

Spring 2025 Thematic Option CORE 200: Liberal Arts Reading Salon (2.0 units)
Instructor: Professor Donal T. Manahan, Ph.D. ([Web page link HERE](#))

“Narratives on Resilience”

“When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember this: you haven’t.”

– Thomas Edison

“We do not have to become heroes overnight. Just a step at a time.”

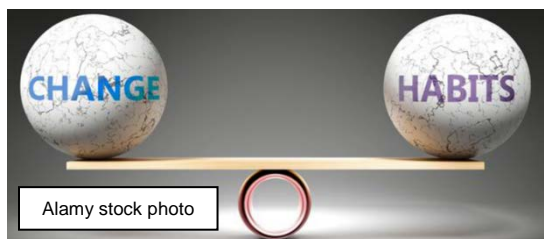
– Eleanor Roosevelt

“It is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves.”

– Edmund Hillary

“In nature, nothing exists alone.”

– Rachel Carson



The concept of **resilience** – the ability to “bounce back” and successfully adapt to change – is a complex, major theme of high relevance in today’s society, spanning from consideration of ourselves, our communities and societies, and our Planet.

Much is currently being written and discussed about the resilience (or lack of) of human communities to heatwaves and floods, personal and national economic resilience to inflation, and many other uses of the word resilience in the context of social conflicts and wars. Students are frequently being reminded that they are resilient to changes in their learning environments (e.g., disruptions due to the COVID pandemic).

Why care about the study of resilience? On a personal level, understanding resilience will help us attain a better balance between stability and change, build skills to thrive in the face of challenges, and maintain healthy functioning when faced with stress. In this CORE 200 Reading Salon, we will consider the processes of coping with change from diverse perspectives. Some topics we might explore include: artificial intelligence, the future of work, concepts of stability vs. change, conservation, global environmental change, disease epidemics and pandemics, economics, information and misinformation, national resilience, and wars and conflicts. Students will have opportunities to share their ideas and thoughts about resilience through discussions of articles, books, other media literature, documentaries, and videos/films.

This two-unit CORE-200 Reading Salon lasts for **12 weeks** (instead of the usual 15-week semester) and meets once each week for two hours in informal seminar settings. The course is **graded Credit/No Credit**. The Salon encourages the sharing of ideas, highlighting common themes and interdisciplinary connections as they emerge from discussions by student groups. Themes that develop from reading groups can become starting points for future research projects. A special feature of this course is that much of the material to be considered will be selected by the students participating in the Reading Salon, with input from Professor Donal T. Manahan (the faculty instructor teaching this class).