

Honors Core: Humans & the Biosphere

IDH1990 Honors Core: Natural Science

Spring 2023

INSTRUCTOR: DR. Alexis M. Janosik

EMAIL: ajanosik@uwf.edu

OFFICE HOURS: by email (ajanosik@uwf.edu) appointment*

OFFICE: BUILDING 58C/ 104G

LECTURE TIME: T/R 11-12:15

***I welcome you to contact me outside of class and I also welcome chats before or after class.**

Textbooks:

1. The Nature of Nature: Why We Need the Wild, Enric Sala, National Geographic Society Educational Services, ISBN-13: 9781426221019; ISBN-10: 1426221010
2. Your Inner Fish, Neil Shubin, Pantheon, ISBN-13: 9780375424472; ISBN-10: 0375424474

A message from your instructor:

In an ideal world, science would be objective; however, much of science is subjective and is historically built on a small subset of privileged voices. It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that student learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

It is most important for you to take care of your physical and mental health. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I will work to help you.

Course Description:

In this course, students will explore what it means to be a human in the biosphere while utilizing a strong emphasis on cultivating new methods of thinking and communicating ideas. This is an interdisciplinary course which involves engaging and enriching class discussions, in-depth thinking, reasoning, and active research to form the foundation of the academic experience unique to the Kugelman Honors Program. This course will focus on human literacy and diversity: awareness and understanding of the fundamental concepts about what it means to be a human and our interaction with the biosphere. We will explore how humans interact with their various environments, from biological and social to economic and physical. Our mission is to demystify and humanize science in an open conversation that instills passion, awe and responsibility for humans and the Earth.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students completing Honors Core 1 and Core 2 will be able to:

1. Exhibit discipline-based and/or cross-discipline-based higher order thinking skills.
2. Evaluate content in terms of the context in which it was created.
3. Detect patterns or systems underlying organizations, disciplines and/or structures.
4. Formulate an opinion and defend it by selecting and organizing credible evidence to support converging arguments.
5. Synthesize information from divergent sources and viewpoints and draw reasonable inferences and/or conclusions.
6. Communicate effectively in one-on-one or group contexts.
7. Exhibit disciplined work habits as an individual.
8. Conceive, plan, and execute a group research and service project.

The General Education curriculum at the University of West Florida is designed to provide a cohesive program of study that promotes the development of a broadly educated person and provides the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in university studies. This course has been approved as meeting your requirement in the Breadth/Electives in the Natural Sciences area. The major General Education learning outcomes for this course Critical Thinking: evaluate scientific information using appropriate tools and strategies of the discipline.

Students will learn and practice Critical Thinking through data literacy assignments requiring application of course materials, which will be used to assess the General Education curriculum.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is expected and will be graded as part of participation. Confirmed attendance is conducted by verifying classroom attendance. If you have been approved for financial aid, your money will not be released until your attendance is confirmed. To receive financial aid on the normal distribution timeline, your attendance must be confirmed within seven calendar days of the course start date. You can check to see if I have confirmed your attendance using the "My Classes" app in MyUWF. If you stop attending class for any reason, you will not automatically be withdrawn, and you will still be responsible for any missed work. If you stop coming to class you may be awarded a grade of NF, which may affect your financial aid eligibility or require you to repay some of the funds awarded to you.

Engagement comes in many forms, not just attendance. Taken holistically, engagement includes (but is not limited to) the following:

Preparation: reviewing readings and material before class

Focus: avoiding distractions during in-person and online activities

Presence: engaged and responsive during group activities

Asking questions: in class, out of class, online, offline

Listening: hearing what others say, and also what they are not saying

Specificity: referring to specific ideas from readings and discussions

Synthesizing: making connections between readings and discussions

Evaluation:

Your performance will be graded based on lecture exams, attendance, engagement, and class activities. A significant portion of your grade will come from activities and engagement. Activities may include: homework, group activities, pop quizzes, etc. Attendance, participation, and a professional attitude are important and will be considered in your final grade. On time class attendance is expected.

Make up policy: please make every effort not to miss an exam. In event you missed a lecture exam, quiz, or assignment you must notify the instructor within 48 hours of the missed event, including holidays and weekends. A university-approved excuse must be provided for makeup. Failure to do so will result in a zero.

Undergraduate Student Evaluation:

Lecture Quizzes: 40%

Readings, Activities & Assignments: 30%

Group Project & Presentation: 20%

Engagement and Participation: 10%

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	100-92.5%	A-	92.4 – 90%		
B+	89.9 – 87.5%	B	87.4 – 82.5%	B-	82.4 – 80%
C+	79.9 – 77.5%	C	77.4 – 72.5%	C-	72.4 – 70%
D+	69.9 – 67.5%	D	67.5 - 62.4	D-	62.4 – 60%
F	≤ 59.9%				

Difficult Topics:

Some of the topics covered in this course may be uncomfortable or may challenge your ideas and beliefs. Our goal as a class is to discuss these topics with sensitivity and care. Remaining enrolled in this course signals acceptance that difficult or uncomfortable subjects may be discussed. Topics may include, but are not limited to, race, gender, sexuality, violence, trauma, politics, religion, oppression, and profanity. Students must recognize that the discussion of a topic does not in any way indicate advocacy or endorsement in one way or another for a particular position on that topic. Your grade in no way depends on your personal acceptance of any ideas presented. However, you must recognize that one can engage with, apply, and discuss ideas without personally accepting them.

