Stories We Tell

fyp.uoregon.edu FALL 2021

COURSES

First-Year Experience Seminar
UGST 109
1 credit

Text and Interpretation
SCAN 251
Core Education Arts & Letters (>1)
Global Perspectives (>GP)
4 credits

Philosophical Problems
PHIL 101
Core Education Arts & Letters (>1)
4 credits

CALENDAR

First FIG Meeting
You will get to meet your FIG classmates, FIG Assistant (FA), and Faculty before classes start!

Check your FIG page in September to find out more details.

ACADEMIC TEAM

First-Year Experience Seminar
Professor
Michael Stern
Associate Professor of Scandanavian
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FIG Assistant
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ABOUT THIS FIG

FYE Seminar

Stories tell us about the life we live, the lives lived by others, and possible lives born in imagination. We live in a universe of stories. In our FIG we will read and watch a variety of tales and stories to analyze the relationship between philosophical narratives about human nature and the way that a culture produces a variety of fictional narratives that interact with its philosophical suppositions. This course is also designed to help facilitate students' transitions to university life. This classroom will become a forum where you can discuss any questions that you have regarding your university education.

Text and Interpretation

This class is about stories. It is about how we tell them, what they mean to us, and how narrative permeates the very fabric of our understanding of the world. Considering this and remembering that our “universe” of stories includes narratives that we have been told, have read, and have told ourselves; we can safely say that we are not the authors of our entire sense of the world. This raises several interesting questions about the relationship between the “self” and the “other.” Some of these questions include: Are our stories our own? Who speaks for us? How do I know who I am? What obligation, if any, do I have towards others? To what extent are we determined by history?

Philosophical Problems

Our attempts to make sense of our lives and to find meaning in our existence lead us to ask certain classic philosophical questions. The course begins with the question of the proper role of reason in a life intelligently lived. Is philosophical thinking a necessary and important part of life? Second, we ask what role religion should play for a philosophically reflective person. This leads into questions about whether existence is absurd, without purpose or reason, or whether there is some overarching rationality and direction to our lives. Finally, we examine some of the many conditions that together define our identities as persons, conditions like our

NEXT STEPS

After you're registered for your FIG, you will want to check out the Meet Your FIG page (https://fyp.uoregon.edu/fall-2021-figs). This page will have everything you need to know before the beginning of fall term, including how to email your FIG Assistant, your summer assignment, and when you will be meeting your FIG for the first time in September. In order to prepare for your coursework and be notified about important academic deadlines you will want to download the “Canvas” and “Navigate” apps to your devices. Also, be sure to visit the FYE Community page in September, which has all the resources you'll need to achieve success in your first-year (https://fyp.uoregon.edu/community). If you have questions about anything, make sure you email your FIG Assistant – they are here to help!
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ENROLLED IN A FIG AND CHANGE YOUR MIND?
Visit this link to find out the best way to make FIG changes for you: https://fyp.uoregon.edu/fig-enrollment-2021