UN1001: Perspectives on Inquiry
Section 6: Origins
Fall, 2002

Course Policies

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Course Description
This course is a seminar in which we shall study and discuss the controversy between evolutionists and creationists about the origins of life in the universe. We shall consider such questions as the following:

- Is “creation science” really science?
- Should “creation science” be taught in the public schools?
- Can science alone give us a complete account of how life originated?
- Does teaching “creation science” in the public schools violate the U.S. Constitution?
- Is evolution science or “creation science” better supported by the evidence?

We shall attempt to sort out the arguments on both sides of these issues and to decide for ourselves which side is correct.

Textbooks

Course Responsibilities
This course is a seminar, so your main responsibilities in the course are to attend class regularly and to participate regularly in class discussion. You are expected to do the assigned reading before class and to prepare yourself to discuss it with other members of the class. Sometimes the class as a whole will discuss the topic, while at other times we shall break up into small groups.

One of the purposes of the course is to give you some experience in college writing. Therefore, you will do a substantial amount of writing. Some of that writing will consists of formal papers that you will write out of class and then turn in for grading. And some of your writing will be informal writing, which you will do out of class or during class as part of your class activities.

You will also make one or more class presentations. At least one presentation will be a formal presentation in which you will participate in a panel discussion of some topic (to be assigned later). The panel discussions will take place later in the semester.
In addition to the activities already mentioned, class activities may also include listening to lectures or presentations, viewing video materials, and other sorts of projects.

**Course Grade**

Your final grade in the course will depend on (1) your attendance and participation in class activities, (2) your performance on the writing assignments, and (3) your formal presentation. (1) and (2) will each determine 40% of your grade, and (3) will determine 20%. There will be no examinations. However, “pop quizzes” on the assigned readings may occasionally be given. Your grades on the “pop quizzes” will be part of your class attendance/participation grade.

**Absences**

You are allowed two *unexcused* absences in the course. Having more than two unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade. It is your responsibility to supply appropriate documented information in order for an absence to qualify as *excused*—e.g., a note from your doctor. Refer to your student handbook for information about what counts as an excused absence. The following are some of the things that do *not* count as excused absences:

- missing class in order to attend a wedding, birthday celebration, family reunion, etc.
- missing class in order to leave early for Thanksgiving break
- missing class in order to take a make-up exam in another course

You are expected to be on time for each class and to stay until class is dismissed.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Your *Student Handbook* states the following University policy on academic dishonesty:

“Definitions of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and facilitating academic dishonesty, can be found in the Academic Integrity Policy. Copies of the policy are available from the Office of Student Affairs and chairs of academic departments.

Students found guilty of academic dishonesty can receive a sanction ranging from academic integrity warning to expulsion. Please refer to Student Rights and Responsibilities in the University Community or the Academic Integrity Policy for more information.”

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, is a very serious matter and will be treated as such in this course.

**Disabilities**

Students with certain physical or psychological disabilities, such as deafness or dyslexia, will be appropriately accommodated. See the course instructor if you believe that you may have such a disability so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged.