

# Lifecycles & Cyclotrons: Thinking about Time [UPDATED 9/10/2014]

ARLT 100 | Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Emily Zeamer, [zeamer@usc.edu](mailto:zeamer@usc.edu)

Section 1 (35239R): Tu & Th 12:30 – 1:50 pm, WPH 103

Section 2 (35258R): Tu & Th 2 - 3:20 pm, WPH 103

## Course description

We all have some sense of time passing: humans everywhere share the capacity to remember past events, and to anticipate the future. Yet how people imagine time; how they measure, use, and locate themselves within it has varied widely, across cultures and through history. Different traditions have distinct ways of measuring the rhythms of daily life, of marking or remembering significant communal events, past and future. Likewise, technologies have the capacity to reshape our perception of time. Even clocks and calendars, straightforward as they often seem, are human inventions, put to use to serve specific social purposes: spiritual, economic, epistemological, or scientific. In this course, we will consider some of the many ways of organizing, imagining, and theorizing time, to ask how distinct beliefs and ideas about time shape the ways that people understand the universe and their place in it.

A primary goal of this course is to develop an understanding of how the tools of social analysis can help us to better understand the diversity of social experience. With this in mind, readings for this course include a variety of genres including anthropology, social history, philosophy, and literature. We will begin by studying works in philosophy and the social sciences that shed light on the cultural and social construction of time. Building on these insights, we will turn our focus to the comparative analysis of various works of literature, philosophy, and history.

## Required texts

Note that while some of these texts are available in digital form, it is recommended that where possible, you obtain a physical text, or print out PDFs, as the use of electronic devices – including cell phones, tablets, laptops, and e-readers – is strongly discouraged in the classroom. Articles and shorter texts marked (CR) can be accessed via ARES digital Course Reserves. The following texts are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:

- Amis, Martin. 1992. *Time's Arrow*.
- Butler, Octavia. 2004. *Kindred*.
- Ekirch, A. Roger. 2006. *At Day's Close*.
- Fabian, Johannes. 2014 (1983). *Time and the Other*.
- Gould, Stephen Jay. *Time's Arrow, Time's Cycle*.
- Lakoff, George and Mark Johnson. (1980). *Metaphors We Live By*.
- Mallett, Ronald. 2007. *Time Traveler*.
- Nietzsche, Friedrich. 1980 (1874). *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*.
- Ozeki, Ruth. 2013. *A Tale for the Time Being*.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. (1993). *Death Without Weeping*.
- Thoreau, Henry David. (1854). *Walden and Civil Disobedience*, Signet Mass Market edition.
- Woolf, Virginia. (1927). *To the Lighthouse*, Harvest / Harcourt edition.

## Classroom

As this is a seminar requiring active class participation, to minimize classroom distractions and a courtesy to other class participants, all electronic devices should be set to "airplane mode" for the duration of class.

In classroom discussions and outside assignments, all class participants are expected to listen and respond with respect and consideration to the viewpoints of others.

## Participation

Class meets for one hour and twenty minutes twice per week, and our meetings will be a mix of lecture and discussion. As this is a seminar, you should come to each class having read all the texts assigned for that week, prepared to fully participate in class discussion.

## Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory, and each recorded absence *excused or unexcused* will result in a 2% reduction of the final grade. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late to class risk being recorded absent for that day.

Students may submit additional work to make up for no more than 2 recorded absences; see instructor for details.

## ASSIGNMENTS

### Response papers & teaching contribution

Each student will sign up to open and play a leading role in 2 class discussions in the semester. When more than one person is to present on same day, you are encouraged (though not required) to coordinate your presentations. A sign-up sheet will be circulated in the first week of classes to determine the schedule for these assignments.

This assignment has 2 parts:

1. **Response paper (2-3 pages).** Each student must submit a response paper based on the week's readings, focusing on a topic or issue raised in the portion of the readings to be covered that day in class discussion. The deadline for the response paper is by 12 noon on the day *before* the in-class presentation.

This paper should draw attention to one or more key themes, ideas, or problems from the readings. This paper should serve to frame your in-class presentation; the goal for both assignments is to raise questions for further investigation and discussion, rather than draw any final conclusions.

