Course: Tradition & Change: History & Philosophy of the Sciences (LAS 501), Spring 2014
Meeting: M 5:30–8:pm in 137 Waggoner Hall.
Credit: This is a 3 semester-hour course that fulfills the "core course" requirement for "Area One" of an MLAS degree.
Prerequisite: Graduate student status

Instructor: Dr. Shawn Meagher (Ph.D.)
Office: 230 Waggoner Hall
Phone: 298-2409

Office Hours: T: 9–10, W: 3–4, Th: 1–3

Materials
Text: Yoon. 2009. Naming nature: The clash between instinct and science (NO KINDLE EDITION!)
Handout: Meagher: LAS 501 Reading Selections
Web page: https://westernonline.wiu.edu  Login → Username=Ecom username, Password=?

Objective: Science is the most successful human approach for understanding how the natural world works. In this course we will examine the historical development of the "scientific" approach, the social environment in which science has developed, major scientific concepts, and the individuals that played a part in their development. We will focus on reading primary texts, and students will compare and contrast important scientific approaches and discoveries (particularly the position of Earth in the solar system, and origins of biological diversity).

Evaluation: Grades will be based on reading, thinking about, and sharing your understanding & opinions about the material:
Weekly reading summaries 65 (5pts x 13 weeks [every week with "additional readings])
Weekly writing assignments 120 (15pts x 8 weeks [you choose weeks])
Discussion leading 60 (15pts x 4 papers [you choose papers; bring discussion questions])
Participation 100 (≥ minimum contributions in every discussion; min. based on enrollment)
Midterm exam (March 7) 100
Final exam (May 5, 6pm) 100
Total 545

Participation: weekly contributions to discussion—(BOTTOM LINE: be prepared, AND participate).
Exams: essay; open book/note; MIDTERM = take-home; FINAL = in class (final exam period)

Grades: Based on your total of all possible points:
A: ≥ 491, B: ≥ 436, C: ≥ 382, D: ≥ 327, F: < 327

***ATTENDANCE is mandatory! 3 absences of ANY kind will result in “F” in course!***

Make-ups: NO LATE WORK, and NO MAKE-UP EXAMS, except for:
(1) death in family (I’ll need documentation); or (2) rare extenuating circumstances (I’ll decide), and ONLY if I have 2 weeks advance warning (you must plan ahead).

Re-grades: I will ONLY consider written requests for re-grades within 3 days after assignments/exams have been returned (EXAMPLE REQUEST: “I believe the answer to Question X is …because…” [this last part is critical!!]).

Academic dishonesty/Plagiarism: Rules concerning student conduct will be strictly enforced. No appearance of dishonesty (such as plagiarism) will be tolerated. Such work will be taken and assigned a grade of “0” (zero).
Details (forms, definitions, & time-lines) that you are responsible for are on WIU's web sites:
Students Rights and Responsibilities: http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students/
Academic Integrity Policy: http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php

Other administrative sites: You should also be familiar with the forms, definitions, & time-lines at these web sites:
Final Exam Policy: http://www.wiu.edu/policies/finexam.php
Grade Appeal Policy: http://www.wiu.edu/policies/gradeapp.php

Special needs: Students with disabilities who require special arrangements for exams or emergency situations should see me immediately (I cannot ask you!).
Please contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) @ 298-2512 to learn your options.