Honors Seminar: The Integration of Knowledge
Theme: HAPPINESS

Winter Quarter 2014

12:20-1:20 Monday & Wed. with Fridays online--3 credits

Instructor
Dr. Joyce S. Walker

Office: Gray Wolf (GWH) 217

Phone & Email 425/388-9411
jwalker@everettcc.edu

Office Hours: Mon. 1:20-2:30 only &
Tues., Wed, & Thurs, 10:00-11:00 only

Course Description: HUM 195 HN (3 credits) is titled “Honors Seminar: The Integration of Knowledge.” We will examine the enduring question of Happiness, considering definitions and perspectives from psychology, sociology, neuroscience, philosophy, religion, literature, and the arts, and attempting to integrate this interdisciplinary academic approach with our development as persons. We will focus on questions like these:

- What is happiness?
- Is it more than a psychological state or the absence of negative emotions?
- Is happiness the goal of life or is it the by-product of a life well lived?
- What is the relationship between pleasure and happiness?
- How much does happiness matter? Is happiness overrated?
- What’s the connection between happiness and morality?
- Is it appropriate to focus on happiness when there is so much suffering in the world?
- Is happiness the same thing as finding meaning and purpose in life? Is there something that matters more than happiness?

This course will also emphasize writing skills, critical thinking, and information literacy as you research and write about the topic. You will also begin creating an academic portfolio to showcase your accomplishments as you plan for your future.
This course is one of two “gateway” courses required for admission to the Honors program. The other course is HUM 196 HN, the Honors Symposium on the topic of Enlightenment, a 2-credit course that meets from 12:20-1:20 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You may take both of these courses simultaneously. The prerequisite for both courses is completion of English 101 with a B or better. You’ll find more information about our Honors program later in this syllabus and at www.everettcc.edu/honors

**COURSE PREREQUISITE:**
Completion of English 101 with at least a B

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to
1. . . . explain how multiple perspectives and approaches enrich understanding of the course’s central theme.
2. . . . analyze how some areas of knowledge link with one another.
3. . . . describe how some diverse cultures and people see the world and our place in it.
4. . . . assess how this course affects your understanding of yourself and your place in the world.
5. . . . formulate questions about the meaning and value of human life and experience.
6. . . . utilize diverse sources and conduct research aimed at answering some of these questions.
7. . . . demonstrate the ability to write academic essays using clear language, correct syntax, and effective argument.

**REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS**
2. *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham
   (This text will be made available free of charge).
5. Required Materials: One i>clicker2 remote device

You are required to purchase an i>clicker2 remote for in-class participation. *You may use either the older version or the newer one (called i>clicker2).* i>clicker is a response system (it looks like a TV remote control) that allows you to respond to questions I pose during class. Frequently, we will use the i>clicker for quizzes on the readings, course opinion polls. Besides earning points for correct answers on reading quizzes, you will earn additional points just for participating in quizzes and opinion polls.

**How does this gadget work?**
Each i>clicker remote has a unique serial number on its back. Place a piece of scotch tape over that bar code and ID to preserve it. In order to receive credit for your i>clicker responses, you will need to register your i>clicker remote in class. I will project a Registration screen with 3 easy steps to follow. You will look for your student ID number which will alphabetically scroll down the screen, so you must know or bring that number to class in order to register. Once your remote is registered, your ID number will no longer appear on that scrolling list and you are registered for the entire term. If for some reason you can’t follow these steps, please see me for help immediately. **Your i>clicker will be used every day in class, and you are responsible for bringing your remote daily and making sure that it records your vote.** Missed points can’t be made up.
Important Notes about the Texts: All texts are on reserve at the library circulation desk (for library use only). I expect you to keep up with the reading assignments even if you can’t purchase a text book. Not having obtained the text is no excuse for not doing your work on time.

“Riding the Elephant”

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE & PREPARATION: Your presence and active participation are an integral part of this course. Please come prepared and on time each day, having carefully read the day’s assignment. I encourage slow, thoughtful reading, accompanied by your active engagement with the text via notes and underlining. If you do not understand your reading, you should slow down and read it again. If you have repeated difficulties with the reading, please come and see me! Perhaps I can make some suggestions that will help.

Your questions and observations will enrich this class. We need each other’s questions, perspectives, and mutual help to fully understand the ideas and concepts that will be presented, so please don’t be shy! How else is attendance rewarded? The more consistently you attend, the better chance you’ll have of getting a high score. In addition, we will use the i>clicker for quizzes on the readings and various classroom activities. Points will be awarded for correct answers on quizzes, and for participation in quizzes and course opinion polls.

2. Class participation. You will be rewarded for your level of engagement in class. This doesn’t just mean talking in discussion; it also includes asking meaningful questions, listening, and responding thoughtfully to the contributions of others. It also means being present, alert, and engaged on a regular basis. Consult the participation guidelines you’ll receive in class.

