Dreaming the Earth

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UW Areas of Knowledge: VLPA, IS, W

Course Description:

In Dreaming the Earth, we will all actively shape a Learning Community through interdisciplinary and integrative practices—the mutual illumination of areas of knowledge such as the sciences, arts, philosophy, and literature—in order to address basic questions about how to understand ourselves as human beings inhabiting the Earth.

How do the ways that artists, philosophers, poets, and scientists “dream” the Earth affect our own abilities to perceive, imagine new possibilities, and create effective responses to fundamental questions? How do stories, images, performances, and theories frame the ways we understand our landscape, ourselves, animals, and other peoples? What do we need to learn in order to respond as communities to the growing realization that the Earth is being significantly affected by human activity?

We are all shaping a Learning Community together, in which collaborative research and exchange of ideas, as well as teaching each other more sophisticated practices of learning, will be extremely important. We will engage these questions practicing dialogue, observation, critical reading of texts and images, undertaking research, and through the act of creative making. We will come away from the course with a much fuller sense of the unfolding and interactive history of the arts, sciences, and philosophy; with more practice of engaging in interdisciplinary inquiry at UWB campus, and with a deepened capacity to reflect on ourselves as learners.

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students will have:

➢ Experienced intellectual excitement
➢ Examined this particular place on the planet through reflection and research
➢ Begun the construction of the Discovery Core Portfolio, especially via attention to the CUSP Learning Goals
➢ Improved their critical reading, writing, presentation, and making practices
➢ Increased understanding ways in which the arts, sciences, and philosophy interact around ecological themes
BIS 365: Popular and Consumer Culture
The Meanings of Money

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Blackboard: http://bb bothell washington edu

Course Description: In this course, we will explore the many meanings of money in American culture, especially in the 19th-21st centuries, with the rise of industrialization, the globalization of capital, the emergence of alternative economies, and the electronic revolution that is currently changing the nature of exchange at a pace faster than we can follow. From a number of different perspectives, we will examine the signification of "money" in our own symbolic world. How, for example, does it create meaning and lack of meaning? Is money an object or something like a metaphor, a myth? How are the economy, ecology, and entertainment related? What is the relationship between money’s circulation, at the speed of computer circuitry, and the circulation of ethical value?

$\text{All money is art.}
JSG Boggs

fungible (L. fungi to perform; prob Akin to Skt bhunkte, he enjoys):
being of such a nature that one part or quantity may be replaced by another equal part or quantity in the satisfaction of an obligation, 2: interchangeable

Learning Outcomes: At the conclusion of this course students will have:

- become more accomplished critical and creative readers, writers, and researchers
- become familiar with different means of interpreting the phenomenon of money
- developed a research project around the riddle of money that can make an intervention, however modest, in the social fabric
- experienced intellectual pleasure

Required Texts:

Fern, F. Ruth Hall