

HONORS 115 – Fall 2019 – Section 1006
World Thought and Experience, Round II

Themes this semester: Government and Citizenship; Religion and the Divine Feminine; Economics and Justice; Surveillance, Protection, Censorship and Expression; Drugs

Professor Jaclyn Costello - Office Hours: T/Thurs 10-11:15 in RLL 143 or e-mail: costello@unlv.nevada.edu

This course focuses on issues of contemporary, global importance. You will have the opportunity to make connections between disciplines, cultures, and perspectives, creating awareness that will help you respond to the world's existing and developing challenges.



The 'bee-faced mushroom shaman' of Tassili-n-Ajjer



patrolling poppy fields in Afghanistan



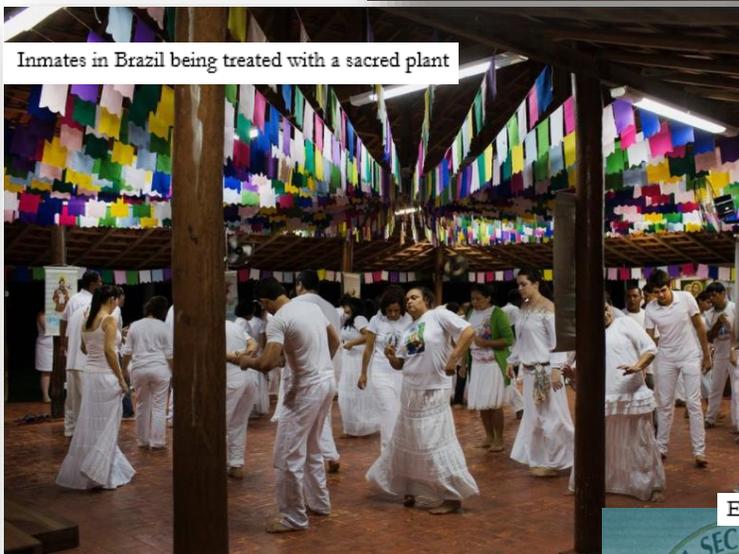
The Olympic doping scandal – from the documentary *Icarus*



What is a drug?

At the deepest level, our consciousness *is* what we are—to the extent that if we are not sovereign over our own consciousness then we cannot in any meaningful sense be sovereign over anything else either.

From Graham Hancock's Ted Talk: *The War on Consciousness*



Inmates in Brazil being treated with a sacred plant



Bwiti village in Gabon, preparing for ceremony

Ed Snowden & unlawful government surveillance



Big data meets Big Brother as China moves to rate its citizens

The Chinese government plans to launch its Social Credit System in 2020. The aim? To judge the trustworthiness – or otherwise – of its 1.3 billion residents

Contemporary utopias & dystopias

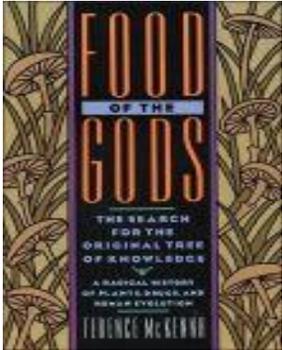


John Perkins & the World Bank System

Grade Breakdown + Required Texts/Materials

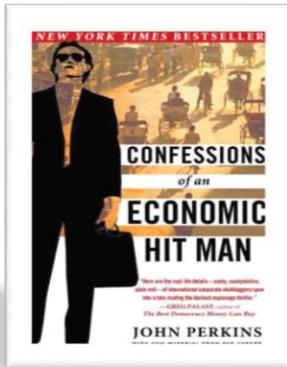
20% Reader Responses/Journals/Textbook writings
20% Participation
20% Quizzes
20% Research Project
20% Group Presentation

A 94-100
A- 90-93
B+ 87-89
B 84-86
B- 80-83
C+ 77-79
C 74-76
C- 70-73



Food of the Gods: The Search for the Original Tree of Knowledge: A Radical History of Plants, Drugs, and Human Evolution by Terence McKenna - ISBN:978-0553371307

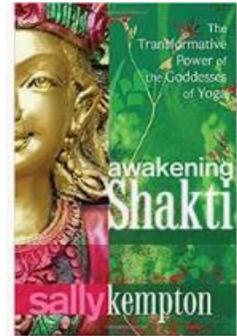
Awakening Shakti: The Transformative Power of the Goddesses of Yoga, by Sally Kempton - ISBN-13: 978-1604079449



Confessions of an Economic Hitman by John Perkins, 2005, Edition 4 - ISBN: 978-0452287082

Not pictured: *Reading the World: Ideas that Matter*, Austin 3rd Edition

* Additional materials and book excerpts will be in the form of handouts.



