

**IDH2930 Honors UnCommon Reads: The Three-Body Problem (#25965)
Spring 2025**

Faculty Instructor

Dr. Dan Dickrell III
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Peer Instructor

Kira Zautcke
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Office Hours

By appointment (email to schedule)

Class Meetings

Wednesdays 10:40-11:30 a.m. (Per. 4) LIT117

Required Materials

The Three-Body Problem by Liu Cixin, translated by Ken Liu
ISBN-13: 978-0765382030

Course Description

The Three-Body Problem by Liu Cixin is an award-winning Chinese science-fiction novel that dives deep into philosophical questions about civilization, communication, and ethical decision-making. In this course, students will attempt to answer such questions through collaborative group discussions, brief homework assignments, and a cumulative final project.

Course Objectives

- Discuss concepts such as extraterrestrial life, technological advancement, and cultural shifts and explore their relevance in our lives today.
- Dissect how the novel's portrayal of advanced scientific concepts such as nanotechnology and astrophysics contributes to the overall narrative.
- Compare and contrast this novel with other works of science fiction, both Western and non-Western, to reflect on the genre in regional and global contexts.
- Connect the influence of Chinese history and social issues to the themes and structure of the novel.
- Criticize the devices in the novel used to describe human and alien points of view, with a focus on what's utilized to make a perspective "other."

Course Schedule

Note that more detailed instructions, deadlines, and rubrics will be provided through Canvas. Please contact Kira (kzautcke@ufl.edu) with any questions.

Week	Chapter Discussions	In-Class	Assignments
1	N/A	Course overview, syllabus, introduction	
2	I: Ch 1-3	Discussion	

3	II: Ch 4-6	Discussion	
4	II: Ch 7-9	Discussion	
5	II: Ch 10-11	Discussion, Final project overview	
6	II: Ch 12-14	Discussion	
7	II: Ch 15-17	Discussion	Initial project proposal due
8	II: Ch 18-20	Discussion	
9	III: Ch 21-24	Discussion	
SPRING BREAK			
10	III: Ch 25-28	Discussion	
11	III: Ch 29-32	Discussion	
12	III: Ch 33-35	Discussion	Project draft due
13	N/A	Final project peer feedback	Peer review due
14	N/A	Wrapping up	<u>FINAL PROJECT DUE</u>

Evaluation of Grades

Category	Points (/100)	Description
Attendance & Participation for In-Class Discussions	60	<p>This course only meets once a week, so attendance is critical and will be tracked. You will have 1 unexcused absence during the semester without penalty. Exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances, university-approved excuses, or other situations that will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Students are expected to contribute to in-class discussions. A key component of this class is engaging in constructive conversations with your peers, so being supportive and patient with other students is essential.</p>
Additional Assignments	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial project proposal (5) • Project draft (10) • Peer reviewing other students' project drafts (5)
Final Project	20	<p>This is a cumulative project in which students will be given a chance to dive into a topic covered in the book that they're interested in. The format will be your choice, but must be approved by the instructor (see "initial project proposal"). Some</p>

		potential options include (but are not limited to) essays, presentations, podcasts, videos, paintings, and sculptures; whatever you think would be most fitting for the material you've selected. This will be discussed more in-depth in class (see course schedule), and students will have the chance to improve their project and receive feedback on it prior to final submission.
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Late Policy: If at any point you need an extension on an assignment, please reach out. We want to help and will do so where we can. Please note that the Final Project will not be accepted late except under extenuating circumstances, university-approved excuses, or other situations that will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Grading Scale, Letter Grades, and GPA Equivalency

93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	*C-	D+	D	D-
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67

*Please Note: A grade of C - or below will not count toward major requirements.

UF grading policies can be reviewed at:

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

Honors Students: A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

Honors Information

- Contact information: Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519
- Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu
- Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

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/) 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.

Online Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations 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/>

UF Honesty Pledge

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 (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) 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 in this class.

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 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

UF Support Resources

If you or a friend is in distress, contact umatter@ufl.edu. 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. More info can be found here: <https://umatter.ufl.edu/>. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575.

Additional resources are available on campus to help students meet academic goals and solve personal problems that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find that you are having difficulty emotionally or academically, there is substantial support available including the following resources:

Academic Resources:

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or email Learning-support@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<http://www.crc.ufl.edu>

CLAS Academic Advising Center, Farrior Hall, 352-392-1521. CLAS academic advising on course selection and course planning to meet graduation requirements.

Library Support, <http://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 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

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

Student Complaints, <https://registrar.ufl.edu/writtencomplaints>

Health and Wellness Resources:

U Matter, We Care, If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>; 352-392-1575

Field & Fork Food Pantry, <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161. More information on resources to help students with sexual violence issues at www.umatter.ufl.edu/sexual_violence

Sexual Harassment, Information on UF policies, awareness, reporting, and counseling at www.hr.ufl.edu/managerresources/policies-2/sexual-harassment/

University Police Department, 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>