

Policies for Sophomore Seminar 218, Spring 2004

Space: Its Light; Its Shape.

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Textbooks

Jeffrey R Weeks, *The Shape of Space*, second edition

Edwin Abbott, *Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions*

On eReserves: Edward Harrison, *Cosmology: The Science of the Universe*, second edition

Plus supplements to be distributed in class

Seminar Philosophy

This is your course. You are both professor and student. While we have more or less established the content and the initial direction, this seminar will be shaped (pun intended!) by you.

Platonic Ideal of The Seminar: The professors provide material and an outline which, if followed carefully, will build a solid foundation of the subject. The students, working together with the professor, learn and present the material in class in a way which is clear to everyone. Discussion is active, intellectually challenging, non-threatening, and pushes the envelope of everyone's understanding. As they prepare members read, work exercises, and talk with each other about definitions, solutions, and implications. In seminar remaining questions are discussed in depth resulting in new insights which, naturally, arrive with a blinding flash of light (again, the pun!).

Projects

There will be one assigned project for this course worth 30% of your course grade. A list of possible topics will be provided before spring break, but we also encourage you to design your own topic. If you would prefer to do a project as a team, talk to us to get approval.

Final Grade

Participation is an essential component of this course and an important part of your grade for this course. The final grade for this course will be weighted as follows.

40% Preparation, participation, presentation in seminar

30% Assigned written work (essays, exercises, take-home quizzes, labs)

30% Final Project & Presentation

Office Hours

The following are our office hours during the semester. Variation from these hours will occasionally occur and will be announced in class. Feel free to come by with questions.

Debra Boutin:

Mondays, Wednesdays 2:30 to 4:30 PM

Fridays 2:30 to 4 PM

AND also by appointment

Seth Major:

Mondays, 3 to 5 PM

Tuesdays 1 to 4 or 5 PM

AND also by appointment