**Topics in the Humanities and Religious Studies**

**Fall 2015**

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

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

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**Dr. María Jaoudí**  
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**HRS 190C**  
MW Noon-1:15p Mendocino 1024  
Office Hours: MW 11:00-Noon  
Online: TR 3:00-5:00pm

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**Catalogue 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.

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**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.

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**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. *Christian Mysticism East & West*

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

Russell, Bertrand. *The Problems of Philosophy*
Free copy available at amazon.com (Kindle PC/Apple edition) or Project Guttenberg

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

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

**No electronics:** All electronics must be put away and out of sight; that means not on the desk or in view. The professor wants students to benefit from the in-class community experience, and not be interrupted by the distractions of electronics.

**Turn cell phones, laptops, etcetera, off at the beginning of class.** Students caught with electronics on must leave the classroom.

**Class Schedule**

**Week 1**  Film: *Rashōmon*, Directed by Akira Kurosawa

Print and bring copies of the SacCT syllabus and Research Topics List to class.

**Reading Assignments**
Week 2  

Consciousness and Perception: An Introduction

Directions for the Reading Responses
Bring to every class, a typed list of ten in-depth questions from the readings for discussion
These lists will be collected in class and graded

Expressing the Inexpressible  
The Sun My Heart
Introduction-49

Start to reflect on your Research Topic
Take your time. Enjoy perusing aesthetic modalities of consciousness

Week 3  
The Sun My Heart
Pages 50-99

Week 4  
The Sun My Heart
Pages 100-133

Week 5  
Film: Rivers and Tides: A Study of Andy Goldsworthy

*Read the articles updated on SacCT Web Links on Andy Goldsworthy including:
  Smithsonianmag.com/issues/2005/November/Goldsworthy.php
  Documentaryfilms.net/Reviews/RiversAndTides/

Research Topic Due
Sign-up sheet  
Monday 28 September
(Late topics will affect your grade)

Week 6  
Christian Mysticism East & West
Introduction-53

Hildegard of Bingen: The Many Realities of Consciousness
Sample PowerPoint and Lecture
On SacCT, click on the link, download the essay, print and bring to class

Week 7  
Christian Mysticism East & West
54-134

Print and bring to class the essays on the link, A God-Centered Ecology
http://www.gratefulness.org/t/motherearth_links.htm
Week 8  A Room of One’s Own  
Foreword – 57

Week 9  A Room of One’s Own  
Chapters 4-6

Film: Jane Goodall: Reason for Hope

Week 10  TBA- Selected Poems  
SacCT web links to be printed and brought to class

Week 11 The Inaccessibility of Individual Consciousness  
Nagel, What Is It Like  

The Problems of Philosophy  
Russell  
Introduction, Chapters 14 & 15

Depending on how many students are enrolled, presentations may be earlier in the semester

Week 12  Student presentations

Week 13  Student presentations

Wednesday 25 November  
No Class

Week 14  Student presentations

Week 15  OMG-Oh My God  Directed by Umesh Sukla

Research Paper Due  
Wednesday 9 December

Research Paper

Check SacCT for helpful Research, Reading, and Writing websites

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 Endnotes (no footnotes)
4. Bibliography Page

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

www.csus.edu/acaf/umanual/advstndrds.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)

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. Late papers are not accepted. Electronic papers are not accepted. See the syllabus for the due dates. Research papers are collected at the beginning of class on the date listed on the syllabus. There are no exceptions to this policy. I will make use of academic software to verify that each student is the original author of her/his paper. Students whose work contains at least one plagiarized sentence will receive an F for the course.

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/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:

50% Verbal participation, attendance, responses to readings. There are no make-up responses; if a response is not collected, the student is automatically assigned an F grade. 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.

Directions for the Reading Responses
Bring to every class, a typed list of ten in-depth questions from the readings for discussion. These lists will be collected in class and graded.

25% 35 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.

After the official drop period, any drops, withdrawals, or incompletes, will only be considered 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 texts for class, they will be marked absent.

Employ only academically appropriate language and behavior.