:	15%
Daily work (including participation):	10%

Standards for Written Work

All written assignments must be free from pervasive spelling and grammatical errors, double-spaced, and printed in a twelve-point font on numbered pages. Professional standards regarding margins and font style must be maintained. Handwritten work will not be accepted, nor will e-mailed work, unless prior permission has been received.

Make-Ups and Late Work

I reserve the right to refuse to accept late work submitted without my prior consent, as well as the right to substantially penalize late submissions. Specific penalties will be discussed in class and will be described in detail on assignment sheets. In-class work cannot be made up.

Class Attendance

Please arrive on time and ready to listen attentively to lectures and/or to contribute to classroom discussions, engage in activities, and participate in peer editing sessions. Along with the assigned readings, bring paper and a writing instrument to each class session.

Many important activities, such as quizzes/responses and peer editing sessions, will begin at the start of class. No extra time will be provided for students who arrive late.

If you are unable to attend class, you are responsible for obtaining lecture notes from another student. If, after doing so, you have questions about class materials, please plan to visit my office hours. If you are dealing with a situation that will or may require significant absences from class, please contact me at your earliest convenience to make arrangements.

Extra Credit

I do not and will not offer traditional extra credit, but I do offer a “seat bonus” which a student may earn by being in his/her seat and prepared to work when class begins. In order to be considered “prepared,” a student must come to class with any texts to be discussed during that class period and must have stowed and silenced any electronic devices he or she has brought to class. Attendance will be taken during each class session, and each student is responsible for ensuring his/her name appears on the sign-in sheet. Signing in any student other than yourself is an act of academic dishonesty.

Were a student to achieve perfect attendance, she/he would earn a seat bonus equivalent to 1% of the final course grade. (I.e., an overall grade of 89 would become a grade of 90.) Seat bonuses **will** be credited proportionately, so all is not lost if perfect attendance is not achieved.

Classroom Citizenship

I expect students to be attentive during class. No sleeping, reading newspapers, or studying for other classes!

During discussions, I expect students to be respectful and courteous to others at all times. Name-calling, swearing, and racist/sexist/homophobic statements will not be permitted. Vigorous intellectual dissent is entirely compatible with decorous behavior. If you are having a problem with another student, please contact me to discuss it.

Communication policy

Email (via my UTD account) is the best way to contact me. I check my email regularly and guarantee that, absent the direst of emergencies, I will respond to your message no more than 24 hours after its delivery (and generally much sooner.)

I do not respond to messages regarding written assignments that are delivered less than 24 hours prior to the deadline for that assignment. (Questions about readings, general course policies, and the like are fine at any time.)

Technology

Electronic devices must be silenced and stowed during class. I do not want to hear them or see them. (This includes laptops, iPads, and earbuds.) Violation of this policy will affect your grade. Please speak with me if you are dealing with a situation that requires you to keep your cell phone visible e.g., an ill family member.)

Academic Dishonesty

Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting for credit any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student, as well as the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, whether from the internet, from portions of papers submitted for credit in other classes, or from any other source, is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism, which may be found in the general catalog. This course will use anti-plagiarism technology in order to identify cases of potential plagiarism.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The University policies and procedures that may be found at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> are also incorporated into this syllabus.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

Schedule of Assignments

Week 1

M August 22 Introductions

W August 24

Lecture: What is science?
Choosing a topic

Week 2

M August 29

Lecture: Writing a proposal

Reading: Snowden, *Aging With Grace* (AWG), prologue & ch. 1-2

W August 31

Reading: Gaarder, *Sophie's World* (SW), ch. 1-3
("The Garden of Eden;" "The Top Hat;" "The Myths")
AWG, ch. 3-4

**By the end of Week 2, you should have chosen a sample article from your research for classroom reference.

Week 3

M September 5 – No class (Labor Day)

W September 7

DEADLINE: Proposals

Lecture: Sources & writing an annotated bibliography

Reading: APA Manual, ch. 6 & pp. 198-99

Week 4

M September 12 – Library instruction session

Meet in the library lobby

W September 14

Reading: SW, ch. 4-7
("The Natural Philosophers;" "Democritus;" "Fate;" "Socrates")

Week 5

M September 19

Reading: SW, ch. 8-11
("Athens;" "Plato;" "The Major's Cabin;" "Aristotle")

W September 21

Lecture: Academic tone

Reading: APA Manual, ch. 3-4

Week 6

M September 26

Reading: SW, ch. 12-15
("Hellenism;" "The Postcards;" "Two Cultures;" "The Middle Ages")

W September 28

DEADLINE: Revised Paper 1 proposals & annotated bibliographies. Remember to submit in a two-pocket folder with your original proposal.

Lecture: Structure of argument

In-text citations

Week 7

M October 3

Reading: SW, ch. 16-18
("The Renaissance;" "The Baroque;" "Descartes")

W October 5

Reading: SW, ch. 19-21
("Spinoza;" "Locke;" "Hume")

Week 8

M October 10

COMPLETE: Checklist for midterm paper

Reading: SW, ch. 22-23
("Berkeley;" "Bjerkely")

W October 12

DEADLINE: Paper 1
1) Submit a hard copy to my office before 4 PM. Remember to submit your paper in a two-pocket folder along with the original proposal, revised proposal, and annotated bibliography.
2) Submit an electronic copy to eLearning before 5 PM.

Week 9

M October 17

DISCUSS: Guidelines for final paper

Reading: SW, ch. 24
("The Enlightenment")

W October 19

Reading: AWG, ch. 5-6

Week 10

M October 24

Reading: AWG; ch. 7 & 11

W October 26

Reading: SW, ch. 25-26
("Kant;" "Romanticism")

Week 11

M October 31

Reading: Materials on Tuskegee (eLearning)

Lecture: Ethics in research

W November 2

Reading: "The Perils of Obedience" (eLearning)
"The Stanford Prison Experiment" (eLearning)

Week 12

M November 7

Reading: Zimmer, "Whose Life Would You Save?"

W November 9

DEADLINE: Paper 2 proposals and annotated bibliographies

Lecture: Contextualizing topics

Week 13

M November 14

Reading: SW, ch. 27-29
("Hegel," "Kierkegaard," "Marx")

W November 16

Reading: AWG, ch. 9-10

** No classes week of November 21 (Fall/Thanksgiving Break)

Week 14

M November 28

Reading: SW, ch. 30-31
("Darwin," "Freud")

W November 30

DEADLINE: Philosophical foundations

Reading: SW, ch. 32
("Our Own Time")

Week 15

M December 5

Reading: AWG, ch. 8 & 12

W December 7

REVIEW: Guidelines for final paper

Reading: SW, ch. 33-35
("The Garden Party," "Counterpoint," "The Big Bang")