

Course Syllabus
IDH2930 (Un)Common Reading Program:
On Being Certain: Believing You Are Right Even When You're Not
Time: Wednesday 3rd Period (9:35AM-10:25AM)
Fall 2021

Instructor:

Anne Donnelly

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(352) 846-3222

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:40AM – 11:30AM @ 202 Newell Hall or by appointment

Course Description:

When you are certain about anything is it due to careful, rational thinking? In *On Being Certain*, neuroscientist Robert A. Burton offers a brain science based refutation of this common belief and offers evidence that this assumption does not match current understanding of basic brain function. Using a fascinating collection of illustrations from baseball, poker, and discussions of gut feelings and the nature of intuition, he challenges our notion of certainty. After reading it you will never say "I'm certain" so lightly again.

This is a student led discussion class in which students take responsibility of talking through the ideas presented by the author. They also extend the book's topic by finding and presenting additional examples of the books theme.

This book applies to all students across disciplines. In addition to the book, both the instructor and students share outside articles/materials that are identified in various media as the semester progresses.

Attendance and participation are required. Each group leads the discussion of two book sections, and prepares an additional external presentation on a topic of their choice that relates to the general theme of the class. Students are required to prepare three reflection pieces in which they pause to consider what has been discussed and read up to that point.

Required Book

- On Being Certain: Believing You Are Right Even When You're Not

Assignments and Grades:

Attendance	15 points
Reflection Papers (2)	20 points (10 points each)
Class Presentations (2)	40 points (20 points each)
External Report	10 points

Final Reflection

15 points

Total

100 points

All assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the due date. You will receive ½ credit for all late assignments up to one week from the due date with the exception of the final report, which will be due at class time on the last day of class. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted. A grade of Incomplete (I) will not be issued under any circumstance.

Attendance: Since this is a discussion-based class, attendance and participation is required. Each class meeting counts as one point. Your final grade will be dropped an entire letter grade (e.g. from a “A” to a “B+” for each additional absence after 1.

Reflection Papers: These will be brief reflections (250 words) that will be related to sections in the book and/or guest speakers.

Group Class Presentation: Groups will be assigned to serve as discussion leaders of 2 assigned sections of the book.

Group External Report: Each group will be asked to identify an additional example that reflects the issues discussed in the book.

Final Reflection: What have you learned from this book? How has it changed how you think about research? 500 words

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	D	60-66
B+	87-89	D-	60-62
B	83-86	E	Below 59
B-	80-82		
C+	77-79		
C	73-76		
C-	70-72		

UF Policies

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, 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.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

University Honesty Policy

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 (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-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 TAs in this class.

Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.

Library Support: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Student Complaints On-Campus: sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-codestudent-conduct-code/ On-Line Students Complaints: [distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/ /](http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/)

Course Schedule

*Page Numbers from Paperback Edition

Date	Topic	Readings / Assignment Due
8/25	Introductions and Course Overview	Introduction
9/1	Group 1 Discussions	Pgs. 1-20 (Chapters 1-2)
9/8	Group 2 Discussions	Pgs. 21-40 (Chapters 3-4)
9/15	Group 3 Discussions	Pgs. 41-65 (Chapters 5-6) Reflection Paper 1
9/22	Group 4 Discussions	Pgs. 66-85 (Chapters 7-8)
9/29	Group 5 Discussions	Pgs. 86-112 (Chapter 9-10)
10/6	Group 1 Discussions	Pgs. 113-139 (Chapters 10-11) Reflection Paper 2
10/13	Group 2 Discussions	Pgs. 140-161 (Chapter 12)
10/20	Group 3 Discussions	Pgs. 162-176 (Chapter 12)
10/27	Group 4 Discussion	Pgs. 177-197 (Chapters 13-14)
11/3	NO CLASS (Undergraduate Research Symposium)	
11/10	Group 5 Discussion	Pgs. 198-224 (Chapters 14-15)
11/17	External Reports	
12/1	External Reports	Final Reflection Paper
12/8	Wrap up	