Communication: Emails will be sent throughout the semester and materials will be posted to the class webpage (eLearning) regularly. ALL cell phones must be tucked away during lecture and exams. For verification of Financial Aid, attendance will be taken the first week of class.

Student Accessibility Resources: The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources and submit a semester request each semester. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, visit the SAR website, e-mail sar@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

UWF Honor Code: As Argonauts we act with integrity. We do not lie, cheat, steal, discriminate, or tolerate those who do. **Violations of the University Academic Honesty Code will be dealt with as outlined in the code of University Laws.** The [Student Code of Conduct \(PDF\)](#) sets forth the rules, regulations, and expected behavior of students enrolled at the University of West Florida. Violations of any rules, regulations, or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct. It is the student's responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and comply with these expectations. The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) (2009) defines various forms of academic misconduct and describes the procedures an instructor should follow when he or she suspects that a student has violated the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Weather Emergency Information: In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the campus might be closed and classes canceled. Official closures and delays are announced on the UWF website and broadcast on WUWF-FM. Weather Emergency Information WUWF-FM (88.1MHz) is the official information source for the university. Any pertinent information regarding closings, cancellations, and the re-opening of campus will be broadcast. In the event that hurricane preparation procedures are initiated, the UWF Home Web Page and MyUWF will both provide current information regarding hurricane preparation procedures, the status of classes and the closing of the university. Emergency plans for the University of West Florida

related to inclement weather are available on the following UWF web pages:
Information about hurricane preparedness plans is available on the UWF web site:
<http://uwf.edu/offices/environmental-health-safety/weather-resources/hurricane-and-tropical-storm-preparedness/>

Veterans Services: The UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veterans students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center provides assistance with the following: GI Bill® education benefits, active duty tuition assistance, out of state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is located in bldg. 38. For more information on MVRC service, call 474-2550 or visit <http://uwf.edu/militaryveterans>

Course Withdrawal Policy: *UWF course withdrawal policies are posted at*
<http://uwf.edu/offices/registrar/registration/withdrawals-/>

Emergency Student Fund:

<https://uwf.edu/academic-engagement-and-student-affairs/departments/dean-of-students/case-management-services/emergency-student-assistance/>

Free food at the Argo Pantry:

<https://uwf.edu/academic-engagement-and-student-affairs/departments/dean-of-students/argo-pantry/argo-pantry/>

Counseling and Psychological Services:

<https://uwf.edu/academic-engagement-and-student-affairs/departments/counseling-and-psychological-services/>

Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities:

<https://uwf.edu/academic-engagement-and-student-affairs/departments/dean-of-students/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/mission-and-vision/>

Assistance Reporting Discrimination or Harassment: The University of West Florida faculty members are committed to supporting students and upholding the University's non-discrimination and harassment policies. Under Title IX, discrimination and harassment based upon sex or gender (including sexual violence and sexual misconduct) are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination or harassment, you do not have to go through the experience alone. Know that while you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University the faculty are required to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator so that support services can be provided to you. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, you may schedule an appointment with the UWF's Counseling and Psychological Services at (850) 474-2420. This service is free for students. Faculty can also help direct you, or you may refer to [UWF's Equity and Diversity office](#) for additional resources.

Mental Health Support: At the University of West Florida, we recognize that to learn, thrive, and flourish; you may need a little assistance. Please take advantage of the free resources here on campus. If you experience a health concern, contact Student Health Services at (850) 474-2172. If you experience a mental health or substance use concern, contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 850-474-2420. Crisis counseling is available to all students 24/7 by calling 850-474-2420 and pressing option 6. All students are encouraged to utilize [Therapy Assistance Online \(TAO\)](#) to strengthen skills to cope with anxiety, depression, stress management, and more. TAO is an interactive web-based self-help program that is available 24/7, and access is anonymous.

Writing Lab: [The Writing Lab](#) can help with the projects in this course. Graduate and undergraduate Writing Lab assistants are available to review the mechanics of writing with you and help you upgrade the quality of your papers before you submit assignments.

Note: It may take up to 48 hours or more to receive your work back from the Writing Lab. It is your responsibility to turn your assignment in on time. Take this into consideration when utilizing the Writing Lab.

Ask-a-Librarian: UWF Library staff are available for help through our [Ask-a-Librarian Live Chat](#) monitored from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. You can also email a librarian using the left-hand navigation in Canvas under Help or Library Tools, or text a librarian at 850-483-0225.

The textbook(s) for this course are available on Reserve at the Circulation Desk at the John C. Pace Library for a 2-hour loan period (books must stay in the Library). Please take advantage of this resource, but keep in mind that copies of textbooks for each course are limited and may be in use by another student, particularly right before an assignment or reading is due, so plan your textbook use accordingly.

Other Student Support Links and Resources: Learn about other student support resources that may not be listed here by visiting the [UWF Online Student Support Links and Resources](#) page.

All notes given in this class are protected by copyright laws and may NOT be distributed, posted on the Internet, or commercialized.

Week	Date	Topic	Text
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	1/10		
	1/12		
	1/17		
	1/19		
	1/24		
	1/26		
	1/31		
	2/2		
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	4/11		
	4/13		
	4/18		
	4/20		
	4/25		
	4/27		