

CSEM: Experiencing Time Syllabus

1 Information:

Professor: Prof. Meghan Sullivan, Philosophy Department.

Contact: sullivan.meghan@gmail.com (preferred email). My office is 217 Malloy Hall. Office hours are held on Weds from 1-3pm in my office. It is best to send me a quick email to let me know if you are coming. In the event we have a faculty meeting or conflict, I will reschedule for Monday.

Seminar Location and Time: 9:30-10:45am on Mon and Weds, DeBartolo Hall, Room 225.

2 Course Description:

Dum loquimur, fugerit invida aetas.

While we speak, envious time will have already fled.

Time structures our lives, often in ways that we do not fully understand but cannot ignore. Is time a part of physical reality that fully determines our experience of the world? Or is there an important sense in which time is what we make it? Are the ways we ordinarily think about time even coherent? How do judgments about time affect how we plan our lives? Our moral reasoning? In this course, we will attempt to answer these questions (and many others) from an interdisciplinary perspective.

3 Course Goals:

By the end of this course, you should demonstrate:

- (1) Knowledge of prominent arguments and theories of diachronic practical reasoning and moral judgment.
- (2) Knowledge of differences in ways that social psychologists, philosophers, economists, and theologians interpret and apply these theories.
- (3) Knowledge of some prominent literary and artistic depictions of reasoning over time.
- (4) An ability to deliver polished, interesting, and accurate 5-15 minute talks on topics related to the subject matter of the course, using minimal notes.
- (5) An ability to consistently contribute interesting and accurate ideas to in-class discussions and analysis of texts.

4 Requirements:

Your grade in this course will be based solely on the skills and knowledge that you demonstrate during the course. I use a competency point system to determine your final grade. There are many ways to earn points, and your final grade will be based on the points that you accumulate over the course of the semester. Here are assignments and their point values:

- (1) **Discussion Expertise:** You will be assigned two class meetings to be a discussion expert. On these days, you'll prepare a short (roughly five minute) presentation explaining a major theory, argument, or example from the readings. In class, you'll be responsible for starting our discussion on that topic and answering some clarificatory questions from other students. You'll be a discussion expert twice over the course of the semester. Each time you may earn up to 10 CPs for a presentation which is (1) appropriately focused, (2) interesting and engaging, (3) correctly explains the theme or idea, (4) prompts interesting class discussion, and (5) is delivered clearly. (TOTAL POSSIBLE: 20CPs)

(2) Passage Introductions: You will be assigned two class meetings in which to do a passage introduction. On these days, you'll be assigned a passage from the readings. You will be responsible for preparing a short (roughly five minute) presentation in which you (1) put the passage in the context of the work as a whole, (2) explain the point the author or character is making in the passage, (3) comment on how the point is being conveyed, and (4) raise questions for class discussion. Each is worth up to 10CPs. (TOTAL POSSIBLE: 20CPs)

(3) TED Clip Analysis: You will watch a series of TED talks about time. You will be given a talk and write up an analysis of what the the primary message of the speaker is and how the speaker is conveying the message. You will identify both strengths and weakness in the presentation. Then with a partner you will prepare a very short (roughly 2-3 minute) presentation of the clip, which you will give in class. (TOTAL POSSIBLE: 10CPs)

(4) Self and Partner Analyses: You will be assigned two Self and Partner Analysis projects, one before your TED talk and one before your final story presentation. You will meet with your partner and together prepare a video of each of you delivering your speech. The video must be one single recording, showing you delivering the talk with minimal notes and practicing the relevant speaking skills. Then you will write up a short analysis of your video talk and your partners, indicating shays it can improve. I will give you a list of questions to answer in your analysis. Both the videos and the analysis will be submitted to me. Each is worth 10 CPs. (TOTAL POSSIBLE: 20 CPs)

(5) TED Talk: You will deliver a TED-style talk in class, following the TED format and discussing some insight about time gleaned from our readings and class discussion. The talk will be well-researched, accurate, engaging and demonstrate the public speaking skills discussed in class. (TOTAL POSSIBLE: 60 CPs)

(6) CSEM's Dreams Talk: You will prepare and deliver original story in the Einstein's Dreams format illustrating a substantive insight about time gleaned from our readings and class discussion. The story will be coherent, creative, engaging and demonstrate the storytelling skills discussed in class. (TOTAL POSSIBLE: 50 CPs)

(7) In-Class Discussion: You are expected to attend each meeting of our CSEM and be prepared for class discussion. You will receive 1 point for each day you actively and consistently contribute to our group discussion (not including days you serve as discussion expert). You may receive up to one additional point for a rare and truly exceptional contribution to our collective understanding. You will receive 0 points for a day in which you make few or no useful contributions to our discussion. And if you are late or absent from class without an approved university excuse, then you will have 1 CP deducted from your grade that day. (TOTAL POSSIBLE: 20 CPs)

(8) Einstein's Dreams: You may earn 5 CPs for serving as a reader for our Einstein's Dreams reading of the day at the start of class. The vignette should be read with accurate pronunciation and volume, and should demonstrate good storytelling technique. You can (and should!) serve as a reader more than once, but you'll only get credit for your first ED reading. (TOTAL POSSIBLE: 5CPs)

Grade Breakdowns:

A: 180 or more CPs.

