**College of Public Health & Health Professions**

<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/336425>

**IDH2930, Section 1G25**

**HNR READ END OF FAITH**

**Fall 2017 (1 credit)**

**Tuesday 5:10-6PM Hume 119**

#### Instructor Information

Dr. Volker Mai

* O**ffice**: Emerging Pathogens Institute, Room 373
* **Email (the most efficient):**  Use the e-learning mail in priority, including both, instructor and TA (if applicable).
* **Phone:** 273 9398 (please leave a message).
* **Office hours:** 
  + Before/after class
  + By appointment: send me a mail to set up an appointment.

#### Course Overview or Purpose

#### Course Objectives and/or Goals

#### After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

#### Evaluate the impact of faith based systems on society.

#### Link faith based belief systems with historical developments.

#### Compare and contrast various belief systems and their impact on society.

#### Explore evidence based alternatives to comfort provided by faith based belief systems

#### Distinguish between evidence based reality and faith based value systems

#### Predict future trends in various faith based systems

#### Course Materials

Textbook: “The End of Faith.” Sam Harris

#### Prerequisites: NONE formally, but bring an open mind

#### Course Requirements/Evaluation/Grading

#### Baseline assay 15%

* Midterm (format TBD) 25%
* Class participation 25%
* Final Term paper 35%

**Grading:** Pass/Fail, 70% needed to pass

#### WebPage: e-learning Web site (https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/).

#### Communication: For questions regarding class and textbook content use the Discussion Board. For issues on Homework Assignments and their grading, contact the TA. For all other issues, contact instructor.

#### - Discussion Board: A discussion board is available in e-learning. It is very useful, please post and answer your questions on class content and organization there. Postings and answers are monitored by the instructor to make sure mistakes don’t get propagated. There are several discussion themes. Please post your questions in the adequate section. The discussion board will also be used for certain graded assignments to prepare for lecture and for the exam study guide.

#### Topical Outline

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Dates** | **Topic** | **Reading topic** |
| 1 | 08/22 | Introduction |  |
| 2 | 08/29 | Reason in Exile | Ch.1 |
| 3 | 09/05 | The Nature of Belief | Ch.2 |
| 4 | 09/12 | In the shadow of God | Ch.3 |
| 5 | 09/19 | The problem with Islam | Ch.4 |
| 6 | 09/26 | West of Eden | Ch.5 |
| 7 | 10/03 | A science of Good and Evil | Ch.6 |
| 8 | 10/17 | Experiments in Consciousness | Ch.7 |
| 9 | 10/24 | Epilogue |  |
| 10 | 10/31 | Afterword |  |
| 11 | 11/07 | Readers response | Online forum |
| 12 | 11/14 | Impact of religion on campus | TBA |
| 13 | 11/21 | Is there a need to defeat faith based systems? | TBA |
| 14 | 11/28 | Are there alternatives to faith based systems? | TBA |
| 15 | 11/05 | How to spread reasoning |  |
|  |  | Final term paper |  |

**Punctuality And Class Etiquette**

The class will begin at promptly at the time listed. Please be on time and in place. Please do not forget to shut cell phones off.

Statement of University’s Honesty Policy (cheating and use of copyrighted materials)

*Academic Integrity –* Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (see Student Conduct Code, the Graduate Student Handbook or this web site for more details: [www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php)).

#### Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

#### Policy Related to Class Attendance and Make-up Work

This is an interactive class and students are expected to be present and to participate in all class sessions. Students who know they will need to miss a class session should discuss this with the instructor prior to the date of the class. Students with unexpected absences should discuss needed make-up work with the instructor as soon as they can. Students with an unexcused absence will have a 5% reduction in their final grade. Students who miss more than one class without explanation will not be re-admitted to the class.

#### Statement Related to Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to you, which you then give to the instructor when requesting accommodation. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

#### Counseling and Student Health

Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the UF Counseling & Wellness Center, 352-392-1575. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>.

The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services, including primary care, women's health care, immunizations, mental health care, and pharmacy services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: [www.health.ufl.edu/shcc](http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc)

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789. From the Crisis Center: “Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.”

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The **U Matter, We Care** initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.