

IDH 3931: (Un)Common Read: "The Disappearing Spoon and Other True Tales from The Periodic Table"
Section 13BA

Instructor: Gail E. Fanucci

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Class Times: R 10th period (5:10-6:00)

Office Hours: TBD and by appointment

Location: CLB 311F/313 (check my office, 311F first. We will use 313 if large numbers of people show up for help.

Text: "The Disappearing Spoon and Other True Tales from the Periodic Table"

This text is required as the reading forms the foundation for the discussions.

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to achieve basic knowledge of the elements of the periodic table and the role they have played and continue to play in our economy, politics, health and society.

Week #	Month	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	Aug	28	Introduction		
2	Sept	1	Description of the Periodic Table	Chapters 1 and 2	Participation: Discussion Talking Points
3		8	Historical Aspects of Elements and the Periodic Table	Chapter 3	Participation: Discussion Talking Points
4		15	How Elements are Formed	Chapter 4	Student Leads Discussion Participation: Discussion Talking Points
5		22	Elements in Wartime	Chapters 5 and 6	Student Leads Discussion Participation: Discussion Talking Points
6		29	What role did the Elements play in the Cold War?	Chapters 6 and 7	Student Leads Discussion Participation: Discussion Talking Points
7	Oct	6	Elements in Physics to Biology and Elements as Poisons	Chapter 8 & 9	Reflection Essay Due: Elements and Politics Student Leads Discussion Participation: Discussion Talking Points
8		13	Elements as Medicine & Deception of Elements in the Body	Chapters 10 & 11	Student Leads Discussion Others: Participation: Discussion Talking Points
9		20	Political Elements and Money	Chapters 12 & 13	Student Leads Discussion Others: Participation: Discussion Talking Points
10		27	Artistic Elements and Madness	Chapters 14 & 15	Student Leads Discussion Others: Participation:

					Discussion Talking Points
11	Nov	3	States of Matter and Bubbles	Chapter 16 & 17	Student Leads Discussion Participation: Discussion Talking Points
12		10	Tour of AMRIS		
13		17	Tools of Precision and Beyond	Chapter 18 & 19	Student Leads Discussion Participation: Discussion Talking Points
14		24	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
15	Dec	1	No class		Reflection Essay Due: Elements and Society Today
16			No Class		

Grading

Participation and Talking Points:	10 at 20 points =	200 points	40%
Essays	2 at 100 points =	200 points	40%
Discussion Leader	1 at 100 points =	100 points	20%

Participation and Talking Points.

Each week you are expected to write one paragraph each for TWO discussion points you would like to see addressed during class time. (total of two paragraphs for 5% credit) These are due by noon the day prior to class (ie on Wednesday). They should be posted in E-learning. You will be graded for 10 of the total of 15 weeks. Hence, this means you can miss 5 without an impact to your grade and it is not expected that you post the week you are leading a class discussion.

These “talking points” will be utilized to organize class discussion and lecture items. Your “talking points” may also be posed as chemistry topics you wish to learn more details about. I ask for them to be posted a day before the discussion so it gives the discussion leader time to organize their presentation to include your items.

The emphasis of the class participation and discussion is to ensure you do the reading prior to class time and have thought about what you read and put it into context of historical, political and societal issues that are of interest to you.

Essays.

You will write two reflection essays (2-3 pages double spaced types) that delve deeper into specific discussion points you found of interest and impactful to your everyday life. Guidelines for essay length and grading will be provided on-line.

Discussion Leader.

For one class period you will be the discussion leader. You need to come prepared to lead various discussion talking points of your own as well as have read those points presented by your classmates. I will be the discussion leader for the first few weeks and you should use me as a model for what you need to do to prepare to be effective. Depending on how many students enroll for the class it maybe

that there are two discussion leaders each week. In this case you may work as a team to prepare for the class. Discussion leading can involve just lectures, preparation of overheads, utube or other internet information and content that relates to the discussion topics.

Grading Scale: The following grading scale is tentative, and could be adjusted to be less stringent. The scale will not be more difficult.

Points	Percentages	Grade
465-500	$x \geq 93\%$	A
445-465	$89\% \leq x < 92.5\%$	A-
425-444	$85\% \leq x < 88.5\%$	B+
400-424	$80\% \leq x < 84.5\%$	B
375-400	$75\% \leq x < 79.5\%$	B-
350-375	$70\% \leq x < 74.5\%$	C+
325-350	$65\% \leq x < 69.5\%$	C
300-325	$60\% \leq x < 64.5\%$	C-
275-300	$55\% \leq x < 59.5\%$	D+
250-275	$50\% \leq x < 54.5\%$	D
0-250	$x < 50\%$	E

Students with disabilities: Students requiring special accommodations should register with the Dean of Student Offices and present documentation from that office to the instructor

Counseling Services: The University of Florida provides counseling services for students, staff, and faculty. See <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/> or call (352)-392-1575 during regular service hours (8am-5pm). For other hours or weekends call the Alachua County Crisis Center (264-6789). Students may also call the clinician on-call at Student Mental Health for phone callback and consultation at (352)-392-1171.

Cell phones: Please put all cell phones or pagers on “silent mode or vibrate” and in your backpacks or purse during all class periods. No texting, tweeting or face book activities during lecture. However, if using a mobile device during lecture for a class related topical search is allowed.

Honor Code: This class will operate under the policies of the student honor code which can be found at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html> The students, instructor and TAs are honor bound to comply with the Honors Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for that assignment.