Core 1: Weekly Response Week #

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Due in hard copy and/or on turnitin.com the first discussion section class following lecture.

Name: Majok Ring Date: 1/21/15

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Lecturer: Tom Hothem, Wil Van Breugal

Lecture Title: Introduction to Core 1: Points of Engagement

Lecture’s Central Argument:

Advancements can only occur if there are individuals willing to question current knowledge and reach outside their fields. Specialization reduces real world application of your skills as you gradually lose the ability to make connections. By studying a variety of different subjects/concepts, you prepare yourself to see the main concept within each study and experience new viewpoints which can further your research.

Lecture’s Supporting Evidence/Examples:

-Gallileo – mathemetics professor, physicist, and philosopher, understood the importance of being knowledgeable in a variety of subjects as they can help with understanding another. During lecture, our professor stated that Gallileo was imprisoned for his research which proved to contradict the beliefs of the Catholic Church. With knowledge of the repercussions, he still chose to publish his book, the Dialogue in order to further scientific understanding.

-Also mentioned cultural clashes between environmental issues and personal gain. A Meteor strikes the city and some direct their focus first towards the idea of mining for materials/ valuable minerals instead of the impact it would have on the environment. We are shown the vast differences in mentality between groups and how it can affect happenings/policy.

Three questions you have with respect to this lecture:

* How in depth do the modules go in terms of understanding, and do they play off of each other?
* Who becomes the final authority on the validity of ideas?
* In modern society, should cultural traditions take precedence over environmental concerns?

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Within this lecture, we focused mainly on the idea that our knowledge of the world and its workings can never become absolute. "Nothing is rich but the inexhaustible wealth of nature. She shows us only surfaces, but she is a million fathoms deep."-Ralph Waldo Emerson. Although this is true, it is imperative that we explore the world through different viewpoints in order to learn more about its workings. Throughout our lives we direct our focus to a very specific field with an even more specific emphasis and work our way towards mastering that single thing/study. By narrowing down your experiences, you become a reliable expert in that field, but risk being less likely to be able to make more connections between different environments/studies. This concept of striving to know the unknown and metaknowledge is stressed heavily within Carl Sagan’s “Can We Know the Universe”. Take for example this statement by Sagan, “Our intuition is by no means an infallible guide. Our perceptions may be distorted by training and prejudice or merely because of the limitations of our sense organs, which, of course, perceive directly but a small fraction of the phenomena of the world” (Sagan 1). Here Sagan explains that we can be fully accurate within our theories/beliefs as we are prone to having very small viewpoints and cannot overcome this state. He makes a connection with the vastness of the universe and the multitude of questions that can originate from even the most basic of truths. The overall lesson of this introductory lecture to Core 01 is that throughout the semester, we as students will attempt to reach a state of metacognition in which we will become more aware of our own thought processes in order to find the most efficient way of learning.