HRS 190/290
Topics in the Humanities and Religious Studies
Fall 2011

The Many Realities of Consciousness: Intellectual, Spiritual, and Aesthetic

now the eyes of my eyes are opened. - e. e. cummings

Dr. Maria Jaoudi     Tuesdays 6:00-8:50pm
Mendocino 2018     Office Hours: T 4:00-5:30pm
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Catalog Description

HRS 190/290: Topics in the Humanities and Religious Studies. Paired senior seminar for Humanities and Religious Studies majors and a graduate-level course. Examines philosophies and theories of perception as applied to cultures, religious traditions, nature, film, and literature. Investigates consciousness through examination of the subjectivity of human perception. Prerequisite: Completion of 9 units of HRS lower division core courses and eligibility for WI classes based on WPJ placement score or passage of the appropriate prerequisite. 3 units.

Course Description

In the sciences and arts, in diverse cultures and times, the relationship of perception to reality and theories of both have been examined and debated. We will use this rich tradition as our stock of sources in our investigations. Whole-class investigative discussions are required. Students will explore the primary as well as secondary sources and submit a substantial research paper demonstrating their reasoning skills. This is a modified seminar course in which discussion is encouraged.

Learning Objectives

The course is designed to provide an advanced intellectual experience for Humanities and Religious Studies majors and graduate students, and therefore incorporates the primary learning objectives of the program, along with objectives specific to this seminar’s topic:
• Demonstrate knowledge of human cultures, their values and forms of expression;
• Demonstrate analytical reading, critical thinking skills, and effective communication skills (both written and oral) in order to be prepared for life-long learning;
• Demonstrate an ability to undertake synthetic and cross-disciplinary study and learning; and
• Explain and discuss issues relating to philosophies and theories of perception and to the investigation of consciousness through examination of human perception

**Required Texts**

Hanh, Thich Nhat. *The Sun My Heart*

Jaoudi, Maria. *Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality*

Loori, Roshi John Daido. *The Zen of Creativity*

Nagel, Thomas. “*What is It Like to Be a Bat?*” *The Philosophical Review.*

Russell, Bertrand. *The Problems of Philosophy*

*Free copy available at amazon.com (Kindle PC/Apple edition) or Project Guttenberg*

Oliver, Mary. *New and Selected Poems. Volume One*

Smith, Houston. *Beyond the Postmodern Mind: The Place of Meaning in a Global Civilization*

Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One’s Own*

*Check SacCT for helpful Research, Reading, Note-taking, and Writing websites.*

**Recommended Texts**

Bohr, Niels, *Atomic Physics and Human Knowledge*

Coetzee, J. M., *Life & Times of Michael K*

Einstein, Albert. *Ideas and Opinions*

Forman, Robert K. *Mysticism, Mind, and Consciousness*


Kemp, Martin. *Visualization: The Nature Book of Art and Science*

Loori, Roshi John Daido. *Teachings of the Earth: Zen and the Environment*

Penrose, Roger. *The Emperor’s New Mind*

**Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Film: <em>Rashōmon</em>, Directed by Akira Kurosawa</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Print and bring a copy of the SacCT Syllabus to class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td><em>Consciousness and Perception: An Introduction</em></td>
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|          | *Metaphysics and the Post-Nietzschean Deconstruction*  
           | Smith, *Beyond the Postmodern Mind* 1-41 |
|          | *The Zen Aesthetic*  
           | Loori, *The Zen of Creativity* |
|          | Begin reading for Weeks 4 & 5 |
| Week 3   | *Perennial Philosophy, Primordial Tradition*  
           | Smith, *Beyond the Postmodern Mind* 43-70 |
| Week 4   | *The Zen Aesthetic: Mountains and Rivers*  
           | Loori, *The Zen of Creativity* 1-167 |
| Week 5   | Film: *Rivers and Tides: A Study of Andy Goldsworthy* |

*Bring to class **hard copies** of the following articles on Andy Goldsworthy:

- Smithsonianmag.com/issues/2005/November/Goldsworthy.php
- Documentaryfilms.net/Reviews/RiversAndTides/

*The Zen Aesthetic: Enlarging the Universe*  
Loori, *Zen* 168-245

**Reading Assignments**

| Week 3   | *Perennial Philosophy, Primordial Tradition*  
           | Smith, *Beyond the Postmodern Mind* 43-70 |
| Week 4   | *The Zen Aesthetic: Mountains and Rivers*  
           | Loori, *The Zen of Creativity* 1-167 |
| Week 5   | Film: *Rivers and Tides: A Study of Andy Goldsworthy* |

**Research Topic Due**

**Sign-up sheet**  
**Tuesday 27 September**
Week 6  Technological Knowing  
Smith, Beyond 71-128
Woolf, A Room of One’s Own

Week 7  The Inaccessibility of Individual Consciousness  
Nagel, What Is It Like
The Problems of Philosophy  
Russell
Introduction, Chapters 14 & 15

Week 8  Mindful Awakening to Nature  
Mary Oliver
Excerpts TBA
Woolf, A Room of One’s Own

Week 9  Student presentations

Week 10  Student presentations  
Jaoudi, Medieval and Renaissance
Introduction
Chapter 8 The Inner is the Outer: Florence
Chapter 9 Spirituality: Lessons from the Medieval and Renaissance Masters

Week 11  Student presentations
Exploring the Frontiers of Science and Consciousness  
Smith, Beyond 129-176

