

Integrated Studies 002, Spring 2014, Coursemap, "Reality"

INTRO WEEK		
Wed.	15-Jan	Bushnell: Introduction to reality: what is real and what is not -and what are we afraid of?
Thurs	16-Jan	Thursday Symposium, 12-1.20, all 3 professors, course intro
Fri.	17-Jan	Friday seminars, times various

**Literature,
Professor Bushnell,
Mondays
3.30-5**

**Mathematics,
Professor DeTurck,
Tuesdays
12-1.30**

**Religious Studies,
Professor Elias,
Wednesdays
3.30-5**

READINGS

REPRESENTING REALITY

WEEK 1 Representing Reality: Representation I		
Mon.	20-Jan	Martin Luther King Day, no classes
Tues.	21-Jan	Mathematical representation of natural and social phenomena
Wed.	22-Jan	Idolatry and the limits of representation
Thurs.	23-Jan	
Fri.	24-Jan	

Wigner, "The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics in the Natural Sciences" and Penrose, "Road to Reality" Chapter 1.
Jamal J. Elias (2013), "The Taliban, Bamyan, and Revisionist Iconoclasm," in *Striking Images, Iconoclasms Past and Present*, pp. 145-163 [pdf]
Common Text: Plato, Republic selections LITERATURE

WEEK 2 Representing Reality: Representation II		
Mon.	27-Jan	Aristotle: representation and the theater
Tues.	28-Jan	Simulation and modeling
Wed.	29-Jan	Iconoclasm and Representation
Thurs.	30-Jan	
Fri.	31-Jan	

Aristotle, *Poetics*
Penrose, "Road to Reality" Chapters 2 and 3. plus intro to Einstein, *The Meaning of Relativity*
Jamal J. Elias, *Aisha's Cushion*, pp. 100-138 [pdf]
Common Texts: Game of Life pattern; Nick Carr, "Is Google making us Stupid?" Atlantic Magazine, July/Aug 2008, MATH

WEEK 3 Representing Reality: Space		
Mon.	3-Feb	<i>Macbeth</i> : Theatrical space, real and represented space of the world
Tues.	4-Feb	Geometric models of the world, on large and small scales
Wed.	5-Feb	Heaven as a space
Thurs.	6-Feb	
Fri.	7-Feb	

Macbeth
Einstein cont'd; and re-read Nick Carr, "Is Google Making Us Stupid," plus a conversation with the author.
Qur'an, Chapter 55 ("The Merciful"); "The Mi'raj of Bistami," from M. Sells (1996), ed. *Early Islamic Mysticism*, pp. 242-250 [pdf]
Common Text: Qur'an, Chapter 55 ("The Merciful") and "The Mi'raj of Bistami" RELIGIOUS STUDIES

WEEK 4 Representing Reality: Time		
Mon.	10-Feb	<i>Macbeth</i> : real time, present time, future time, in language and performance
Tues.	11-Feb	Is time reversible? The notion of entropy. Measuring time: Longitude.
Wed.	12-Feb	Linear and cyclical time, apocalypse
Thurs.	13-Feb	
Fri.	14-Feb	

Macbeth
Commonplace book, batch #1 due
Einstein, cont'd plus selections from Sobel, "Longitude"
Stephen Blake, *Time in Early Modern Islam: Calendar, Ceremony, and Chronology in the Safavid, Mughal, and Ottoman Empires*, chapter 5 [pdf]
Common Text: Macbeth LITERATURE
Integrative assignment #1 due

EXPERIENCING REALITY

WEEK 5 Experiencing Reality: The Mundane

	Mon.	17-Feb	<i>The Bacchae</i> : body, animal, the city			<i>The Bacchae</i> RELS written assignment #1 due
	Tues.	18-Feb		The integers and number theory		Hardy, <i>A Mathematician's Apology</i>
	Wed.	19-Feb			Ritual and the mundane	G. Starett, (1995), "The Political Economy of Religious Commodities in Cairo," <i>American Anthropologist</i> 97(1 (March)): 51-68.
	Thurs.	20-Feb				<i>Common Text</i> : re-read Starett, <i>Political Economy</i> RELIGIOUS STUDIES
	Fri.	21-Feb				

WEEK 6 Experiencing Reality: Transcendence

	Mon.	24-Feb	<i>The Bacchae</i> : imagination, theatricality, divinity			<i>The Bacchae</i>
	Tues.	25-Feb		Algebra and transcendental numbers		Borges, "The Library of Babel"
	Wed.	26-Feb			What is sainthood and saintliness?	W. Chittick, "Death and the World of Imagination: Ibn 'Arabi's Eschatology" <i>Common Text</i> : Borges, "The Library of Babel" MATH
	Thurs.	27-Feb				
	Fri.	28-Feb				