3. I>clicker & misc. points: --- Participation in i>clicker activities. For i>clicker quizzes, correct answers will score the highest points but all participants will earn some credit. Also included here are points for the creation of a portfolio profiling your achievements.

4. Online assignments. These nine written assignments will be evaluated for clarity and quality.

5. ESSAYS:
   Essay 1: 500 words
   Essay 2: 800-1000 words
### How your course grade is determined in HUM 195 HN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>% of grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-clicker and misc. points</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The cauldron will probably contain a few hundred points by the end of the quarter. Your score will be determined by how many of the possible points you earned (100%? 75%? etc.), and that score will be weighted as 20% of your course grade.

### TOTAL

100%

- **Other grades you can receive in this class:**  
  - W (student withdrawal – check deadline), V (instructor withdrawal -- by request only and at the option of the instructor), N (audit – you must sign up for this before the drop deadline)
  
- **Grades NOT offered in this class:**  
  - I (incomplete)
  - Y (in progress)

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81% - 90%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71-78%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-68%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
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The FYI Page

CANVAS

✓ We have a Canvas site for this course. We’ll use it for weekly online assignments as well as a place to post some handouts and background, and a way for me to make important announcements. You should visit it frequently.
✓ To log in, go to https://everettcc.instructure.com to access Canvas. You’ll need your student ID number and PIN. For FAQs and help, go to our EvCC e-learning website at http://www.everettcc.edu/elearning/canvas/
✓ If you don’t have fast and reliable internet access at home, plan on accessing Canvas from an on-campus computer. For a current list of computer lab locations and hours, go to http://www.everettcc.edu/administration/college-services/it/index.cfm?id=2476

Problems accessing Canvas?
Contact EvCC Canvas Support:
Phone: (425) 388-9367 or (toll-free) 1(866) 575-9027
Email: elearning@everettcc.edu
Webpage: http://www.everettcc.edu/elearning
Offices: Whitehorse Hall, Rooms 210 & 211

Problems using Canvas?
Check out Canvas’s own help website at http://help.instructure.com/home
For help accessing your email account or changing your password, please contact the IT helpdesk.
Phone: 425-388-9333, extension 1
Email: helpdesk@everettcc.edu
Office: Shuksan, Room 212 or 228

The College will make reasonable accommodations for person with documented disabilities. Students should notify the Center for Disability Services office (located in Parks 267, right across from the bookstore) and their instructors of any special needs. Instructors should be notified as soon as possible.

I expect Academic honesty.

- Students will not copy the work of others (this includes material in books as well as other students’ work) and submit it as if it were their own.
- For all assignments and quizzes, you are expected to do your own work without consulting anyone else.
- All parties involved in any cheating will receive failing grades regardless of who is at fault, so guard your work.
- Use of another person’s idea, whether you put quotations marks around it or not, constitutes plagiarism unless you accurately cite your sources.
- In addition, if you decide to paraphrase source material and do not substantially alter the wording and structure of the original, you commit plagiarism even if you cite the source! When in doubt, ask for help.

Any violation of this policy will result in a 0 on the assignment with no chance to resubmit and/or a grade of F in the class.
My Expectations: Be Here Now!
The following list is dedicated to creating a classroom climate that is engaging, mutually respectful, and conducive to learning. Please think about all your actions in class in regards to the commonweal (that is, all the other people in the room with you who are hoping to use this time profitably).

1. When you come to class, please be present both physically and mentally. Please do not sleep, check email, surf the web, text message, or do homework for this class or any other) during our class hour.

2. Please turn off all electronic devices (such as phones, music players, and tablets and laptops) during the class hour.

3. Side-talk (whispering to your neighbor during class) is not acceptable in the college classroom. It shows disrespect to your fellow students and the instructor, and may make it difficult for others to hear what is being said in class. Students with hearing disabilities have often told me that they simply cannot hear the discussion when side-talk is occurring, no matter how “whispered” it is.

4. Take notes during class discussion and lecture. The material presented is directly relevant to understanding the books & preparing for the exams I suggest that you find a partner (or two!) so that if you miss a class, you can find out what you missed and obtain class notes. You can use Canvas to contact each other. That’s why it’s important to check it frequently and make sure you set up your college email account to forward all messages to your preferred email account.

5. Please make arrangements so that you don’t have to get up and leave in the middle of a class. If a departure is unavoidable, please sit right next to the door to minimize the disruption.

6. Also, please do not start packing up your books & papers before the hour is over. The noise is very distracting and it is disrespectful to whoever may be speaking at that time.

7. If you have to turn in a paper or talk to me outside of our class hour, please come to my office so that we may talk privately. It is not acceptable to interrupt while I am teaching another class. By the way, please do take advantage of my office hours! I value the time I get to spend with you one-on-one!

8. Please treat one another with respect and to tolerate a diversity of opinions and perspectives in the classroom. This includes listening to each person’s contribution.