

Phil 313–1(2674), 3 credits, Spring 2019, M&W 9–11:10am

<http://scottoconnor.org/Time>

Time

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Office hours: <http://scottoconnor.org/contact/office/>

1/22/2019–5/14/2019

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the faculty. Students will be notified of such changes ahead of time via Blackboard.

Copyright

The materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lectures, exams, quizzes, and homework assignments are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized copying of the class materials or recording of lectures is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary actions being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of class materials without the specific, express approval of the instructor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of sharing those materials with other current or future students.

Catalog Description

The measuring of time is both essential to us and the societies we live in. But what exactly is it that we are measuring? This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary study of time. Readings will be drawn from historical and contemporary work in the social and natural sciences, philosophy, and literature.

Course Description

This course, an interdisciplinary course on the study of time, is a General Education Tier 3 Capstone course. Each student will focus for a significant part of the course on a capstone project in which he or she will undertake study in the modes of inquiry that best reflect his or her academic interests and are most appropriate for the chosen capstone project.

Students will be introduced to the study of time by studying its nature and the role it plays in our lives and societies more generally. For instance, we will discuss how advances in measuring time allowed for a change in the way workers were compensated, which, subsequently, changed the nature of manufacturing work. We will also focus on more abstract questions about the nature of temporal passage, about the direction of time, and special relativity. Readings for this course will be drawn from a variety of disciplines: history, classics, sociology, literature, philosophy, physics, and psychology.

Learning Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to (i) find the argument of a text and clearly restate it, (ii) clearly and charitably explain viewpoints that are not their own, (iii) think critically, (iv) write well-structured prose in which they clearly state a thesis and persuasively defend it, (v) demonstrate a substantive grasp of how time is an important topic of study in several distinct disciplines.

General Education Information

Successfully completing this course satisfies one Tier 3 capstone requirement. For further information about the General Education Program see <http://njcu.edu/departments/general-education>.

Required Textbooks

Available in the campus book store and online retailers. All other readings will be distributed on the course website.

- Robin LePoidevin, 'Travels in Four-Dimensions: The Enigmas of Space and Time', OUP, 2005 (TRAVELS)

Course Website

There is both a Blackboard site and website for this course (link on first page). Clicking the first link on the left panel within the Blackboard site will bring you to the course website. All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard. Readings, notes, etc. will be posted on the course website. Note that Blackboard difficulties are rare and automatically reported to instructors. Under no circumstance will a student's report of a Blackboard difficulty be reason for an extension. It is your responsibility to contact Blackboard support for help.

Requirements

- *Workload:* Expect to spend an average of 6 hours per week completing the readings and assignments. NJCU abides by the Federal and State definitions of a credit hour and adopts a policy consistent with the Carnegie Unit. A three-credit class represents 112.5 hours total of work. See [here](#) for more details.
- *Participation:* 0.5 point will be awarded per class up to a maximum of 10 points. Points will not be awarded during weeks 1 & 2. Participation points will be awarded if you attend, stay for the duration of the class, stay alert, leave your electronic devices turned off and out of sight, contribute to our discussions, and are non-disruptive.
- *Reading quizzes* administered through Blackboard. 7 will be assigned. You must complete 5. If you complete more than 5, the lowest grades will be dropped. (NB: you must complete at least one quiz before spring break, i.e., one of quizzes 1–3).
- *Course evaluations* completed online. 5 points extra credit for successful completion.
- *Attendance:* Roll call will be taken. 0.5 point will be awarded per class up to a maximum of 10 points. Points will not be awarded during weeks 1 & 2.
- *Reading:* You are required to prepare the assigned readings before class. This will be determined through discussion, pop quizzes, and reading responses. You begin with 10 points. You lose 2 points for every class you come to unprepared. No extra credit will be offered to make up lost points in this category.
- *Short essays* submitted through Blackboard. 250–500 words long. 5 will be assigned. You must complete 4. If you complete more than 4, the lowest grade will be dropped.
- *1 final project* comprising a proposal, 1 progress report (750–1000 words), short presentation, and written submission (2000–2500 words.)
- *Grade Distribution:* Attendance–0.5 point per class (10 total); Reading–10 points; 4 short Essays—10 points each (40 total); 1 final project–10 points for the proposal, 10 point for the literature review, 10 points for the presentation, 10 points for the final submission (40 points total).
- *Grade Breakdown:*

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|--------|-----|--|-------|----|
| 96–100 | A | | 77–79 | C+ |
| 90–95 | A- | | 73–76 | C |
| 87–89 | B+ | | 70–72 | C- |
| 83–86 | B | | 60–69 | D |
| 80–82 | B - | | 0–59 | F |

