

# IDH 1001: IDEAS & EXISTENCE

## The Idea of Origins and the Origin of Ideas

FALL 2009

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Have you ever wondered where ideas originate? This course is designed to encourage students to become self-conscious learners, exploring not only the what, but also the how and why of knowing. The course focuses on the nature of truth and reality and our role in the world each of us has “constructed”. The course challenges students to become introspective, independent, and self-motivated learners.

This course will examine the nature of ideas. Through the use of ethical themes, students will be asked to confront and challenge their belief systems. Using text and other modes of information gathering, students will be asked to critically assess how individuals and groups develop ideas and learn to think and act in the ways that they do. Global and generational contexts will be used to examine past, current and future ideas and how these ideas affect us on micro and macro levels.

<u>Honors Fellows</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>		<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
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### Required Texts and Activities

#### *Freakonomics*

Levitt, S. & Dubner

ISBN - 13: 978-0-06-1234000-2 (rev.ed.)

#### *Revolutionary Wealth*

Toffler, A., & Toffler, H. (2006).

ISBN: 978-0-385-52207-6

**Selected Readings** either provided by the instructors or purchased at the Campus Copy Center

### Other Course Requirements

Daily News Reports  
Honors Convocation  
Excellence Lecture

### Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is one form of academic misconduct, and the Honors College adopts the definition of the university's Code of Academic Integrity, according to which plagiarism is:

The deliberate use and appropriation of another's works without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student, who fails to give credit for the ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

1. Term papers acquired online or from other sources;
2. Copying of original material without attribution;
3. Use of other students' work;
4. Copying and pasting, verbatim, information from Internet sources, without quotation marks and correct citation.

Charges of Academic Misconduct may be brought against an Honors student by an Honors faculty member. For more information concerning this matter, all students are urged to review the following website:  
<http://honors.fiu.edu/plagiarism.htm>

### **Course Structure & Student Evaluation**

**Structure:** This course is conceived as a full-year course, but is divided into semesters for scheduling and grading purposes. There will be required readings and activities throughout each semester. See the attached course outline for specifics. Classes will be held bi-weekly, using large and small group formats. Assignments will be distributed by your instructor throughout the semester.

**Grades:** Your grade will be determined by attendance & participation (20%), reflection papers & other related assignments (15%), leading small class discussions (10%), a final project/research paper & poster (25%) and in-class assignments and quizzes related to reading or lecture material (30%). **Many students do not realize that poor attendance will make a difference to the final grade and attendance will be kept by all instructors.**

**No cell phones or laptops computers may be used during class sessions.**

Reflection papers, in general are less formal than a research or term papers but should be **typed, double-spaced**, using one-inch margins and free of spelling and grammar mistakes. **All electronic submissions will be considered "late"**.

#### **Grade Distribution:**

A 100-93	C 72-69
A- 92-89	C+ 76-73
B+ 88-86	C- 68-67
B 85-81	D+ 66-64
B- 80-77	D 63-60

**Good Citizenship Activities:** As members of the Honors College community you are strongly encouraged to participate in "good citizenship activities" as discussed in the Honors College Handbook (available online).

## SEMESTER ASSIGNMENTS

### First Assignment:

Answer the following questions and be prepared to discuss them during the next class session. This will also be the first assignment you turn in to your professor – so make a great first impression!

(Remember: Reflection papers, in general are less formal than a research or term papers but should be **typed, double-spaced**, using one-inch margins and free of spelling and grammar mistakes.)

1. Who are you?
  2. What is the best idea you have ever had? Explain.
  3. What types of ideas have others had that have changed the world for better or worse? Explain.
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### Second Assignment:

#### ◆ *Incentives & our personal “economic” choices*

Take a few moments to reflect upon some of the things you are willing to “work” toward “acquiring”. Write down 2 of your incentive “priorities” using the table and categories below:

PHYSICAL	SPIRITUAL	SOCIAL	EDUCATIONAL	FINANCIAL
1.	1.	1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.	2.	2.

Take a few moments to reflect on why you are willing to work to acquire these things and write a brief paragraph on **each**. Then, select **one** of your priorities and develop a 1-4 year(s) plan (include strategies, goals etc.) to help you achieve success. Your entire assignment should be no longer than 2 typed pages.

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### Third Assignment:

1. In your own words, explain what the Tofflers mean by “Prosumer Economy”?
  2. According to the Tofflers, we are all “prosumers.” To complete this assignment, you must keep track of all the activities that you undertake as a “prosumer” over a period of seven days. Assign economic values (or wages) to your “prosumer” activities. Calculate the amount of money you would have earned if you had been paid for your “prosumer” activities. Create your own table and/or use other graphical formats such as flow charts and other visuals to help highlight your answer to the question.!
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## **FINAL PROJECT**

In small work groups, you will select an idea presented by the authors of course reading materials. Using the idea, or a combination of ideas, students will (1) research the history (background) of the idea, (2) briefly provide a review of the related research to further examine the issue, (3) identify how as a group, you developed your new or modified idea (i.e., group processing) and, (4) present your idea and paper to the class. Students will be required to create a poster-presentation that will be presented in an open forum. Selected projects will be submitted to the SRAI Spring Conference. Student projects selected for presentation at the SRAI will earn 10 points toward their final grade in IDH 1002 Spring semester.

