



Honors UnCommon Reads

Exploring Cloud Cuckoo Land

Spring 2025

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Office Hours: TR period 3 or by appointment–Turlington 2215

Course Description

Dive into the intricate and captivating world of Anthony Doerr's *Cloud Cuckoo Land* in this 14-week UnCommon Reads course. This class offers a deep exploration of the novel's richly woven narratives, spanning centuries and connecting diverse characters through the timeless power of storytelling.

Course Objectives

- Analyze the lives of Anna, Omeir, Zeno, Seymour, and Konstance, and their connections to the ancient text, "Cloud Cuckoo Land."
- Discuss the novel's themes of resilience, the preservation of knowledge, and the impact of storytelling across generations.
- Examine the historical and futuristic settings, understanding their significance in the characters' journeys.
- Reflect on the moral and philosophical questions posed by the novel, and their relevance to contemporary issues.

Course Summary

By reading "Cloud Cuckoo Land," you will embark on a literary journey that spans centuries and continents, connecting the lives of five unforgettable characters. Through this novel, you will:

- **Develop Critical Thinking Skills:** Analyze complex narratives and themes, understanding how different storylines interweave and reflect on broader societal issues.
- **Enhance Empathy and Understanding:** Explore diverse perspectives and experiences, fostering a deeper appreciation for the resilience and creativity of individuals across time and space.
- **Appreciate the Power of Storytelling:** Recognize the enduring impact of stories and knowledge preservation, and how they shape our understanding of the world and our place in it.
- **Engage with Historical and Futuristic Contexts:** Gain insights into historical events and futuristic scenarios, enhancing their understanding of how past and future influence the present.
- **Reflect on Moral and Philosophical Questions:** Contemplate the ethical dilemmas and philosophical questions posed by the novel, encouraging thoughtful discussion and personal reflection.

Through this course, you will not only enjoy a richly crafted narrative but also gain valuable skills and insights that will resonate beyond the classroom.

Assignments	Description	Points
Discussion Leader	Lead a class discussion on a specific chapter or theme from <i>Cloud Cuckoo Land</i> .	200
Reflective Journal	Keep a handwritten journal throughout the semester that examines themes and reactions to the story	200
Attendance	Regular attendance and participation in class discussions.	100
Total		500

Weekly Reading Assignment

Canvas has Due Dates and Assignments

Week 1: Introductions

Week 2: Introduction and Chapters 1-3

- Pages: 1-50
- Focus: Introduction to main characters and initial setup of the narrative.

Week 2: Chapters 4-6

- Pages: 51-100
- Focus: Development of the different timelines and settings.

Week 3: Chapters 7-9

- Pages: 101-150
- Focus: Further exploration of characters' backgrounds and initial conflicts.

Week 4: Chapters 10-12

- Pages: 151-200
- Focus: Introduction of the ancient manuscript and its significance.

Week 5: Chapters 13-15

- Pages: 201-250
- Focus: Deepening of character relationships and emerging themes.

Week 6: Chapters 16-18

- Pages: 251-300
- Focus: Intersections of the different timelines and narrative techniques.

Week 7: Chapters 19-21

- Pages: 301-350
- Focus: Key turning points and character development.

Week 8: Chapters 22-24

- Pages: 351-400
- Focus: Continued exploration of themes and character journeys.

Week 9: Chapters 25-27

- Pages: 401-450
- Focus: Resilience and adaptability of characters.

Week 10: Chapters 28-30

- Pages: 451-500
- Focus: Broader societal issues and personal growth.

Week 11: Chapters 31-33

- Pages: 501-550
- Focus: Evolution of relationships and narrative intersections.

Week 12: Chapters 34-36

- Pages: 551-600
- Focus: Key turning points and thematic reflections.

Week 13: Chapters 37-39

- Pages: 601-650
- Focus: Final developments and resolution of character arcs.

Week 14: Conclusion and Final Reflections

- Pages: 651-700 (End)
- Focus: Bringing together the different timelines and final reflections on the novel's themes.

Classroom Policies

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. Students will be allowed **two** unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after those will incur a 25-point (out of 500) deduction from the final grade in the class.

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>

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-conduct-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 TAs in this class.

Policy on the Use of ChatGPT and Other Language Models for Assignments

This policy aims to provide clear guidelines on the appropriate use of ChatGPT and other language models (LLMs) in completing assignments. The goal is to ensure academic integrity, promote independent learning, and encourage the ethical use of technology. This policy applies to all students enrolled in this course.

Guidelines

1. Permissible Uses

- **Research Assistance:** Students may use ChatGPT and other LLMs to gather information, generate ideas, and clarify concepts related to their assignments.
- **Drafting and Editing:** Students may use these tools to help draft and edit their work, provided they critically evaluate and revise the content to ensure it reflects their own understanding and voice.

2. Prohibited Uses

- **Complete Assignment Generation:** Submitting assignments that are entirely or predominantly generated by ChatGPT or other LLMs is strictly prohibited.
- **Plagiarism:** Using LLMs to produce content without proper attribution or presenting it as one's own work constitutes plagiarism and will be subject to disciplinary action.

3. Attribution and Transparency

- **Acknowledgment:** Students must clearly acknowledge the use of ChatGPT or other LLMs in their assignments. This includes specifying which parts of the assignment were assisted by these tools.
- **Citation:** When using information or text generated by LLMs, students must provide appropriate citations in accordance with the citation style required by the course.

4. Academic Integrity

- **Original Work:** Students are expected to produce original work that demonstrates their own understanding and critical thinking. Over-reliance on LLMs undermines the learning process and violates academic integrity.
- **Ethical Use:** Students must use LLMs ethically and responsibly, ensuring that their use aligns with the principles of academic honesty.

5. Consequences of Misuse

- **Disciplinary Action:** Misuse of ChatGPT or other LLMs, including plagiarism and submission of non-original work, will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the UF's academic integrity policy.
- **Educational Measures:** Students found misusing LLMs may be required to complete additional educational measures to understand the importance of academic integrity.

UF Evaluations Process

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 <https://gatorevals.aa.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 <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Counseling and Wellness Center

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.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

The Honors Program

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>