WEEK 7 Experiencing Reality: Dimensionality

	Mon.	3-Mar	<i>Waiting for Godot</i> : locating the self in space, time, the body			<i>Waiting for Godot</i>
	Tues.	4-Mar		Geometric and analytical dimensions		Borges, continued
	Wed.	5-Mar			Realms of Existence	Attar, <i>Conference of the Birds</i> <i>Common Text</i> : <i>Waiting for Godot</i> LITERATURE
	Thurs.	6-Mar				Integrative assignment #2 due
	Fri.	7-Mar				

SPRING BREAK

	Mon.	10-Mar	SPRING BREAK: CLASS DOES NOT MEET			
	Tues.	11-Mar				
	Wed.	12-Mar				
	Thurs.	13-Mar				
	Fri.	14-Mar				

KNOWING REALITY

WEEK 8 Knowing Reality: Uncertainty

	Mon.	17-Mar	<i>Waiting for Godot</i> : memory, hope, freedom			<i>Waiting for Godot</i>
	Tues.	18-Mar		Statistical uncertainty - dealing with large amounts of data		tbd
	Wed.	19-Mar			Conviction and perseverance	Attar, <i>Conference of the Birds</i>
	Thurs.	20-Mar				<i>Common Text</i> : Attar, <i>Conference of the Birds</i> RELIGIOUS STUDIES
	Fri.	21-Mar				

WEEK 9 Knowing Reality: Proof

	Mon.	24-Mar	<i>Lear</i> : proof of love, loyalty, existence			<i>King Lear</i> Commonplace book, batch #2 due
	Tues.	25-Mar		Logical certainty and uncertainty -- what can and can't be proven?		Godel's theorem: from Penrose, "The Emperor's New Mind", Klein, "The Loss of Certainty"
	Wed.	26-Mar			proofs of god	Hujwiri, "The Revelation of Realities Veiled," from J. Renard, ed (2004), <i>Knowledge of God in Classical Sufism</i> , pp. 264-285 [pdf]
	Thurs.	27-Mar				<i>Common Text</i> : TBD, MATH
	Fri.	28-Mar				

WEEK 10 Knowing Reality: Nothingness						
	Mon.	31-Mar	<i>Lear</i> : does nothing come from nothing?			<i>King Lear</i> RELS written assignment #2 due
	Tues.	1-Apr		Sets, zero and topology		The difference between zero, nothing, and a "hole" (notes).
	Wed.	2-Apr			meditations on nothingness	TBD
	Thurs.	3-Apr				<i>Common text: Lear</i>
	Fri.	4-Apr				

CREATING REALITY

WEEK 11 Creating Reality: Magic						
	Mon.	7-Apr	<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> : theatrical magic and the power of illusion			<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Integrative assignment #3 due
	Tues.	8-Apr		Mathematicizing magic, getting something for nothing		Gleick, "Chaos" selections
	Wed.	9-Apr			magic and miracles rupture the physical world	Visit to the Penn Museum
	Thurs.	10-Apr				<i>Common Text: TBD, RELIGIOUS STUDIES</i>
	Fri.	11-Apr				

WEEK 12 Creating Reality: Dreams						
	Mon.	14-Apr	<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> : dreams reconstructing reality			<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
	Tues.	15-Apr		<i>Einstein's Dreams</i> , relativity		Lightman, <i>Einstein's Dreams</i>
	Wed.	16-Apr			The religious dream	"Rabi'a's Dream," and "Gesudaraz's Vision of Jesus," in J. Renard ed. (1998), <i>Windows on the House of Islam</i> , pp. 346-347; 349-350. Ibn Sirin, <i>The Voluminous Interpretation of Dreams</i> , pp. 564-617 [pdf]
	Thurs.	17-Apr				<i>Common Text: Lightman, Einstein's Dreams MATH</i>
	Fri.	18-Apr				

WEEK 13 Creating Reality: Alternate Realities						
	Mon.	21-Apr	Alternate Realities <i>Run Lola Run</i> : replaying reality, rupturing time			<i>Run Lola Run</i> RELS written assignment #3 due
	Tues.	22-Apr		Imaginary numbers and alternative geometries.		Penrose, "Road to Reality" Chapter 3 and others.
	Wed.	23-Apr			Ibn Arabi, metaphysical literature	
	Thurs.	24-Apr				<i>Common Text: Run Lola Run</i>
	Fri.	25-Apr				

CLOSING WEEK: The Matrix						
	Mon.	28-Apr	Digital realities			Commonplace book, batch #3 due
	Tues.	29-Apr				
	Wed.	30-Apr				Integrative assignment #4 due