Policies

- **Student Responsibility:** This syllabus outlines the required text, assignments, requirements, and policies for this course. By taking this course, you agree to read this syllabus and be bound by those requirements and policies.
- *Academic Integrity:* All the work you turn in (including papers, drafts, and discussion board posts) must be written by you specifically for this course. It must originate with you in form and content with all contributory sources fully and specifically acknowledged. Being a student at NJCU requires you to follow [NJCU's Academic Integrity Policy](#). Penalties for violations are as follows: 1st infraction will result in a 0 for the assignment. 2nd infraction will result in a 0 for the entire course & application for permanent record on student's transcript. (Repeated violations can lead to expulsion from NJCU).
- *Attendance:* You are considered absent if you are (i) not present during roll call, (ii) leave early, (iii) leave without permission, or (iv) leave for an extended period of time. No excuses. No exceptions.
- *Communication:* To comply with Federal Privacy Laws (FERPA) and NJCU policies, all communication will be through Blackboard and/or official NJCU e-mail. Check both your NJCU e-mail and Blackboard daily. For further information see <http://scoconno.github.io/Contact/>.
- *Conduct:* Distracting and disrespectful behaviors, including but not limited to eating, leaving your seat, talking out of turn, and aggression are prohibited. Penalties include, but are not limited to, a loss of attendance points for the day of violation. Repeat offenders will be reported to the Dean of Students.
- *Electronic devices:* Use of electronic device, including, but not limited, to smartphones, dictaphones, tablets, and laptops, is prohibited. Recording a lecture is in violation of Copyright. Penalties include, but are not limited to, a loss of attendance points for the day of violation. Repeat offenders will be reported to the Dean of Students.
- *Format for Written Work:* Submit work to Blackboard either as a rich text or Microsoft Word file. All work must be typed and presented neatly. If hard copies are requested, please staple or paperclip copies of papers and drafts.
- *Grading:* Grades will be available within 1–2 weeks of an assignment being submitted. See: <http://scoconno.github.io/Teaching/Grading> for further information.
- *Late work & Make-up Policy:* See the assignment schedule below. No make-ups or late work accepted under any **imaginable circumstances**. No exceptions. This policy will be applied equally and fairly to all students. *Requests for special treatment will be ignored.*

- *Statement for students with disabilities:* If you are a student with a disability and wish to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, please register with the Office of Specialized Services and Supplemental Instruction (OSS/SI). To begin this process, complete the registration form available on the OSS/SI website at www.njcu.edu/Specialized_Services.aspx (listed under Student Resources-Forms). Contact OSS/SI at 201-200-2091 or visit the office in Karnoutsos Hall, Room 102 for additional information.

Weekly Course Schedule

Dates refer to the first day of the week. Complete the readings before the first class of the week. Readings marked with a ‘**’ can be found on the course website. All other listed readings can be found in the required textbook. Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and *via* your NJCU email address.

Table 1: Course Schedule

| Week | Assignments | Reading |
|---|-------------------|---|
| [1] Introduction (1/22/19) | | –** <i>Heavenly Clockwork</i> , Falk |
| [2.] The Calendar (1/28/19) Meet in library on Wed | | –** <i>Years, Months, Days</i> , Falk |
| [3.] The Clock (2/4/19) | Lib assign. 1 due | –** <i>Hours, Minutes, Seconds</i> ’, Falk |
| [4.] What do clocks measure? (2/11/19) | Lib assign. 2 due | –TRAVELS, Ch. 1 –** <i>‘The Mystery of Time’</i> , O.K. Bouwsma, pp.341–347 |
| [5.] Time and Change (2/18/19) No class on Mon | Ch.1 qs. due | –TRAVELS, Ch. 2 – <i>Isaac’s Time</i> , Falk pp. 126–134 |
| [6.] Time’s beginning and end (2/25/19) | Ch.2 qs. due | –TRAVELS, Ch 5 –** <i>In The Beginning</i> , Falk |
| [7.] Does Time Pass? | Ch.5 qs. due | –TRAVELS, Ch. 8 |

(3/4/19)

–**‘Slaughterhouse-Five,’ K. Vonnegut,
ch.2–5

Spring Break

(3/11/19)

[8.] The Cinematic Universe
(3/22/19)

Ch.8 qs. due

–TRAVELS, Ch. 9
–**‘A Survey of Metaphysics,’ E.J. Lowe,
ch.16

[9.] Special Relativity
(3/25/19)

Ch.9 qs. due

–**Albert’s Time, Falk
–Interstellar (movie)

[10.] Time travel
(4/1/19)

–TRAVELS, Ch. 10
–**‘All You Zombies,’ R.Heinlein
–**‘The Paradoxes of Time Travel,’ David
Lewis

[11.] Time’s Arrows
(4/8/19)

Ch.10 qs. due

–TRAVELS, Ch. 12

[12] Continued
(4/15/19)

–**‘The Arrow of Time,’ B. Dowden

No class Wed.

[13.] Our Perception of Time
(4/22/19)

Ch.12 qs. due

–**‘A Geography of Time,’ ch.2
–**‘Confessions’ (extracts), St. Augustine

GenED Symp. Wed

[14.] Continued on Mon Presen-
tations
(4/29/19)

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[15.] Presentations
(5/6/19)

Mon is final class

[16.]
(5/13/19)