* There are a handful of documentaries/films you will be required to watch for homework over the course of the semester; these can usually be streamed through Netflix or Amazon Prime. If you do not have access to these for free, you will be required to stream the videos from elsewhere, rent them online, or watch with a friend!

Policies and UULOs

This is a reading, writing and discussion intensive course that will meet the requirements for the UNLV Second Year Seminars Course Objectives. Each of our Course Objectives accords with a particular UULO:

Intellectual Breadth and Life-Long Learning: Students will compare and contrast key ideas and ethical issues drawn from different cultures and time periods.

Inquiry and Critical Thinking: Students will read and critically analyze texts from ancient to contemporary times.

Communication: Students will effectively communicate ideas and opinions through writing and public speaking.

Global/ Multicultural: Students will identify and analyze questions of diversity at home and abroad.

Citizenship/Ethics: Students will prepare themselves to serve as active, thoughtful decision-makers in their homes and communities.

The university policies can be found by clicking the following link. You are expected to read these policies. https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/EVPP-SyllabiContent-MinimumCriteria-2019-2020.pdf

Attendance: If you miss 4 classes unexcused, your final grade drops one letter. If you miss 5 classes unexcused, you fail.

Cell Phones in class – The use of your phone in class, including receiving or sending text messages, counts as an absence for that day. If you have a circumstance that requires you to keep your phone on vibrate, please inform me at the start of the semester. Thank you!

Food & Drink – this is a food-free classroom. Sorry, but smelly or noisy foods can be very distracting. You may bring a beverage to class. ☺

Guidelines for Reading Responses and Creative Journals

A thoughtful and in-depth completion of your daily assignments will count towards 20% of your semester grade. Your continued focus will help to develop your writing over the course of the semester, resulting in a better understanding of the concepts we discuss.

Reading Responses

Each class, you will be assigned a reading to be completed by the following class. In addition to reading and reflecting upon the assigned material, you are required to type a scholarly response (min. ½ page single spaced) to each of the readings. Your response should be focused on one or two major points you'd like to address; or, if I assign specific questions, please respond to the assigned questions.

Creative Journals

For this assignment, you are encouraged to respond to the daily readings in a more flexible style. You may choose to make personal, social, global, artistic, or literary connections using pictures, song lyrics, stories, poetry or anything else you find/create that was inspired by the assigned reading. Presentation counts, so you must use a hard-covered journal or sketchbook. Feel free to make these as unique and playful as possible. This shouldn't feel like work. Just explore your mind. ☺

Guidelines for Group Presentations

Time: 17 minutes minimum – 20 minutes maximum

Topic: your topic and angle (i.e. argument, stance, original spin) must be approved by me

General: Be it a Presi, a short film, lecture in TED talk format, or any other art form that you created, your presentation *must* be engaging, accurately informative, and contain a thesis or unique spin.

Note: if you are using someone else's creative materials to supplement your presentation (i.e. part of a Ted Talk, clip from a talk show, bit from Youtube, etc.) that portion of your presentation may only be up to 3 minutes long and does *not* count in your time limit. So, hypothetically, if your original presentation is 20 minutes long, you can add a 3-minute Youtube clip and not be penalized for going over. On the other hand, if your original presentation is only 14 minutes long and you add a 3-minute Youtube clip, that does *not* bring you to the minimum time limit.

There will also be a brief Q & A after you are finished presenting.

Remember: This presentation is not the same as informal teaching or a lecture. This is meant to be a polished, rehearsed, well-researched, well-written, intellectual, creative presentation worth 20% of your grade.

