

HONORS 195
Freedom, Identity, and the Self
Fall 2019

Dr. Lane DesAutels

Department of Philosophy & Religion
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Missouri Western State University
Office: Popplewell Hall 115G
Telephone: (816) 271-5688
Email: ldesautels@missouriwestern.edu

Office hours: 1:00-2:00, M/W
11:00-12:00, T/Th/F
(and by appointment)

Class time: M/W 11:00-11:50
Location: Spratt 109

Honors Mission Statement: The Honors Program at Missouri Western State University provides an enriched educational experience for the exceptional student. The program is designed for the student who enjoys learning, and whose personal goals emphasize the pursuit of understanding and knowledge. Ultimately, the program provides students with academic training and skills which will serve them well in both their chosen careers and their personal lives. Goals of the program are to foster the growth of intellectual inquiry, independence, and initiative in honors participants with an array of learning experiences including special courses, colloquia, and independent research and study. Each honors experience is simultaneously challenging, exciting, and enjoyable.

Course Objectives: Honors Colloquium is designed to stimulate creative and critical thinking about contemporary questions and issues of relevance to students in all academic disciplines. A cross disciplinary endeavor, the course provides an opportunity to nurture self-development as an educated person responsive to the trends and issues transforming our modern society.

The general goals for the colloquium are: (1) to master materials covered in class; (2) to develop communication skills; (3) to practice creativity in developing new insights; (4) to integrate new ideas with present knowledge; and (5) to develop critically held values based upon the growth of personal knowledge. Most importantly, the Honors Program intends to foster self-directed learning.

Because of the nature of the course and its goals, Honors Colloquium relies more than most classes on the good will and interested participation of the students. The success of each class session depends on each person's preparation for the session as well as his or her willingness to think about and discuss course materials in class. Think of the class as a community of scholars, a community that is critically dependent on the contribution of each of its members.

Course Description: Philosophy is the world's oldest academic discipline. In this course, we will explore a few of philosophy's biggest and deepest ideas. In particular, we will focus on various attempts to make sense of the nature of freedom, identity, and the self.

Course Requirements

(1) 2-3 turns being 'up'. During the first week of class, you will sign-up for dates/topics to be 'up'. When you are 'up' for a class, you will be expected to come prepared to lead discussion, ask discussion questions, and be (something of) an expert on your topic.

(2) A 1-page writing exercise (topic to be announced). Late papers are accepted but 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted for every 24 hours that the paper is late.

(3) A 3-page argumentative essay. Students will submit their first paragraph and thesis before submitting their final draft. Both the first paragraph/thesis and the final draft will be graded, and the final paper grade will be an average of the two. A detailed assignment sheet to be provided. Again, late papers will be deducted 1/3 of a letter grade for every day they are late.

(4) A final examination.

(5) Class participation. Meaningful contributions to in-class discussion based on assigned reading is expected. Students uncomfortable with speaking in large group settings will be given additional options for gaining participation credit.

Required Textbooks

- There are no required textbooks for this course. All readings will be posted on Canvas in electronic format

Grading Breakdown:

Final grade calculation: 15% for 'up' assignments; 20% for 1-page writing exercise; 30% for 3-page argumentative essay; 20% for final exam; 15% for class participation.

Grading Scale:

A= 90%-100%; B= 80%-89%; C=70%-79%; D= 60%-69%; F=59% and below

Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct: Consistent with its mission, Missouri Western seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX and University policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. Missouri Western encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to someone from the Campus and Local Resources list found in the Student Handbook (<https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/wp.../handbook.pdf>) about what happened so they can get the support they need and Missouri Western can respond appropriately. There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Missouri Western is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to

report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please visit the following website: <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/titleix/sexual-misconduct-policy/>. Students have received information via email regarding training regarding Title IX. Student employees may have additional required training. Please follow the link in the email sent to your MWSU student account to complete the training. Students who do not complete the training will receive a hold on their account, prohibiting future semester enrollment until the training is complete. These training courses will ensure that all students are appropriately educated about these important regulations.

