

— JUDY AND BOBBY — SHACKOULS HONORS COLLEGE

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

<u>Course Number:</u>	<u>Course Title:</u>	<u>Semester:</u>
HON 3163: H01	Honors Seminar in Natural Sciences. Chernobyl: Past, Present, Future	Spring, 2021
<u>Instructor:</u>	<u>Email:</u>	<u>Meeting Day, Time, Room</u>
Dr. Angela Farmer	afarmer@honors.msstate.edu	T/Th: 8:30-9:45
<u>Phone:</u>	<u>Office Hours:</u>	<u>307 Griffis</u>
662-325-0296	Mon: 9-12; T/Th: 10-11; Fri: by appt.	

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to unpack the biggest environmental impact of the 20th century, Chernobyl. The course will analyze Kate Brown's "Manual for Survival: A Chernobyl Guide to the Future," "Midnight in Chernobyl" by Adam Higginbotham, and "Voices from Chernobyl," by Svetlana Alexichvich. In addition we will reflect, in brief, on the HBO/SKY mini-series "Chernobyl: The Final Warning" as well as the Netflix documentary, "Mytomb."

Class participation and educated, engaged classroom discussions are paramount to this course. Students should always attend class and always have their materials ready to share at the start of the lesson.

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to do the following:

- Recognize and articulate environmental impacts that challenges scientific advancement.
- Present professional, alternative viewpoints on relevant topics.
- Support their alternative points-of-view with data and/or scientific information.
- Present in a formal, professional, respectful and articulate manner.
- Recognize and respect how man's advancement in science risks the survival of life on Earth.

TEACHING METHOD:

The course will be conducted as a seminar, meaning ALL students are expected to attend all sessions and arrive to class with the assigned writings completed to share with the class.

GRADING POLICY:

10 percentage point scale: 90-100% A; 80-89% B; 70-79% C; 60-69% D; Below 60% F

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Course grading is based on the following:

Attendance and participation (**5 points/class x 30 classes**) = 150 points

Completion of quality topic papers (**20 point X 10 papers**) = 200 points

Papers should be one page, DS, one-inch margins.

- 3rd person
- Points will be deducted for grammatical errors.
- 12 point font

Completion of the Final Examination (100 points)

JANUARY 5: Syllabus review and topic introduction.

JANUARY 7: Discussion of “Midnight in Chernobyl,” Chapters 1-2.

JANUARY 12: Discussion of MC, Chapters 3-4.

JANUARY 14: **20 POINT PAPER #1 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS summarizing Chapters 1-4.**

*Last paragraph should reflect your personal view of the material to date.

Discussion of Chapters 5-6.

JANUARY 19: Discussion of Chapters 7-8.

JANUARY 21: **20 POINT PAPER #2 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS summarizing Chapters 5-8.***

Discussion of Chapters 9 and review of Part I: Birth of City.

JANUARY 26: Discussion of Chapters 10-11. Zoom session with expert Nuclear Engineer w/ DOE

JANUARY 28: Discussion of Chapters 12-13.

FEBRUARY 2: **20 POINT PAPER #3 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS summarizing Chapters 10-13.***

FEBRUARY 4: Discussion of Chapters 14-15.

FEBRUARY 9: Discussion of Chapters 16-17

FEBRUARY 11: **20 POINT PAPER #4 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS summarizing Chapters 14-17.***

FEBRUARY 16: Discussion of Chapters 18-19

FEBRUARY 18: Discussion of Chapter 20 and reflection/discussion on Part 2: Death of an Empire.

FEBRUARY 23: **20 POINT PAPER #4 DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS summarizing Chapters 18-20.***

Introduction and discussion of “Voices from Chernobyl.”

FEBRUARY 25: Read first 5 stories from VFC for this class meeting. Be prepared to discuss.

MARCH 2: Read 5 other stories from VFC, and be prepared to discuss.

MARCH 4: 20 POINT PAPER #5 DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS over which story you found most powerful and why. What lessons can this letter teach society today?

We will discuss these in class. Be prepared to discuss with the class during the next meeting, after break.

MARCH 9 week: BREAK

MARCH 16: Favorite reading discussions. Zoom with Nuclear Engineer w/DOE

MARCH 18: Discussion of letters.

MARCH 23: Read Part I of Kate Brown's "Manual for Survival" and be prepared to discuss in class.

MARCH 30: Read Part II and be prepared to discuss

APRIL 1: **20 POINT PAPER #6.** Summary paper over Part I and II. Part I is one page. Part II is one page. Your take away from this reading is one page. Finish discussion of Part I and II.

APRIL 6: Read Part III and be prepared to discuss.

APRIL 8: Read Part IV and be prepared to discuss

APRIL 13: **20 POINT PAPER #7 DUE providing a summary of Part III and IV.** Page 1 over Part III. Page 2 over part IV. We will read Part V together in class. Bring your book.

APRIL 15: Read part VI, p. 211-232 for classes. Be prepared to discuss.

APRIL 20: Read the rest of VI through Part VII for class

APRIL 22 Review for final. Final is a summary composite summary of each of the three books. One page per book for a total of 3 pages. One additional page comparing and contrasting the three books and detailing how they offer a different image of the event and the impacts to the world. Total of 4 pages.

Final examination: April 30 unless otherwise scheduled. Students with 90% or greater do not have to take the final. Others will submit a summary of the remaining pages of Brown's book (3 pages) AND detail what they consider the most powerful and memorable moments from the collective books read, up to 5 (2 pages).

REQUIRED TEXTS: Higginbotham, A. (2019) "Midnight in Chernobyl." Brown, K. (2019) "Manual for Survival: A Chernobyl Guide to the Future." Alexievich, S. (2005). "Voices from Chernobyl."

STUDENT HONOR CODE

Mississippi State has an approved Honor Code that applies to all students. The code is as follows: "As a Mississippi State University student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do." Upon accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor Code. For additional information, please visit: <http://honorcode.msstate.edu/policy>

TITLE IX

MSU is committed to complying with Title IX a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU's educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced

sex discrimination, sexual violence and /or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU's Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 325-8124 or by email to titleix@msstate.edu. Additional resources are available at <http://www.msstate.edu/web/security/title9-12.pdf> or <http://students.msstate.edu/sexualmisconduct>

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who need academic accommodations based on a disability should visit the Office of Student Support Services, 01 Montgomery Hall, call 662-325-3335, or visit the website at www.sss.msstate.edu

RESEARCH

Each student is expected to conduct library research and prepare a formal introduction to the author/book for which they are leading the discussion. "Library research" is defined as utilizing primary sources (whether literary, visual, material, etc.) and scholarly secondary sources. Scholarly or academic writing includes articles in peer-reviewed journals, monographs or books published by university presses (and certain trade presses), and entries in scholarly reference works (e.g. some subject encyclopedias). Reference librarians can help you identify and obtain these resources, and you should obtain prior approval from your professor if you are at all uncertain about whether or not something is an academic source. While the majority of academic scholarship (especially in the humanities) is on paper, electronic resources can be used as long as they fit the description above. Please follow the APA guide to writing for this class.

University Safety Statement. Mississippi State University values the safety of all campus community members. Students are encouraged to register for Maroon Alert texts and to download the Everbridge App. Visit the Personal Information section in Banner on your mystate portal to register. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort via Safe Walk, call University Police at 662-325-2121, or in case of emergency, call 911. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit ready.msstate.edu.