

IDH2930, sec. 26492: (Un)Common Read (Fall 2021)  
W | Period 9 (4:05PM – 4:55PM), Little 119

## On Time and Water



Vatnajökull, a glacier that once stretched over more than a tenth of Iceland, is shrinking by a length of nearly three football fields a year in some places.

**Instructor:** Sara Agnelli  
**Meeting Time/Location:** W 4:05PM – 4:55PM/Little 119  
**Office Hours:** W 3PM – 3:50PM/McCarthyD  
**Email:** saraclassics@ufl.edu

## Course Overview

In the next hundred years, the nature of water on Earth will undergo a fundamental change. Glaciers will melt, the level of the sea will rise, and its acidity will change more than it has in the past 50 million years. These changes will affect all life on earth, everyone that we know, and everyone that we love. It is more complex than the mind can comprehend, greater than all of our past experience, bigger than language. What words can grasp an issue of this magnitude?

In his new book *On Time and Water*, Andri Snær Magnason discusses the ways in which geological time is beginning to move at the speed of human time. He takes both a personal and a scientific approach, weaving his way through climate science via ancient legends about sacred cows, stories of ancestors and relatives, and interviews with the Dalai Lama. The resulting narrative is at once a travel story, a world history, and a reminder to live in harmony with future generations.

## Course Outline

Classes will combine student-centered activities with brief introductions to the day's reading. Accordingly, you will be expected to have read the assigned readings and be prepared to comment and participate in meaningful discussions.

W1	Introduction	08/25
W2	<i>reading</i> pp. 7-22	09/01
W3	<i>reading</i> pp. 23-48	09/08
W4	<i>reading</i> pp. 49-62	09/15
W5	<i>reading</i> pp. 63-78	09/22
W6	<i>reading</i> pp. 79-94	09/29
W7	<i>reading</i> pp. 95-116	10/06
W8	<i>reading</i> pp. 117-144	10/13
W9	<i>reading</i> pp. 145-176	10/20
W10	<i>reading</i> pp. 177-206	10/27
W11	<i>reading</i> pp. 207-219	11/03
W12	Veteran Day (no class)	11/10
W13	<i>reading</i> pp. 220-260	11/17
W14	Thanksgiving (no class)	11/24

W15      *reading* pp. 261-291

12/01

W16      *reading* pp. 292-324

12/07

### Texts and Resources

Andri, S. M., & Smith, L. (2020). *On time and water*. London: Serpent's Tail.

### Course Requirements

#### **1. Attendance, Class Participation & Homework Preparation (60%)**

**Attendance & Class Participation:** *Attendance and informed participation at all class meetings is required.* This means that you show up to class on a regular basis and complete your assignments on time. The entire success of the course is that you *get involved, get interested and get motivated* to the history of a world which in many ways produced our own.

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/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

1. Class begins promptly. A student is counted as being tardy if he/she connects after class has started.
2. A student is counted as being absent if he/she fails to attend the class.
3. The student's final grade will be deducted by 1% from his/her final grade for each unexcused absence after the second unexcused absence of the semester.

Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, makes-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on their return to classes.

**Homework Preparation:** you should complete the reading or viewing by the assigned class period and be ready to discuss it.

#### **2. Final Project (40%)**

At the end of the course, students will write an opinion piece addressing the following topic:

“In order to bring about a planetary paradigm shift, we need new ways to see and imagine ourselves into the future.”

Your essay should be 3-4 typed pages long (double-spaced, one-inch margins). Work on this final project will be divided into 3 parts: selection of the topic (due Oct 1, 25%), preliminary outline & bibliography (Oct 29, 25%), and the essay (due Dec 10, 50%). Your work must be submitted on the due date unless you have asked for and received permission to extend the deadline or unless you have a valid excuse. Essays will be graded with regard not only to content and organization, but also to presentation, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Your research should be documented accurately. Secondary sources, whether textual or internet based, must be acknowledged. Unattributed use of sources will earn you an E for the course. Essays must be emailed to [saraclassics@ufl.edu](mailto:saraclassics@ufl.edu) by 11:59pm December 10.

### Break-down of final grade

Attendance Class Participation & Reading Preparation 60%  
Final Project 40%

### **Grading Scale**

A. 100–93 (4.0)	C. 76–73 (2.0)
A- 92–90 (3.67)	C- 72–70 (1.67)
B+ 89–87 (3.33)	D+ 69–67 (1.33)
B. 86–83 (3.0)	D. 66–63 (1.0)
B- 82–80 (2.67)	D- 62–60 (0.67)
C+ 79–77 (2.33)	E 59– (0)

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradestext>  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradingpoliciestext>

### **Accommodation**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter to present to the instructor. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

<https://disability.ufl.edu/> (352) 392 8565

### **Evaluate your Instructor**

Students should provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at [evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). The University will announce specific times at the end of the semester for evaluation. Students may view summary results of these assessments at:

[evaluations.ufl.edu/results](https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results)

### **Honor Code**

Familiarize yourself with the University of Florida Student Honor Code and obey it always. You can find the Student Honor Code online at:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>

### **Counseling and Wellness**

Students who face difficulties completing the course or need counseling or urgent help should call the Counseling and Wellness Center. Do not wait until the end of the semester for help.

[counseling.ufl.edu](https://counseling.ufl.edu)

### **Important Dates**

Oct 1	Topic Selection
Oct 29	Preliminary Outline & Bibliography
Dec 10	Final Project (to be emailed to <a href="mailto:saraclassics@ufl.edu">saraclassics@ufl.edu</a> )

### **In-class Recording**

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student.