2. **Teaching contribution.** Each assigned student will deliver a brief (roughly 6 minute), extemporaneous presentation drawing attention to a key theme or problem from the readings. Your aim should be to prompt a thoughtful discussion that also engages different perspectives. For the remainder of the class, each presenter will continue to participate as a key discussant in the emerging conversation.

These are extemporaneous presentations. While you may refer to notes or the course text as needed, *you may not simply read from a piece of paper!*

Your grade for the teaching contribution part of the assignment will reflect your grasp of the readings, *and* your openness in engaging the comments, critiques, and alternative readings offered by classmates. Bring your insights and ideas, and come prepared to act as a primary conversant in a lively conversation!

## Essays

All students must write three essays (4-5 and 5-6 pages, double-spaced), each incorporating materials or from at least two different course readings. Essay guidelines will be distributed at least one week prior to the due date.

## Informal and in-class assignments

Various assignments will be announced in class throughout the semester, to be completed either in class or for the next class meeting. These assignments will be graded informally (*check/check-plus/check-minus*). Failure to adequately complete these assignments will negatively impact your class participation grade.

## Examinations

Both the **Midterm** and **Final Exams** will be take-home essay and short answer exams, in which students will be asked to engage in a critical or comparative analysis of materials covered up to that point in the course.

## GRADING

Class participation & informal assignments .....	25%
2 Reflection papers & teaching contributions @ 10% each .....	20%
3 Essays @ 10% each .....	30%
Midterm exam.....	10%
Final exam .....	15%

## Some further notes:

- All written work completed outside of class must be submitted promptly by the deadline in order to receive full credit. Unexcused late work will be docked 1/3 letter grade each 24 hours it is late, with the clock starting 1 minute after the deadline.
- In-class assignments must be delivered to the instructor before the end of class to receive credit.
- Written assignments should be double-spaced, 1 page  $\approx$  300 words.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings and assignments may change throughout the semester, at the discretion of the instructor. Announcements regarding changes will be made in class and via the class email list; but it is *your* responsibility to keep abreast of these changes. *Remember, if you have any questions, just ask!*

Topic	Date	Assignment
Week 1	Tu 8.25	<i>Introduction</i>
Time and culture	Th 8.27	(CR) Goodman, "Time is For Savoring," In <i>Investigating Culture</i> , pp. 109-110. (2)  (CR) Evans-Pritchard, E.E., "Nuer Time Reckoning" (selections), In <i>Africa: Journal of the International African Institute</i> , Vol. 12, No. 2 (Apr., 1939), pp. 189-216. Focus on pages 192-196 and 206-216.  (CR) Bourdieu, Pierre. "The Attitude of the Algerian Peasant toward Time," In <i>Mediterranean Countrymen</i> , pp. 55-72. (17)
Week 2	Tu 9.2	Lakoff and Johnson, <i>Metaphors We Live By</i> , pp. 1-105. (105)
	Th 9.4	(CR) Eliade, Mircea. "Profane Duration and Sacred Time," <i>The Sacred and the Profane</i> , pp. 68-113. (45)  (CR) Harris, Lis. "Sabbath," In <i>Holy Days: The World of a Hasidic Family</i> . pp. 54-76. (22)  (CR) Walsh, James P. "Holy Time and Sacred Space in Puritan New England," In <i>American Quarterly</i> , 32:1 (Spring 1980), pp. 79-95. (16)
<b><u>Mo 9.8</u></b>		<b><u>Paper 1 DUE @ 12 noon</u></b>
Week 3	Tu 9.9	(CR) Drew Gilpin Faust, "Dying: 'To Lay Down My Life,'" In <i>This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War</i> , pp. 3-31. 2009. (31)
	Thu 9.11	Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. <i>Death Without Weeping</i> , ch. 8-9, pp. 340-445. (105)
Week 4	Tu 9.16	Gould, Stephen Jay. <i>Time's Arrow Time's Cycle</i> , pp. 10-48, 104-126, 132-142, and 150-166. (83)
Deep time	Thu 9.18	(CR) Harding, Susan F. "The Creation Museum," In <i>The Book of Jerry Falwell</i> , pp. 210-227. (17)  (CR) Traweek, Sharon. "Discovering Machines: Nature in its Age of Mechanical Reproduction," In <i>Making Time</i> , pp. 39-84. (45)