Week 12  Student presentations  
Jaoudi, Medieval and Renaissance
Medieval and Renaissance Understandings of Consciousness:
Intellectual, Spiritual, and Aesthetic
Chapter 3 The Jewish Mystical View: Kabbalah
Chapter 4 The Theological Visions of Chartres Cathedral and the Abbey Church of Saint-Denis
Chapter 5 “And we walked out once more beneath the stars” Dante

Week 13  Chapter 6 Religion and Ecology: Hildegard of Bingen  
Jaoudi, Medieval and Renaissance
Powerpoint presentation on Hildegard of Bingen: Ecological Scientist and Mystic

Week 14  The Unstable Détente with Science  
Smith, Beyond 177-246
Expressing the Inexpressible  
Hanh, The Sun My Heart
Introduction-139
Week 15  Research Paper Due  Tuesday 6 December

Expressing the Inexpressible

Hanh, The Sun My Heart
Introduction-139

Research Paper

Check SacCT for helpful Research, Reading, and Writing websites.

Format all papers in the APA style. This includes citations and title page formatting. APA allows both footnotes and endnotes; either is fine, but please incorporate the same type for your entire paper.

Include a title and bibliography page. Include at least 7 scholarly sources in the final bibliography to show research progression throughout the semester. Check the SacCT websites on Research for a definition of scholarly sources. “Wikipedia,” for example, is not a scholarly source.

The final research paper requires 190-15 pages; 290-20 pages of written text and 4 pages of illustration. A sign-up sheet will circulate with choices in the fields of painting, sculpture, architecture, photography, or music.

Final Paper

1. Title Page
2. Text
   190-15 pages; 290-20 pages of text + 4 Illustrations
3. Quotations and footnotes
4. Bibliography Page

Please number the pages, double space, and use 12 point font. Carefully read the California State University’s Advisory Standards for Writing at:

www.csus.edu/acaf/umanual/advstndrs.htm
In **HRS 190/290**, student research papers need seven scholarly sources. Include a separate page for bibliography. Diana Hacker’s *A Pocket Style Manual* and Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* are available in the Hornet Bookstore at reasonable prices. The Turabian is a helpful guide for footnoting, formatting additional references, and citing an interview. Turabian is also an invaluable resource professionally after graduation. There are also Web Links on SacCT with writing and bibliographic information.

For free, one-on-one help with reading and writing in any class, visit the University Reading and Writing Center (URWC) in Calaveras 128. The URWC can help you at any stage in your reading and writing processes: coming up with a topic, developing and organizing a draft, understanding difficult texts, or developing strategies to become a better editor. To make an appointment or a series of appointments, visit the URWC in CLV 128. For current URWC hours and more information, visit [www.csus.edu/writingcenter](http://www.csus.edu/writingcenter)

**Late papers are not accepted.** Electronic papers are not accepted. See the syllabus for the due date. Research papers are collected at the beginning of class on that date. **There are no exceptions to this policy.**

For a copy of the final paper, with comments, provide the professor with an additional copy of the paper and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Turn these in with the research paper. To protect against plagiarism, copies are kept with the professor.

To protect against plagiarism, turn-in two copies; one will be kept with the professor.

**Student Tutorial on how not to plagiarize:**
[http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353](http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353)

**Course Policy**

Students are responsible for reading assignments, lecture materials, films, presentation and research paper.

For one-on-one walk-in and by appointment tutoring help with **SacCT**, contact the Student Technology Center at [stc@csus.edu](mailto:stc@csus.edu)/telephone (916) 278-2364/Academic Computing Resources building Room 3007.

Each student will write a term paper (of approximately 190-15 pages; 290-20 pages) requiring substantial research and analysis. Each student also will complete responses to readings, and will provide a brief presentation to the class on artwork; specific instructions will be provided. Especially due to our modified seminar format, active participation in class is expected. All reading
assignments are to be completed prior to the meetings for which they are listed. Attendance is required, as per departmental attendance policy. Course grades will be based on the following:

25% Verbal participation and attendance

25% Responses to Readings. **There are no make-up responses**; if a response is not taken, the student is automatically assigned an F grade. Students may not leave the classroom during a response. If a student does not have the book/article for the response, the student will not be allowed to participate and will automatically receive an F grade.

25% 20 minute oral student presentation: Copies for entire class consisting of 2 pages of quotations and 2 pages of illustrations from the student’s research paper for Discussion and Q and A.

25% Research paper

Note: If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008; 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with the instructor after class or during office hours by the second week in the semester.

The attendance policy of the Department of Humanities and Religious Studies is that a “maximum of one week of absences from a class is allowable without penalty: three absences for a class that meet on MWF, two for one that meets on TR, and one for a class that meets once a week. The normal departmental policy is to reduce the grade one-half step for every absence beyond the allowable maximum of one week of absences.”

There is no extra credit.

At no time is it appropriate to ask the professor to increase a grade in order to accommodate an individual desire for a higher GPA without matching grade performance.

A student may drop themselves from the class during the official student drop period. After the official student drop period ends, any drops, withdrawals, or incompletes, will only be considered for faculty signature, if there is documented evidence of an unforeseen emergency, death, or surgery. Invalid reasons include: Not being able to keep up with the reading, receiving a poor grade on an exam(s), work schedule, moving to an apartment, or going on vacation.

**Do not come late to class or leave the classroom while the class is in session.** Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. No exceptions are made to these policies of mutual consideration and civility. If a student does not have the correct texts for class, they will be marked absent.

Employ only academically appropriate language and behavior.

**No electronics:**
Turn cell phones and laptops off at the beginning of class. Students caught with laptops and cell phones on must leave the classroom.