

**IDH 1001 – Honors Seminar I
The Origin of Ideas and
The Idea of Origins**

SYLLABUS

This is a living document that will change as the semester progresses. All changes will be announced in advance.

Course Details

Course Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11AM-12:15PM

Course Location: Tuesdays: GC 280 , Thursdays: OE222(U05), CP115(U06), DM144(U07), DM163(U08)

Faculty

Antonio Pedrero (U05)	Mohammed Homayounvash (U06)	Michael Yawney (U07)	Pete Markowitz (U08)
apedrero@fiu.edu	homayounvash@gmail.com	myawney@fiu.edu	markowit@fiu.edu

Course Description

What do we know? And how do we know it? As one of your introductory courses in the Honors College at FIU, this class will begin your journey in higher education by posing a series of epistemological questions and concerns for studying the nature of our intellectual pursuits. Our belief is that it is not just necessary to study something or learn something: one must be able to take a step back and understand the assumptions that are being made, the implications that our study has for the world, and where we stand in relation to all of these pursuits. By bringing together a team of faculty from Law & Economics, Sociology, Physics, and Performing Arts, this course seeks to explore the questions of reality and knowledge by multiple perspectives. The goal is to garner the multiple perspectives that make up the production of knowledge and the understanding of reality.

NOTE: Course content features sexually explicit and/or violent artworks and texts. In addition, many class meetings are off campus; students must provide their own transportation.

Required texts

Brecht, Bertolt. 1966 [1940]. *Galileo*. Trans by Charles Laughton. New York: Grove Press.

- It is VERY important that you read the translation by Charles Laughton.

All other readings will be made available through the course Canvas page.

Grading Rubric

Each student accrues points over the length of the semester. The final semester point total equals a letter grade based the official FIU grade scale.

Quizzes: 40 points

- These quizzes will accompany the readings for every week’s lecture.
- In total, there will be 10 quizzes, each of which will be worth 4 points.
- These quizzes will test comprehension of readings and lecture material.

Participation: 15 points

- These points count for attendance *and active participation* in class lectures and discussions.
- Students are required to attend ALL classes and discussions. Missing 3 or more sessions will result in an automatic F for the course.

City as Text Individual Submission: 20 points

- Includes 12 observations and 12 conclusions from the City as Text portion of the course.
- More details on this will be provided later in the course.

Presentation: 10 points

- This group presentation will present the findings from the City as Text portion of the course.
- More details on this will be provided later in the course.

Response Papers: 15 points

- Students are required to submit 3 response papers of 350-500 words in length three times during the semester. These response papers must be turned in via TurnItIn. Instructions will be provided in class.
- Response papers are due on the following dates and times:
 - October 4 by 11am
 - October 25 by 11am
 - December 2 by 11am

Extra Credit: Up to 3 points

- Students can earn up to 3 extra credit points by attending FIU events announced in class. Each event the student attends will be worth 1 point.

Fall 2018 Grading Scale

This scale displays the minimum number of points that you need to earn for each letter grade.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
91	89	85	80	75	70	65	50	<45

Grade	Required Percentage	Grade Points
A	91-100 %	4.00
A-	89-90 %	3.67
B+	87-88 %	3.33
B	82-86 %	3.00
B-	80-81 %	2.67
C+	78-79 %	2.33
C	70-77 %	2.00
D	60-69 %	1.00
F		0.00

Religious Holidays

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

Disability Clause

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations, contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), if you have not done so already.

Honors College Requirements

Registration in this course implies an acceptance of and compliance with the Honors College policies for students and the FIU Code of Academic Integrity.

Honors Citizenship Requirements

Beginning in Fall 2014, Honors College students are required to accumulate at least **20 citizenship points** each academic year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities. Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate **10 citizenship points**.

Community Service

All Honors College students must complete at least 20 volunteer service hours per academic year (fall/spring). The best way to be involved is by working with the City of Sweetwater via our unique Honors College-Sweetwater Partnership. Opportunities there include tutoring, working with the Senior Citizens' Center, offering citizenship classes, and helping the Li'l Abner Foundation's work with children.

