

CORE 320: Discovery and Creation of Meaning

3 credit hours

prerequisite: CORE 220: Community

Required Readings and Materials

Text

Course Reader

Mission Statements

ACU's Mission – to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world.

General Education Core Mission — to introduce students to and engage them in the process of thinking critically, globally, and missionally, preparing them for the rigor of academic excellence and university life at ACU.

Course Mission—to equip students with frameworks through which to address issues of identity and the self.

Course Prerequisite and Description

This course is intended for first or second-year college students who are continuing their Core Curriculum requirements.

The purpose of this course is to engage these students in thinking critically, missionally, and globally about the concepts of truth, goodness, and beauty and how we discover or create meaning through these ideas. Students will be exposed to various historical theories of the sciences and philosophical questions concerning the nature of the arts and of God. Students will explore tensions in these ideas that might be characterized as between 'order' and 'chaos.' This will be done through in-class presentations, mentored class discussion, and personal and collaborative writing to reflect on how our lives might be affected, positively or negatively, by appreciating and understanding truth, goodness, and beauty.

Required Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the main ways human beings create, discover and assign meaning (such as hermeneutics, linguistics, semiotics, natural meaning).
2. Articulate and critically assess various views of order and chaos.
3. Explore the ethical and moral implications of living an integrated, Christ-centered life of faith situated within a continuum of order and chaos.
4. Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the nature and limits of scientific inquiry.
5. Demonstrate how creative works of art from various time periods have been used to express or reflect meaning.
6. Employ a multidisciplinary approach to analyzing meaning from a variety of approaches, including philosophical, cultural, theological, and aesthetic.

Note: Objectives 1-5 comprise 60% of the class, while objective 6 comprises 40%.

Required Assignments with Suggested Grade Weights

NOTE: Assignments may be used to meet any course objectives, and additional assignments may be added at the professor's discretion.

- *Preparation and Participation (25-40%)*
 - Quizzes: Results on reading quizzes will indicate a working knowledge of term and main concepts from the assigned readings.
 - Discussion: Be prepared and willing to participate in class discussions over the reading and course materials.
 - Course blogs: Create and respond to topical entries as assigned
- *Short Reaction Paper (5-20%)*
 - a brief essay (1000 words) reacting to a course reading or other prompt as defined by the professor
- *Analytic Paper or Project (20-40%)*
 - an extended analytical essay (3000+ words) or creation of a complex artifact and reflective essay (1750+ words) that critically responds to specific course issues
- *Final Exam (10-20%)*

Course Competencies and Measurements

	Competency	Measurement Instrument
1	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the main ways human beings create and assign meaning (such as hermeneutics, linguistics, semiotics, natural meaning).	Class Participation and Preparation Short Paper
2	Articulate and critically assess various views of order and chaos.	Analytic Paper or Project
3	Explore the ethical and moral implications of living an integrated, Christ-centered life of faith situated within a continuum of order and chaos.	Class Participation and Preparation Blog Entries
4	Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the nature and limits of scientific inquiry.	Class Participation and Preparation
5	Demonstrate how creative works of art from various time periods have been used to express or reflect meaning.	Blog Entries Final Exam
6	Employ a multidisciplinary approach to analyzing meaning from a variety of approaches, including philosophical, cultural, theological, and aesthetic.	Class Participation and Preparation Blog Entries Analytic Paper or Project

Grading Procedure

To assign a course grade, the following scale is used: 100-90 = A, 89-80 = B, 79-70 = C, 69-60 = D, 0-59 = F

Course Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class period. Upon missing 20% of the course (9 absences in a MWF class or 6 absences in a TR class), the student will be dropped from the class with the grade of an F. For any absence, you will be expected to be prepared for the next class. Three tardies will constitute one absence. If you miss a class, you are responsible for the material covered and any assignments made. Ignorance of an assignment will not excuse late work.

Late Work

Work is expected on the date it is due. Should you become ill or having mitigating circumstances arise that impact your performance, please contact your professors immediately so that they can help you.

Academic Honesty

Violations of academic integrity and other forms of cheating, as defined in ACU's Academic Integrity Policy, involve the intention to deceive or mislead or misrepresent, and therefore are a form of lying and represent actions contrary to the behavioral norms that flow from the nature of God. Violations will be addressed as described in the Policy. While the university enforces the Policy, the most powerful motive for integrity and truthfulness comes from one's desire to imitate God's nature in our lives. Every member of the faculty, staff and student body is responsible for protecting the integrity of learning, scholarship, and research.

The full policy is available for review at the Provost's office web site (<http://www.acu.edu/campusoffices/provost>) and the following offices: provost, college deans, dean of campus life, director of student judicial affairs, director of residential life education, and academic departments.