A-: 170-179 CPs.

B+: 160-169 CPs.

B: 150-159 CPs.

B-: 140-149 CPs.

C+: 130-139 CPs.

C: 120-129 CPs.

D: 110-119 CPs.

F: 109 or fewer CPs.

5 Textbooks and iPad Pilot

You are responsible for getting, reading and bringing to class the following books: A Geography of Time (Robert Levine), Children of Men (PD James), Death and the Afterlife (Samuel Scheffler), Slaughterhouse Five (Kurt Vonnegut). You may get these either as physical books or in e-book format.

You may also wish to get Einstein's Dreams (Lightman), though I will have a copy I bring to class.

Other readings are available on the class Dropbox folder: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4alvxqlovs5foqf/mPvDFWYaKQ>.

Our course is participating in an iPad pilot project through Notre Dame. You may rent an iPad 4 for the semester through Hammes bookstore. We'll learn how to use the iPad to create and beam slide presentations (for your presentations). We'll use it to record video for your self and partner analysis projects. And we will often watch talks online using the iPad. Directions on how to pick up and register your iPad are available on our Sakai site and will be reviewed at our first class. If you have your own tablet, you should feel free to use that,

6 Class Etiquette and Academic Integrity

I expect you to behave ethically, at least as pertains to matters in this class. Students are encouraged to ask questions, respond to other students' questions, and raise issues. Everyone is expected to treat others critically but respectfully. Further, I take academic integrity very seriously. While I encourage you to talk with other students about your ideas, projects must represent your own, original work. Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will be reported to the relevant academic dean, will result in a failing grade on the assignment, and could result in your suspension or expulsion from Notre Dame. If you have any questions about this policy or acceptable collaboration with other students, please contact me.

7 Schedule

DATE AND TOPIC	PREPARE	ASSIGNMENT
1/15: Orientation and iPads	No Prep	
1/20: Clock Time	Read: Chap 3 (Levine), Listen: Radiolab	Group 1 Disc Experts
1/22: Event Time	Read: Chaps 4 and 5 (Levine)	Group 2 Disc Experts
1/27: Pace of Life	Read: Chap 6 (Levine) Watch: TED's Psychology of Time (Zimbardo)	Group 3 Disc Experts
1/29: No Class	Read: Begin Children of Men (James)	
2/3: Pace of Life and Moral Character	Read: Jerusalem to Jericho (Darley and Batson), Chap 7 (Levine), Time, Money Morality (Gino and Mogliner)	Group 4 Disc Experts
2/5: Time and Values in Literature	Read: Children of Men Pt 1 Omega (James)	Passage Introduction 1
2/10: Time and Values in Literature	Read: Children of Men Pt 2 Alpha (James)	Passage Introduction 2
2/12: Time and Values in Philosophy	Read: Chaps 1 and 2 (Scheffler)	Passage Introduction 3
2/17: Time and Values in Philosophy	Read: Chap 3 (Scheffler), Choose One Commentary (Scheffler)	Passage Introduction 4

DATE AND TOPIC	PREPARE	ASSIGNMENT
2/19: Giving a TED Talk	Watch (all TED): Power of Time Off (Stegmaier) Distant Time and Hint of Multiverse (Carroll) The Long Now (Brand) Five Predictions from 1984 (Negroponte) Is this our final century? (Rees)	TED Clip Analysis
2/24: Talk Lab	Draft Talk	Self/Partner Analysis
2/26: TED Talks	Practice	TED Group 1
3/3: TED Talks	Practice	TED Group 2
3/5: TED Talks and Debrief	Practice	TED Group 3
3/10: Spring Break		
3/12: Spring Break		
3/17: Professional Presentation Skills (ND Career Center)		
3/19: Class Rescheduled	Start Slaughterhouse Five (Vonnegut)	
3/24: Time Bias and Our Obsession with the Present	Read: Selections (Epicurus/Lucretius) Death (Nagel) Against Time Bias (Greene and Sullivan)	Group 1 Disc Experts Group 2 Disc Experts
3/26: Barriers to Rational Planning	Read: Nudge Selections	Group 3 Disc Experts
3/31: Barriers to Rational Planning	Read: Trans Experience Selections (Paul)	Group 4 Disc Experts
4/2: Time and the Self	Read: Trans Experience Selections (Paul)	
4/7: Models of Time and Possibility of Time Travel	Read: Confessions Selections (Augustine)	
4/9: Time, History and Fatalism	Listen: Does Time Go By? (Velleman)	In-Class TT Contest
4/14: Time, History and Fatalism	Read: Paradoxes of Time Travel (Lewis)	
4/16: Dream Lab	Time (Sider)	Passage Intro Groups 1, 2
4/21: Easter Break	Read Half of Slaughterhouse Five	Passage Intro Groups 3, 4
4/23: CSEM's Dreams	Finish Slaughterhouse Five	Self/Partner Analysis
4/28: CSEM's Dreams	Draft Dream Story	
4/30: CSEM's Dreams	Keep Practicing Story	Story Group 1
TBD: CSEM Film Night	Practice	Story Group 2
	Practice	Story Group 3
	Practice	TBD
	TBD	