Disability Accommodations: Students seeking accommodations must first provide documentation of needed accommodations to the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) located in Eder Hall, Suite 203. Once accommodations have been approved by the ARC, students are responsible for notifying their instructors of those accommodations. This should be done within the first two weeks of classes. Accommodations are not retroactive.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent classroom activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment plagiarized, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or the designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report Form. Please see the Student Handbook for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/>

Grade Appeals: The Honors Program follows the requirements outlined in the Student Handbook of Rights and Responsibilities. For specific information on the appeals process, contact the Honors Director at 271-4535.

Seeking Help: Assistance with Stress Management/Personal Problems

Students wishing to talk with a trained professional regarding relationship issues, mental health, stress, etc. are encouraged to contact the Counseling Center at (816) 271-4327, which is located in Eder Hall room 209 and is open from 8 a.m to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Seeking Help: Academic Assistance: Students wishing to seek out additional help with their coursework (e.g., reading, math, study skills, course content, etc.) are encouraged to contact the Center for Academic Support at (816) 271-4524 or visit their office located in the Hearnes Center room 213. Additional information is available on their web site at <http://missouriwestern.edu/cas/>

Attendance Policy: Missouri Western State University has the expectation that students should be active participants in their coursework. Regular class attendance is considered a key element of participation and an essential part of the educational experience. Although

attendance is not strictly mandatory in this class, your participation in class discussions as well as your in-class quiz grade contribute significantly to your overall course grade.

Classroom Behavior: Please arrive on time and leave only after the class is over. Please do not talk to your neighbor during class. Turn off and put away all cell phones and message devices. Laptops may NOT be used during lecture (unless proper documentation is provided from the Accessibility Resource Center).

Grading Policy and Procedure: Students must earn an A or B in this course to be counted for honors credit. Grades of C or D will still be considered “passing,” but will not be counted for honors credit. Students taking A/CR/U must earn an A in this course for it to be counted for honors credit.

Midterm Grade Reports: MWSU policy requires the reporting of midterm grades to students so that they may make informed withdrawal decisions. If you receive a “D” or an “F” on your midterm report, you should set up a meeting to discuss your grade.

Snow Days or other Cancellation of Class: In the event that the instructor is unable to make it to a scheduled class session, you will be notified through your university email account, when possible. The email will contain instructions for what you are to do in lieu of coming to class that day.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students, 226 Blum Student Union, for a list of resources and support.

The Campus Cupboard is a free resource with pantry and hygiene items, located at 214 Blum Student Union. The pantry is typically open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-4 pm and by appointment. You can stop by the Vice President for Student Affairs Office, Blum 228, or contact the Dean of Students, grimes@missouriwestern.edu with questions or concerns. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable him/her to provide any resources that he/she may possess.

Schedule of Readings/Assignments (*Subject to Change*)

Date	Topic	Required Reading	Assignments
8/26	Introductions and Syllabus		
8/28	What is Philosophy? And Why do it?	Russell "The Value of Philosophy" (Canvas)	
9/2	<i>No class (Labor Day)</i>		
9/4	Visit from Dr. DeKa		
9/9	Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality	Perry	1-page writing exercise prompt/rubric up on Canvas
9/11			
9/16			
9/18			
			*** 1-page writing exercise due 9/23 by 11:59pm *** (Canvas)
9/23	Meditation on First Philosophy	Descartes	
9/25			
9/30	Where am I?	Dennett	
10/2			
10/7	Personal Identity	Parfit	
10/9			
10/14			
10/16			
10/21	The Free Will Problem	Kane, Ch. 1	
10/23			Argumentative essay prompt/rubric up on Canvas
10/28	Compatibilism	Kane, Ch. 2	
10/30			
11/4	Incompatibilism	Kane, Ch. 3	
11/6			
			***1st paragraph/thesis of argumentative essay due 11/12 by 11:59 pm *** (Canvas)
11/11	Libertarianism, Indeterminism, and Chance	Kane, Ch. 4	Extra credit presentation guidelines up on Canvas
11/13			Final exam review guide up on Canvas
11/18	Current Topics		
11/20	Current Topics		
11/25	FALL BREAK		
11/27	FALL BREAK		
12/2	Extra Credit Presentations		
12/4	Exam Review		
			*** Essay due 12/8 by

			11:59 pm *** (Canvas)
			*** Final Exam in our usual Classroom 12/13, 11:30-1:30 ***