

Dealing with Difference

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Welcome to the second semester of “Dealing with Difference”

As reminder, as a result of this seminar, we hope that you will:

1. Understand academic culture and how to navigate within a university.
2. Take personal responsibility to direct your own education, while considering the counsel of your faculty mentors and academic advisors.
3. Develop your own personal and professional philosophy about “difference” and diversity.
4. Enhance your skill as a writer, speaker and conversationalist.
5. More fully appreciate the demands, discipline and ethical responsibilities of being a community member.

Each Student is expected to prepare for every class session by (1) mastering and questioning the assigned readings, (2) participating actively and thoughtfully in class discussions and (3) writing systematically in a reflective journal (which will be collected periodically to provide feedback).

Grades: Your final grade will be based on: (1) evidence of real investment in writing your reflective journal, (2) the quality and effectiveness of your participation in class discussions (but not the amount of air time you command), and (3) on your participation in the meetings on and off campus.

Here’s how:

1) Write a concise summary of each essay or chapter that you read (respond *sympathetically*). Keep these summaries very brief--one short paragraph. Capture what you believe is the main point the author wished to make. Have you *listened* carefully to the author?

2) By striving to understand and then say what you think about the author’s ideas, information, and argument (respond *critically* and *sympathetically*). Be specific by citing passages or pages you comment on (you may wish to bring these passages up in class). Be intellectually honest by saying what you think and why. Have you *questioned* the author’s assumptions and assertions? And your own?

3) Describe connections you see between what you read (and what we discuss) and your own life experiences! In other words, what do the readings and discussions in this seminar have to do with what you have learned at other times and places such as work situations, family settings and other classes you are taking or have taken? Have you considered the *relevance to yourself* in this work? Write about it!

4) Comment on our class discussions, too, as they unfold. What useful ideas popped out as we talked? What new insights did you gain about the readings when you heard other people's reactions to them? What have you learned *from other students* in our discussions? If you write these thoughts in your journal you will remember them longer and more vividly!

5) Finally, in writing your journals, be yourself, be funny, be inspired, be irritated, be real! Open your mind and heart as a serious scholar!

Spring 2018 Schedule: Dealing with Difference

Required Texts:

Light at the Edge of the World, Wade Davies

Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel, Carl Safina

Spell of the Sensuous, David Abram

Ethnocentric and Anthropomorphic Blindness

January 8

Welcome back

Light at the Edge of the World (discussion)

Listeners assigned

January 15

Listeners recap past discussion

Light at the Edge of the World II (discussion continued)

Sylvia's personal journey

Knowledge Nugget: email, texting, skype, etc. etiquette

January 22

Diversity of Non-human World

Reading: WW Report

Lecture by Sylvia, with special emphasis on insects (?)

January 29

Oceans: Jeff McCarthy

Reading: Chapter from Stacy Alaimo's book, *Exposed: Environmental Politics and Pleasures in Posthuman Times*

February 5

Oceans: Jeff McCarthy

Reading Chapter from Callum Roberts's book *The Unnatural History of the Sea*

February 12 (Sylvia absent)

Tangled Web: Leaf Cutter Ants and their associated species: Donald Feener

Unruly Edges

<https://nhmu.utah.edu/blog/zombie-ants>

February 19

Visit to Ant Lab

February 22: Tanner-McMurrin Lecture: Margaret Nussbaum

4:00 pm

OPTIONAL (or required?)

February 26:

Aldo Leopold: "Thinking like a mountain"

Carl Safina: Beyond Words "Introduction" pages 1-3, and pages 25-30.

Peter Singer: "Animal Liberation," "A Case for Veganism" and "Chimpanzees are People Too"

March 5

Carlo Safina: Beyond Words "Wolves: pages 137-239"

March 12: SPRING BREAK**March 19:**

Bowden: Chapter 5: *Desierto: memories of the future*

March 26

Donna Haraway: "When species meet: Introductions" in *When Species Meet*

April 2:

David Abram: Spell of the Sensuous "The Flesh of Language" pages 73-93

April 9:

Film: Grizzly Man, director by Verner Herzog

April 16:

Readings: Goat Man and Being a Beast

The Sheep Child (James L. Dickey)

Journals Due

April 23: Final dinner