Readings

Readings, videos and other materials form background to class material for the week they are listed and should be read before class.

Required Texts


Paul Lawrence Farber, Mixing Races: From Scientific Racism to Modern Evolutionary Ideas (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005).

Christopher M. Graney, Setting Aside All Authority: Giovanni Battista Riccioli and the Science Against Copernicus in the Age of Galileo.

Recommended Text


Course readings on the Web are available to currently enrolled students through CANVAS.

Study guides:

Oreskes and Conway Merchants of Doubt, click HERE; Graney click HERE.

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Course outline subject to change - last revision 5 Sept 2016. (Frozen until 14 Sept)

1 Getting started.
M Aug 22: Intro questionnaire/First day handout.
W Aug 24: Introduction to OU Library/Ex1: Find a book, etc.

M Aug 29: Assignment of students to working groups / Ex 2: Vaccines.
W Aug 31: Discuss Rothstein as an example of historical reasoning.

3 Galileo
Before Wednesday study first two videos on Writing History Essays and Take a walk with Aristotle.
M Sept 5: NO CLASS - Labor Day.
W Sept 7: The cosmos in 1600.

4 Galileo: Before Monday read Graney Ch.’s 1, 2; Before Wednesday read Graney Ch.’s 3, 4
Before Wednesday study last three videos on Writing History Essays.
M Sept 12: From 1616 to 1633 - success and failure in Galileo's career.
W Sept 14: From 1616 to 1633 - success and failure in Galileo's career; Graded test on class Operation and Procedures (in class).

5 Galileo: Before Monday read Graney Ch.’s 5, 6, 7
M Sept 19: Distant stars and falling bodies, Graded test on Writing History Essay videos, opens online Mon Sept 19.
W Sept 21: Distant stars and falling bodies.

6 Galileo: Before Monday read Graney Ch.’s 8, 9, 10.
M Sept 26: The case against Copernicanism.
W Sept 28: The case against Copernicanism.

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7 Darwin – The world in 1850:
M Oct 3: Research essay first draft to second reader.
W Oct 5: Research Essay first draft returned to author with notes.

8 Darwin – Reading: Darwin, The Descent of Man, Ch VII (pp. 214-250)
M Oct 10: Research Essay final draft due.

9 Darwin – Farber Ch.’s 1-4

9/13/2016
M Oct 17
Wikipedia group project week 1
All students create free accounts on Wikipedia and begin training

10 Darwin – Farber Ch.’s 5-7 plus Epilogue

M Oct 24
Wikipedia group project week 2

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11 Science and 'Race'
M Oct 31
W Nov 02 Complete Wikipedia Training sections
‘Core’ 1-14 and ‘Editing’ 1-24; read Wikipedia group project week 3;
Make at least one edit THIS WEEK. Track its success or failure next week.

12 Climate – Smoking and lung cancer; acid rain. Oreskes and Conway, 1-106.
M Nov 07
Wikipedia group project week 4

M Nov 14
Wikipedia group project week 5: Wikipedia pages completed

14 Climate – Climate change. Oreskes and Conway, 216-240.
ONE CLASS ONLY Monday Nov 21
Wikipedia group project week 6: Wikipedia pages completed

Wednesday Nov 23: Thanksgiving Break

15 Climate change: Wikipedia group project week 7;
M Nov 28 Oreskes and Conway, 240-266;
W Nov 30 Group presentations on Wikipedia Projects

16 Conclusions
M Dec 05: Group presentations on Wikipedia Projects
W Dec 07: Good News and Exit Questionnaire

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Grades

There will be a graded test on class Operations and Procedures, Wed Sept 07. Students will also complete one single author research paper, due in week 8, and one group project, due in weeks 13/14 which will be followed by a class presentation during class in weeks 15/16. A variety of smaller assignments will occur throughout the semester. See separate instructions for Papers, Assignments and Projects. Class participation will make up the final 20% of the grade, divided into two equal parts. Half of this grade portion will reflect participation in the group project. Half of the grade portion will reflect attendance and participation in class exercises. Other than excused religious holidays, students absent from more than three classes will be penalized one letter grade within this second portion of the participation grade item.
Grades will be computed as follows: O&P Test = 10%; research essay = 20% each; group project = 20%; participation = 20%; additional assignments = 30% (see CANVAS grading scheme for additional information on this item). There is no curve.

Late delivery of essays, projects and assignments will not be permitted except under circumstances of emergency or illness, verifiable to the satisfaction of the Instructor. However, it is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of required class work that may fall on religious holidays. If you wish to be excused for religious observances, please contact your Instructor at least one week before you will be absent, in order to reschedule the corresponding work or assignments.

Extra Credit is available for assignments worth 20% or more of final grade.

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Academic honesty

We assume you understand and adhere to the norms of academic honesty stated in:
A Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at the University of Oklahoma. We also assume you are honest unless proven otherwise so if you are not sure about something ask us. We encourage you to work together (and with us) to prepare for class, exams and ε -- on the understanding that the final version is all your own work. 'Plagiarism' used to mean copying out of a book. Electronic media pose special problems. While we encourage you to use them as sources of ideas and information, no sentence that you submit as your own work should be identical to any sentence in a book or electronic medium.
If we judge that work you submit fails to meet these standards, the following things will happen:
(1) On the first occasion, you will be asked to amend the work and resubmit it to receive a grade.
(2) On the second occasion you will receive a formal admonition, as explained in Rights and Responsibilities under the Academic Misconduct Code, and a grade of zero for the work.
(3) On the third occasion, a complaint of academic misconduct will be filed, as explained in Rights and Responsibilities under the Academic Misconduct Code.

Students with disabilities

Students in this course who have any disability that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact the Instructor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate their educational opportunities.

Inclusivity

In this class you will be expected to take part in discussions, work in small groups, contribute to group projects, study and review groups settings. The University of Oklahoma is a multicultural and multi-ethnic community. Your time here is a unique opportu
to engage with people from backgrounds, cultures, and life experiences very different from your own. Remember that these people are just like you — they may not have lived in a multicultural, multi-ethnic community either. If you need help with any of these talk to your Instructor. By engaging, you will acquire skills that are essential for career success and citizenship in the 21st century.