

Course Reflection Assign New Groups

Week 6: Middle Eastern Science and the Islamic World

**Feb. 13 Wed: Section 10 – Sina (Group 6)
Feb. 14 Fri: Section 11 – Khaldun (Question Swarm 5)**

Week 7: Eastern Science and Medicine

**Feb. 20 Wed: Section 12 – Yellow Emperor 1 (Group 7)
Feb. 22 Fri: Section 13 – Yellow Emperor 2 (Question Swarm 6)**

Week 8: Renaissance Science

**Feb. 27 Wed: Section 14 – Gould, della Mirandola, & Swift (Group 8)
Feb. 29 Fri: Section 15 – Galileo (Question Swarm 7)**

Week 9: The Scientific Revolution

**Mar. 5 Wed: Section 16 – Bacon (Group 9)
Mar. 6 Fri: Section 17 – Descartes (Question Swarm 8)**

Week 10: The Modern Cosmos

**Mar. 12 Wed: Section 18 – Schiebinger (Group 10)
Mar. 14 Fri: Section 19 – Question Swarm 9**

“In science it often happens that scientists say, "You know that's a really good argument; my position is mistaken," and then they would actually change their minds and you never hear that old view from them again. They really do it. It doesn't happen as often as it should, because scientists are human and change is sometimes painful. But it happens every day. I cannot recall the last time something like that happened in politics or religion.”

-Carl Sagan-

I also encourage everyone to use this forum to continue discussion outside of section, to pose questions, raise concerns, or point out particularly interesting quotations or topics. Such contributions will be considered a form of class participation.

Question Swarm Questions (50 points)

On days that we do not have group presentations, you will each be asked to bring in a brief question, observation, or reflection on the day's reading, recent lectures, or class in general. These should be no longer than a paragraph and are to be typed and handed in on a half-sheet of paper at the beginning of class. I will randomly select from these topics for the day's discussion. Keep in mind that although you must sign your submission in order for it to count for course credit, you may remain anonymous to your peers. Has something angered you? Shocked you? Delighted you? Do you need clarification on something from the reading? This is your chance.

Late Work

Late assignments will not be accepted except in very special circumstances. If you feel that your situation qualifies, contact me as soon as possible and certainly before the assignment is due.

Final Word

Welcome! I hope that you enjoy this course and that we can work together to make it a positive experience for all of us. Feel free to contact me (as above) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the works we are reading/viewing, or class in general.

Section Timeline

Week 1: Introduction

Jan 9 Wed: No Section

Jan. 11 Fri: Section 1 – Introductions / Course Goals (Question Swarm 1)

Week 2: Prehistoric Science and Technology

Jan. 16 Wed: Section 2 – Gould, Kuhn, & Morgan (Group 1)

Jan. 18 Fri: Section 3 – Diamond 1 & Kafka (Question Swarm 2)

Week 3: Prehistoric Science and Technology cont.

Jan. 23 Wed: Section 4 – Diamond 2 (Group 2)

Jan. 25 Fri: Section 5 – *Quest for Fire* & *Sundagger* (Question Swarm 3)

Week 4: Science in the Ancient Mediterranean World

Jan. 30 Wed: Section 6 – Plato, *Timaeus* (Group 3)

Feb. 1 Fri: Section 7 – Plato's “Allegory of the Cave” (Group 4)

Week 5: Ancient Science and Medieval Science

Feb. 6 Wed: Section 8 – Aristotle (Group 5)

Feb. 8 Fri: Section 9 – Hippocratic Oath (Question Swarm 5)

Participation in Online Community: 5% (50 points)

Participation in Classroom Community (100 points)

Participation in each class session is essential. You should each come to class prepared to actively engage one another and the course materials on the critical issues we will be addressing. I anticipate that the focus of this section will be discussion and not lecture, so its quality depends upon your willingness to participate. If you come to class unprepared, or unwilling to actively participate in section discussion, you might as well be absent and I will count you as such. Be sure to bring the relevant texts every week so you're armed for battle. Attendance is mandatory and more than two absences will substantially lower your final course grade. I will be keeping track of both the quality and quantity of your contribution to class discussion. If you are particularly shy, you may partially compensate for your reticence by writing responses to class discussion in our online community (at least 200 words). Please contact me if you intend to take this route.

Group Presentations (50 points)

Twice during the semester you will be asked to lead class discussion (usually with two other students). This will entail presenting your own thoughts on the day's topic, asking questions of your classmates, and facilitating discussion.

Groups should prepare a **twenty-minute presentation or directed discussion** highlighting the most important themes from the reading and asking provocative questions. They also expected to prepare a **handout** for the class on key terms or topics from the reading. This handout should be posted to the class wiki. Feel free to be as creative as you like.

Your group will be responsible for **posting one discussion seed question** on the class forum by 5PM the Monday before your discussion day (Group 4 please see me). Questions should reflect analysis and critical response to the readings. They should include a pertinent quotation or concept from the text, and be developed out to at least 100 words.

You will sign up for your first group presentation on the first day of class. Groups will meet with me the week before their presentation.

Participation in On-Line Community (50 points)

This class is designed to be highly interactive, both in terms of class discussion and in terms of media. To this end, each class section has a dedicated LiveJournal Forum in which each student must take part.

By eight pm the day before section, you will need to reply to the discussion seed questions posted by that day's presentation group. Your response should be critically considered, show an engagement with the class texts and topics, and be at least 125 words in length.

World History of Science
Winter 2008
IHUM Fellow - Melissa Stevenson, Ph.D.

"Science is the poetry of reality.
-Richard Dawkins-

Sections in Meyer 144:

05 Cambria – Wed/Fri 9:00 – 9:50
06 Jurassica – Wed/Fri 10:00 – 10:50
07 Pleistocenia – Wed/Fri 11:00 – 11:50

Office Hours:

In Sweet Hall 315 or at MoonBean's
Wednesday/Friday 12:00 - 1:00
and by appointment

Getting in Touch:

E-mail: melissas@stanford.edu

Office Phone: 724-6278

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Mailbox: IHUM front office, Bldg. 250

Online:

Section Website: <http://www.stanford.edu/~melissas/worldhistoryofscience>

Facebook Groups

LiveJournal Forums

Course Wiki: <http://worldhistoryofscience2008.pbwiki.com> (password ihum6ab)

Welcome

Section is your chance to let the rest of the world (within our small confine) know how you feel and what you think about the works we are reading and watching. It's a chance to share excitement, delight, disgust, brilliance, and confusion, to disagree and to learn from each other.

General Course Requirements

First paper 20% (200 points)

Second paper 25% (250 points)

Final exam 30% (300 points)

Section participation/attendance 25% (250 Points)

Section Guidelines

Section Participation Breakdown:

Participation in Classroom Community: 10% (100 points)

Question Swarm Questions: 5% (50 points)

Group Presentations: 5% (50 points)