## TENTATIVE FALL 2009 OUTLINE

- TUE 8/25**     **LARGE GROUP**  
Course overview & introductions. Discussion: What's an idea?  
[Lead: Professors DeFrancesco, Garrote, Thiruunarayanan](#)
- THU 8/27**     **SMALL GROUP**  
Introduction to class expectations and small-group format  
Introduction of Assignment 1 (see attached description)
- TUE 9/1**      **LARGE GROUP**  
The "What", "How" and "Why" of Knowledge  
[Lead: Prof. Garrote](#)
- THU 9/3**      **SMALL GROUP**  
Discuss how ideas help or hinder our existence.  
[Assignment 1 due](#)
- TUE 9/8**      **LARGE GROUP**  
Economic Principles  
    **Read:** Introduction to *Freakonomics*: "The Hidden Side to Everything"  
[Lead: Profs. De Francesco, Garrote, Thiruunarayanan](#)
- THU 9/10**     **SMALL GROUP**  
Discuss *Freakonomics* introduction  
Assign dates for student discussion leaders
- TUE 9/15**     **LARGE GROUP**  
    **Read:** *Freakonomics*, Chapters 1 & 2  
Introduction of Assignment 2 (see attached description)  
[Lead: Prof. DeFrancesco](#)
- THU 9/17**     **SMALL GROUP**  
Discuss *Freakonomics*, Chapters 1 & 2
- TUE 9/22**     **LARGE GROUP**  
    **Read:** *Freakonomics*, Chapters 3 & 4  
[Lead: Prof. Thiru](#)
- THU 9/24**     **SMALL GROUP**  
[Assignment 2 due](#)
- TUE 9/29**     **LARGE GROUP**  
    **Read:** *Freakonomics*, Chapters 5 & 6  
[Lead: Prof. Garrote](#)
- THU 10/1**     **SMALL GROUP!**  
Discuss Chapters 5 & 6

**Honors Colloquium**

**(DM 100 ♦ 3:30-4:45 p.m.)**

- TUE 10/6**    **LARGE GROUP**  
**Quiz 1 – Freakonomics**
- THU 10/8**    **SMALL GROUP**  
Introduction to *Revolutionary Wealth*
- TUE 10/13**   **LARGE GROUP**  
*Revolutionary Wealth* - About the Tofflers  
Introduction of Assignment 3 (see attached description)  
**Lead: Prof. DeFrancesco**
- THU 10/15**   **HONORS CONVOCATION — ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY**  
**(Parade begins at 1:00 p.m.)**
- TUE 10/20**   **LARGE GROUP**  
Read: *Revolutionary Wealth*, Parts 1-4 (Chapters 1-14)  
**Lead: Prof. DeFrancesco**
- THU 10/22**   **SMALL GROUP**  
**Assignment 3 due**
- TUE 10/27**   **LARGE GROUP**  
Read: *Revolutionary Wealth*, Parts 5-7 (Chapters 15-36)  
**Lead: Prof. Thiru**
- THU 10/29**   **SMALL GROUP**  
  
**Honors Excellence Lecture**  
**(GC 243 ♦ 3:30-5:00 ♦ Speaker: Garth Graham)**
- TUE 11/3**    **LARGE GROUP**  
Read: *Revolutionary Wealth*, Parts 8-10 (Chapters 37-50)  
**Lead: Prof. Garrote**
- THU 11/5**    **SMALL GROUP**
- TUE 11/10**   **Quiz 2 – Revolutionary Wealth**
- THU 11/12**   **SMALL GROUP**  
Discuss possible research topics related to course material
- TUE 11/17**   **LARGE GROUP – HOW TO MAKE A POSTER**  
**Lead: All professors**  
(Guest Speaker: John Kneski – SRAI)
- THU 11/19**   **STUDENTS WORK ON PROJECTS**  
  
**Honors Colloquium**  
**(DM 100 ♦ 3:30-4:45 p.m.)**

**TUE 11/24 STUDENTS WORK ON PROJECTS**

**THU 11/26 THANKSGIVING DAY – UNIVERSITY CLOSED**

**TUE 12/1 STUDENTS WORK ON PROJECTS**

**THU 12/3 SMALL GROUP – POSTER PRESENTED TO SMALL CLASS**

**TUE 12/8 FINALS WEEK – POSTERS DUE – STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**