Winter 2016: Epistemologies of Ignorance
01-34-550: Topics in Mind or Knowledge
University of Windsor
Tuesdays 1-3:50 -- DH 359

Professor: Dr. C. E. Hundleby
Chrysler Hall North 2185
Email: hundleby@uwindsor.ca
519-253-3000 x 3947
Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2pm and by appointment

COURSE EVALUATION:

a) Participation: 20%
   • Including preparedness, politeness, and promptness
   • Seminar presentation
   • Completion of final paper draft the week before presentation

b) Seminar write-up 2 x/15 30%

c) Paper proposal: under 300 words plus proposed bibliography 5%
d) One commentary on another student’s paper (700-1000 words) 10%
e) Final paper (2500-3000 words) 35%

FINAL ESSAY

Purposes:
1. To develop an extended line of reasoning in the topic of this course, and to receive input from the professor and their peers as part of the revision process.
2. To practice composing and presenting a paper appropriate for an academic conference.

Requirements:
1. Length: 2500-3000 words
2. Due:
   a. For presentation on scheduled date
   b. Final hardcopy to Dr. Hundleby in her office, Friday December 16 between 2 and 4 pm.
3. Topic: Beyond the required readings, but soundly resting within the (cross-disciplinary) scholarship on agnotology. May be ethical or historical, for instance, in addition to the central focus of this course, which is epistemological.
SCHEDULE
(approximate and tentative)
* indicates options for student seminars

1: September 13 - Introduction to Epistemologies of Ignorance
   • Sign up for Seminars
   • Required readings:
     o Proctor, “Agnotology: A missing term to describe the cultural production of ignorance (and its study)” in Agnotology
     o Alcoff, “Epistemologies of ignorance: Three types” in Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance, 39-50
   • Optional: Alcoff, 50-57 (on Horkheimer)

2: September 20 – Science, Selection, and Suppression
   • Required readings:
     o * Oreskes and Conway, “Challenging knowledge: How climate science became a victim of the Cold War” in Agnotology.
     o * Michaels, “Manufacturing uncertainty: Contested science and the protection of the public’s health and environment” in Agnotology.
     o * Tuana, “Coming to understand: Orgasm and the epistemology of ignorance” in Agnotology and in Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance.
   • Optional: Galison, “Removing knowledge: The logic of modern censorship” in Agnotology (US centered; deliberate secrecy)

3: September 27 – Ignorant Cultures
   • Required readings:
     o * Proctor, Cancer Wars: How Politics Shapes What We Know & Don’t Know about Cancer, “Introduction” and “Conclusion,” available in Terry’s office.
     o * Christensen, Smoking out objectivity: Journalistic gears in the agnogenesis machine” in Agnotology
     o * Ungar, “Knowledge, ignorance and the popular culture: Climate change versus the ozone hole,” Public Understanding of Science 9, 2000. On Blackboard
   • Optional:
     o Magnus, “Risk management versus the precautionary principle: Antology as a strategy in the debate over genetically engineered organisms” in Agnotology (ethics)
     o Spelman, “Managing ignorance” in Race and epistemologies of ignorance

October 4 class cancelled --
Replaced by Hundleby’s CRRAR talk in November
4: October 18 – **Lost Knowledge, Lost Worlds**
- Required readings:
  - Schiebinger, “West Indian abortifacients and the making of ignorance” in *Agnotology*
  - *Mayor, “Suppression of indigenous fossil knowledge: From Claverack, New York, 1705, to Agate Springs, Nebraska, 2005” in Agnotology*
  - Wylie, “Mapping ignorance in archaeology: The advantage of historical hindsight” in *Agnotology*

5: October 25 – **The Racial Contact**
- Required readings: Mills, *The Racial Contract* (on reserve at Leddy Library)
  - *Ch. 1, Overview*
  - Ch. 2, Details
  - *Ch. 3, Naturalized merits*
- Optional:
  - *Code, “The power of ignorance” in Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance*

6: November 1 – **White Ignorance and Philosophical Ignorance**
- Required readings:
  - *Mills, “White ignorance” in both Agnotology and Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance*
- Optional:
  - Harding, “Two influential theories of ignorance and philosophy’s interests in ignoring them,” Hypatia 21(3). On Blackboard.
  - Bernasconi, “On needing not to know and forgetting what one never knew: The epistemology of ignorance in Franz Fanon’s critique of Sartre” in *Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance*

7: November 8 – **Education, Disciplines, and Ignorance**
- **Paper proposal due**
- Required readings:
  - *Outlaw, “Social ordering and the systematic production of ignorance” in Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance*
- Fullerton, “On the absence of biology in philosophical considerations of race” in *Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance*

**Optional**
- Smithson, “Social theories of ignorance” in *Agnotology* (academic methods)

8: Thursday November 10 or 17 - **Argument from Ignorance**
- CRRAR talk by Dr. Hundleby in Essex 106
- **Required Readings:**

**Optional:**
- Zarefsky, Terrorism and the argument from ignorance. 2014. On Blackboard.

9: November 15 – **Resistance and Ignorance**
- **Paper proposal returned**
- **Paper schedule set**
- **Required readings:**
  - Bailey, “Strategic ignorance” in in *Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance*

**Optional:**
10: November 22 – **Ignorance and Relationality**

- **Drafts of papers due to your commentators and to Dr. Hundleby**
- **Required reading:**
  - *Hoagland, “Denying relationality: Epistemology and ethics and ignorance” in Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance.*
- **Optional:**
  - Cormier, “Ever not quite: Unfinished societies and pragmatism” in Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance.

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### Sunday November 27 at 11:59pm: Commentaries for Mini-conference I due by email to authors and Dr. Hundleby

11: November 29 - **Mini-conference I**

- **Paper 1 & commentary**
- **Paper 2 & commentary**
- **Paper 3 & commentary**

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### Sunday December 4 at 11:59pm: Commentaries for Mini-conference II due by email to authors and Dr. Hundleby

12: December 6 - **Mini-conference II**

- **Paper 4 & commentary**
- **Paper 5 & commentary**
- **Paper 6 & commentary**

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### MATERIALS

1. *Agnotology* and *Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance* are for sale at the University Bookstore
2. *The Racial Contract* is on reserve at the Leddy Library
3. All other articles are as indicated either:
   - i. On reserve in Terry’s office
   - ii. On the Blackboard site, under Resources
4. Supplementary material on the Blackboard site, under Resources