Schedule of Assignments

THEMES FOR UNIT ONE

Government & Citizenship, Surveillance, Protection, Censorship and Expression, Economics & Justice

*9/11 & the War on Terror

*the NSA & Ed Snowden (*Snowden & Citizen 4*)

*censorship in China, North Korea and the U.S./net neutrality (John Oliver)

*utopias and dystopias, cults as failed utopias (*Gattaca, Going Clear*)

*religion and the Divine Feminine (*Awakening Shakti*)

DAILY SCHEDULE FOR UNIT ONE

Week One

Aug 27 **INTRO TO COURSE.** Themes discussed. Introduce each other. Discuss post 911 world. **HW:** Have all books + familiarize self with site + Read Big Data (1)

Aug 29 Discuss homework.

Week Two

Sept 3 Watch *Gattaca*

Sept 5 Watch *Gattaca* **HW** (2)

Week Three

Sept 10 Discuss movie, Utopias vs. Dystopias, etc. **HW** Watch *Snowden* (3)

Sept 12 Discuss movie.

Week Four

Sept 17 Watch *Citizen Four*

Sept 19 Watch *Citizen Four*. Discuss film. **HW** Study for Quiz + Read *Hitman* 1-80 (4)

Week Five

Sept 24 **Quiz One.** Discuss *Hitman* **HW** read *Hitman* 81-145 (5)

Sept 26 Outdoor class. Discuss *Hitman*. **HW** read *Hitman* 146-202 (6)

Week Six

Oct 1 Discuss *Hitman*. **HW** finish *Hitman* (7)

Oct 3 Discuss *Hitman*. Discuss Religions, Cults, etc. **HW** Watch *Going Clear*

Week Seven

Oct 8 Discuss film. **HW** (8) begin *Shakti* (9)

Oct 10 Intro to Shakti/lecture. Discuss Shakti. **HW** read *Shakti* (10)

Week Eight

Oct 15 Intro to Shakti/lecture. Discuss Shakti. **HW** read *Shakti* (11)

Oct 17 Discuss Shakti. **HW** read *Shakti* (12)

Week Nine

Oct 22 Discuss Shakti. **HW** finish *Shakti* (13) + study for quiz

Oct 24 Discuss Shakti. **Quiz Two.** **HW** read *Food of Gods* 207-220 (14)

THEMES FOR UNIT TWO

Religious Freedoms, Drugs

- *the history of religion + eco-feminism (*When the Drummers Were Women*, Rogan Podcasts)
- *what is a drug? What is an addiction? Cultural stigmas, ever-changing definitions
- *Drug Scheduling, the U.S. (and foreign) War on Drugs – Nixon, Race, Hippies
- *Cleaning up Addiction through Legal (or partially legalization) in Portugal and other countries
- *Prescription abuse in the U.S. + Big pharma + Olympic scandal (*Icarus*)
- *Changing Legalities in the U.S. – the Opioid crisis in U.S. and Canada (guest speakers!)
- *indigenous (medical) use of plant medicines, ancient and contemporary, MAPS modern therapies
- *religious/sacred use of plants (*Spirit* documentary, G. Hancock TED)
- *plants and evolution (*Darwin's Pharmacy* + *Food of Gods* + *Shamanic Dimensions*)

DAILY SCHEDULE FOR UNIT TWO

Week Ten

Oct 29 Discuss reading, watch Hancock video, Gobekli Tepe, Underwater. **HW** read *Food of Gods* pg. 246-275 (15)

Oct 31 Discuss reading. Podcast with Paul. **HW** handouts from Professor (16)

Week Eleven

Nov 5 Shipibo, Mosques, Mandalas, Aya Dreams Temple, Yemanja and Drum songs + *Spirit Doc.* **HW** on class (17)
+ TBA (18)

Nov 7 **Group Work Day**

Week Twelve

Nov 12 Discuss integration of mystical experiences. Discuss drug issues in the US and globally. Big Pharma. What is a drug? Op. Crisis. + come up with questions for speakers!

Nov 14 Guest speaker(s)!

Week Thirteen

Nov 19 Begin *Icarus*.

Nov 21 Evals. Finish *Icarus*. Discuss film. **HW** (19) + study for quiz three+ all journals/r.r. due/textbook assignments

Week Fourteen

Nov 26 **Quiz Three** + prep for presentations + **Journals/RR Due/Textbook assignments due HW** Your big projects and research are due!

Nov 28 **Thanksgiving Break!**

Week Fifteen

Dec 3 Presentations, Research Papers Due

Dec 5 Presentations