Other opportunities include working with virtually any non-profit organization and campus fundraising projects. To document your community service hours, log onto [MyHonors](#). Volunteer hours DO NOT count toward the 20 citizenship points.

Student Portfolios

The Honors College will be using a portfolio method to assess students' learning outcomes. The portfolio allows for maximum flexibility in gauging student learning. Students decide (with instructor consultation) what "artifacts" or assignments to include for consideration in their portfolios to demonstrate successful achievement of each of five key student learning outcomes over the 4-year Honors experience.

Honors Education in the ARTS (HEARTS)

The HEARTS program is designed to give Honors College students opportunities to "explore and appreciate different artistic and cultural traditions and modes of artistic expression. HEARTS will also serve as a clearinghouse (and curatorial framework) for our students to experience the arts on campus and in the community by providing them with information about cultural activities and access to performances with free or discounted tickets.

Honors College Academic Misconduct Statement

In the Honors College, the term “honor” refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Consequently, an Honors College student found responsible for academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.

Procedures and Penalties

An Honors faculty member may bring charges of academic misconduct against an Honors student if the faculty member suspects plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. The faculty member will decide whether to pursue informal resolution, file formal resolution charges, or take no further action, and will follow the procedures outlined in the [Honors College website](#) , and the [Academic Misconduct Procedures](#).

Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

- [FIU Code of Academic Integrity](#)
- [FIU Honors College Plagiarism Policy](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Aug 21 and 23 - Introduction of course and initial discussion sections

Block 1 - How do we know what we know?

Week 2: Aug 28 and 30 Types of Knowledge (Markowitz)

Plato, *The Republic*, Book VII (Online in Canvas. You only need to read chapter 7)
E.O. Wilson, *Consilience* (Online in Canvas. Chpts 1-4, 7)

Week 3: Sept 4 and 6 – TBD (Homayounvash)

Rorty, available in Canvas.

Week 5: Sept 11 and 13 - The Universe in a Room (Yawney)

Brecht, Bertolt, Charles Laughton (translator). 1966. *Galileo*. New York: Grove/Atlantic. Please note that there are versions of the play with other translators that are significantly different. Please get the translation by Charles Laughton.

Week 6: Sept 18 and 20 – Justification, Plus: reasonableness, limits, and the Gettier problem (Pedrero)

- Karel Čapek, R.U.R. (online in Canvas)
- Eando Binder, I, Robot, (online in Canvas)
- Guy de Maupassant, The Necklace (online in Canvas)

Radiolab, 3 minutes @ primates and fairness (grapes v. carrots)
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=129233715>

Block 2 - What is it that we actually study?

Week 7: Sept 25 and 27 – Scientific Knowledge (Markowitz)

No readings (but your first response paper is due!)

Week 8: Oct 2 and 4 – TBD (Homayounvash)

TBD

Week 9: Oct 9 and 11 - Reality (Yawney)

Pedagogy of the Oppressed, Freire (online in Canvas)

Week 10: Oct 16 and 18 – Being Human: Knowledge and other value concepts (Pedrero)

- Susan Glaspell, A Jury of Her Peers (online in Canvas)
- Shirley Jackson, The Lottery (online in Canvas)
- O. Henry, The Gift of the Magi (online in Canvas)

Block 3 - City as Text

Week 11: Oct 23 and Oct 25 – Looking at the City as Sources of Knowledge (TBD)

City as Text readings in Canvas

Week 12: Oct 30 and Nov 1 - The Viewpoints (Yawney)

- Wear clothes that you can move around in.

Week 12: Nov 6 and 8 - TBD

- Class presentations - Homayounvash

Week 13: Nov 13 and 15

- Class presentations - Pedrero

Week 14: Nov 20 (Nov 22 is Thanksgiving Holiday)

- Class presentations - Markowitz

Week 15: Nov 27 and 29

- Class presentations - Yawney

Finals week: Mon, Dec 3 - Sat, Dec 8