**IDH 2930: Handedness & Brain Asymmetry**

Instructor: Dr. Peter Westmoreland Email: pwest@ufl.edu

Term & credits: Fall 17, 1 credit Office & hours: FLO 312

Section: DEPT T 4-4:30; R 12:15-12:45, 3:45-4:45

Room & time: AND 19; T8 Phone: (352) 273-1813

**Syllabus policy**

<http://www.syllabus.ufl.edu/media/aaufledu/policies/Syllabus-Policy.pdf>

**Course description**

We are reading Annett’s *Handedness and Brain Asymmetry: The Right Shift Theory*.

**Objectives**

Students will

* Identify common terms and concepts used in the study of bodily asymmetry in short written responses to chapters.
* Evaluate Annett’s theory for cogency and consistency in written assignments.
* Discuss ideas central to bodily asymmetry in class.

**Other course policies**

**Accessibility**: I encourage you to contact me to discuss your questions about our readings and assignments. I have office hours, listed above, when I am available to meet with students. Feel free to email me with any questions you have about the course. I can help you avoid problems and explore course readings. I do not read sample papers prior to their due dates. I will gladly discuss specific questions about your work.

**Late work**: **Late work will not be accepted.** In the event of a serious mitigating circumstances (medical emergency, family emergency, etc.) assignments will be accepted when accompanied with verifiable written documentation. In the event of unavoidable scheduling conflict (University related travel, conference, etc.) notify the instructor within the first 2 weeks of class with written documentation to make alternative assignment arrangements. Failure to notify may result in no accommodation, and simply emailing or leaving a message concerning the problem does not obligate the instructor to accept your late work. **Vacations are not acceptable excuses.** Excuses related to internet failure or technical difficulties must be accompanied by an LSS Help ticket number. It is up to instructor discretion after reviewing the help ticket and the assignment to decide if any credit will be earned.

**Attendance**: Students are expected to attend and participate in all lectures. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352) 392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Behavior**: I ask that all class members conduct themselves in a respectful manner. Respect for others takes a variety of forms in this course and in academic life generally. **We need to be sensitive to how our behavior affects others**.

In particular, we will encounter controversial issues in this course that may provoke emotional reactions. If you think a comment might prove insensitive, please do not make it. If you think your comment is vital but perhaps insensitive you may speak to the instructor about it via email or in office hours, and we can determine whether and how to present your idea.

My best behavioral advice is that you close out everything besides your coursework when you are working and especially in class. Turn off Skype. Turn off your phone, and no vibrating! Pretend that Instagram, instant messaging, Facebook, or whatever it is that is cooler than Facebook, do not exist. In fact, I recommend that students not use laptops in class at all, even to take notes. Please see this link.

http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2015/07/case-against-laptops-in-the-classroom.html

**I ask that you have intellectual respect for others**. Your task when engaged with your classmates is to be a good listener and exchange ideas, not to attack and degrade others. In other words, philosophy is not combat: we are all engaged in a cooperative effort to achieve understanding, not to “defeat an opponent” (whatever that means). Students who fail to meet these guidelines will receive a participation grade of zero.

**Academic honesty**: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TA in this class.

In any academic writing you are obliged to inform the reader of the sources of ideas expressed in your work. Failure to do so is plagiarism. I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty. **CLEAR EVIDENCE OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY MEANS AN AUTOMATIC FAILING GRADE FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE.** This includes not just plagiarism but any conduct constituting academic dishonesty as defined in the honor code, including prohibited collaboration, prohibited use of resources, and so on. Any act of academic dishonesty is reported to the Dean's Office. The Dean's Office prevents students from dropping courses in cases of academic dishonesty. Please see the college's policy on plagiarism.

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>

Finally, let me add: I am excellent at detecting plagiarism. I teach this course all the time. It is my job. I know every resource that might tempt you. Every semester I catch half a dozen students cheating. It’s terrible for everyone. The student has to come in and face to face with me about it. Then **we have to fill out paperwork I must submit to the Dean of Students Office**. If the student does not admit to the plagiarism, we have a meeting later with a committee of 8 to 12 people who will judge the case. It never goes well. There is always crying. Worst of all, it’s all an enormous waste of time that could be spent learning. Had the student simply turned in original work, or simply come to me for help, things would have gone in their favor. I know you have harmful financial pressures to maintain your GPAs, among other things. **Just talk to me.** If you think you might be plagiarizing, but you are not sure, just ask me. That’s not a problem. Your best route is not to use outside resources at all. This is not a research course. Stay away from Wikipedia, which contains nothing but falsehoods. Please, let us help you. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!

**Counseling, mental health services**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> , 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

**Assessment**

* + - 1. 4 writing assignments, 250-300 words, 20 points each (80 total)

Each assignment will have a detailed prompt presented one week before the due date.

* + - 1. 10 writing responses, 100 words, 1 point each (10 total)

Spend 50 words summarizing ideas, 50 words evaluating. Credit received for on time submission. You have 15 opportunities to complete 10 responses. Responses are due on Fridays. Your response is to the next week’s reading: e.g., your response uploaded on the Friday of Week 3 should be on the reading for week 4.

* + - 1. Participation (10 total)

Participation means coming to class and actively engaging the material. You lose one participation point for each missed class.

Total points: 100

**Due dates** are listed in the schedule below.

**Grading scale & UF grade policies**

Letter Grade Points Letter Grade Points Letter Grade Points

A 93-100 B- 80-82 D+ 67-69

A- 90-92 C+ 77-79 D 63-66

B+ 87-89 C 73-76 D- 60-62

B 83-86 C- 70-72 E 0-59

 <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Course evaluations**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

**Required course materials**

Annett, M. (2002). *Handedness and Brain Asymmetry: The Right Shift Theory.* Hove, UK: Psychology Press.

Other readings will be available on Canvas.

**Schedule** (subject to change)

Week 1: Aug 22

 Westmoreland, “A philosophical approach to the concept of handedness,” Canvas

Week 2: Aug 29

 Annett, chapter 1

Week 3: Sept 5

Annett, chapter 2

Week 4: Sept 12

Annett, chapter 3

Week 5: Sept 19

 Annett, chapter 4

**Writing assignment 1 due**

Week 6: Sept 26

 Annett, chapter 5

Week 7: Oct 3

 Annett, chapter 6

Week 8: Oct 10

Annett, chapter 7

**Writing assignment 2 due**

Week 9: Oct 17

 Annett, chapter 8

Week 10: Oct 24

 Annett, chapter 9

Week 11: Oct 31

 Annett, chapter 10, 11

 **Writing assignment 3 due**

Week 12: Nov 7

 Annett, chapter 12

Week 13: Nov 14

 Annett, chapter 13

Week 14: Nov 21

 Annett, chapter 14

Week 15: Nov 28

 Annett, chapter 15

 **Writing assignment 4 due**

Week 16: Dec 5

 Annett, chapter 16, 17