FYS (section 90) FIRST YEAR SEMINAR Democracy, Science and Capitalism Fall, 2005

Syllabus

Instructor: F.J. Fuglister
Class: Dolan E228, MWF 12:00 – 12:50
Office: Dolan E250, Telephone 397-4254
Office Hours: MTuWF 10 – 11, 1 – 2, or by appointment
E-Mail: eric@jcu.edu
Web Page: http://www.jcu.edu/math/faculty/eric/eric.htm

Required Books: (buy these!)
Carl Zimmer, Evolution: The Triumph of an Idea
Tracy Kidder, Mountains beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer
Eric Schlosser, Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal

Other readings will be assigned as the class progresses. These will be available on the Internet or as class handouts, so will not involve additional cost to you.

Required Lectures: Kulas Auditorium, 12:00
Wed., Sept. 21, Carl Zimmer
Fri. Oct. 21, Dr. David Walton
TBA. Eric Schlosser

A number of other talks, films and programs are being scheduled in conjunction with this course. We will determine later which of these we will attend.

The primary goals of the First Year Seminar are to provide first year students at John Carroll with a common experience and an introduction to the academic approach to important topics and questions.

Among the skills that you should develop and demonstrate are the ability to read critically, to discuss clearly and to write coherently. Expect some of your ideas, opinions and assumptions to be challenged by the readings and by the instructor and your fellow students.

We can expect honest differences of opinion on many of the topics that we will discuss. You are encouraged to express and defend your opinions, in a reasoned fashion, while being respectful of the rights and feelings of your classmates whose opinions may not agree with yours.
You will read and we will discuss in class the Zimmer, Kidder and Schlosser books in preparation for the corresponding three required lectures. The specific reading assignments will be made in class as the semester progresses.

There will be two short (4-5 page) papers, due on Fri., Sept. 23 and on Fri., Oct 28. and a longer (8-10 page) paper, due on Fri., Dec. 2. Lists of topics for these papers and more detailed specifications will be provided. Each short paper will count for 10% and the long paper for 20% of your course grade. You are encouraged to discuss the topics with your friends and colleagues, however the writing must be your own work. **Read and be familiar with the University standards on academic honesty in the JCU Undergraduate Bulletin (p. 112).**

You will also be required to prepare short (1-2 page) “reaction” papers to some of the required speakers and readings.

There will be an midterm exam on Wed., Oct. 12 and a final exam on Wed., Dec. 14. The hour exam will count for 10% and the final for 20% of your grade.

The remaining 30% of your grade will be based on class attendance, deportment, the reaction papers and participation in class discussions.

Attendance will be taken at each class meeting; you are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences. You are responsible for material covered in class whether you are present or not. If you must miss class for an emergency, notify the instructor before the class meeting if possible. For a University extra-curricular activity, get a written notice from the faculty member or coach before the activity. Turning in work late or making up exams is only permitted for excused absences.

John Carroll University recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional climate in which students with disabilities can succeed. In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability, you may be eligible to request accommodations from the office of Services for Students with Disabilities. Students with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations and should have equal access to learning. Please contact the office of Services for Students with Disabilities at (216) 397-4967 if you have any questions or to set up an appointment to meet with the coordinator, Allison West. After your eligibility for accommodations is determined, you will be given a letter which, when presented to instructors, will help us know best how to assist you. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive so it is best to register with Student Disability Services at your earliest convenience.