Topic	Date	Assignment
Week 5	Tu 9.23	Fabian, Johannes. <i>Time and the Other</i> , ch. 1-4, pp. 1-142. (141)
	Th 9.25	Fabian, Johannes. <i>Time and the Other</i> , ch. 5, pp. 143-165. (22)  (CR) Tsing, Anna. <i>In the Realm of the Diamond Queen</i> , Preface, and ch 2, pp. ix-xvi, 72-103. (31)
<b><u>Mo 9.29</u></b>		<b><u>Paper 2 DUE @ 12 noon</u></b>
Week 6      Technology and time	Tu 9.30	Ekirch, A. Roger. <i>At Day's Close</i> , ch. 2, 5, 7, 8, 9. (135)
	Th 10.2	Ekirch, A. Roger. <i>At Day's Close</i> , ch. 10, 11, 12. (61)
Week 7      Work time	Tu 10.7	(CR) Marx, Karl. "The German Ideology," In <i>The Marx Engels Reader</i> , 1972, pp. 146-202. (56)  (CR) Thompson, E. P. "Time, Work Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism," In <i>Past and Present</i> 38, 1967, pp. 56-97. (41)
	Th 10.9	(CR) Smith, Mark M. Ch. 4 "Master Time, 1750-1865," and ch. 5 "Time in African American Work and Culture," In <i>Mastered by the Clock</i> , pp. 93-152. (59)
Week 8	Tu 10.14	Thoreau, Henry David. <i>Walden</i> , selections: "Economy" pp. 1-45 only, "Where I Lived and What I Lived for," "Sounds," "The Bean Field," "The Village," "Baker Farm," and "Brute Neighbors."  <b><u>Midterm questions distributed in class.</u></b>
	Th 10.16	(CR) Melville, Herman. "Bartleby the Scrivener," Project Gutenberg <a href="http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/11231">http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/11231</a> . (50)
<b><u>Fr 10.17</u></b>		<b><u>Midterm Exam DUE @ 5pm</u></b>
Week 9      History, narrative, and experience	Tu 10.21	(CR) Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. Ch. 1 "The Power in the Story," In <i>Silencing the Past</i> , pp. 1-30. (30)
	Th 10.23	Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life</i> . (64)
Week 10	Mo 10.28	Amis, Martin. <i>Time's Arrow</i> , ch. 1-4.
	Tu 10.30	Amis, Martin. <i>Time's Arrow</i> , ch. 5-end.
Week 11	Th 11.4	Woolf, Virginia. <i>To The Lighthouse</i> , part 1 "The Window."
	Tu 11.6	Woolf, Virginia. <i>To The Lighthouse</i> , part 2 "Time Passes," part 3 "The Lighthouse."
Week 12      Time travel	Tu 11.11	Butler, Octavia. <i>Kindred</i> .
	Th 11.13	Butler, Octavia. <i>Kindred</i> .
<b><u>Mo 11.17</u></b>		<b><u>Paper 3 DUE @ 12 noon</u></b>
Week 13	Tu 11.18	Ozeki, Ruth. 2013. <i>A Tale for the Time Being</i> , part 1.
	Th 11.20	Ozeki, Ruth. 2013. <i>A Tale for the Time Being</i> , part 2.

Topic	Date	Assignment
Week 14	Tu 11.25	Ozeki, Ruth. 2013. <i>A Tale for the Time Being</i> , part 3.
	Th 11.27	<b><u>No class: THANKSGIVING</u></b>
Week 15	Tu 12.2	Mallett, Ron. 2007. <i>Time Traveler</i> , ch 1-8.  <i>Read one:</i>  (CR) Bradbury, Ray. "A Sound of Thunder," in Susan Schneider (ed.), <i>Science Fiction and Philosophy</i> , pp. 287-296.  (CR) Heinlein, Robert A. "All you zombies," In <i>The Worlds of Science Fiction</i> , Robert P Mills, Ed., 1963, pp. 127-141.  (CR) Wilhelm, Kate. "Forever yours, Anna," In <i>The Wesleyan Anthology of Science Fiction</i> , pp. 598-653.
	Th 12.4	Mallett, Ron. 2007. <i>Time Traveler</i> , ch. 9-end.
<b><u>Exams</u></b>	<b><u>We 12.10</u></b>	<b><u>Final Exam Questions distributed</u></b>
	<b><u>Mo 12.15</u></b>	<b><u>FINAL EXAM DUE @ 5pm</u></b>