

Spring 2009

Haddad, Political Science 298 (Special Topic)

Wednesdays 1:00-3:30 p.m., PPHAC 338

## **The Time of Your Life: Facebook Stalking, Ipod Walking, Nonsense Talking**

Why do we think the way we do? What conditions our thinking? This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of contemporary consciousness. We will examine the effects of technology on dominant modes of thought. In this context, we will consider how economies and cultures of time use shape our daily existence. Readings include contemporary research on the cognitive and sociopolitical impact of familiar everyday technologies and practices.

Books for purchase at the Moravian College Bookstore:

- Carl Honore, *In Praise of Slowness: Challenging the Cult of Speed* (Harper)
- Josef Pieper, *Leisure The Basis of Culture* (Pantheon)
- Eviatar Zerubavel, *Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past* (Chicago)
- Thomas Hylland Eriksen, *Tyranny of the Moment: Fast and Slow Time in the Information Age* (Pluto)

Additionally, articles will be available on Blackboard.

Assignments and evaluation:

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Consciousness and communication  | 30%                      |
| • 3-page paper due 2/13            | 15%                      |
| • Research paper proposal due 3/13 | 20%                      |
| • Research paper draft due 4/3     | required, but not graded |
| • Research paper final version due | 35%                      |

Course Objectives:

- To investigate what we think by studying how we think

- To understand the political implications of a particular culture of thought

Wednesday, January 21	Introduction
Wednesday, January 28	
Wednesday, February 4	
Wednesday, February 11	
Wednesday, February 18	
Wednesday, February 25	
Wednesday, March 11	
Wednesday, March 18	
Wednesday, March 25	
Wednesday, April 1	
Wednesday, April 8	
Wednesday, April 15	
Wednesday, April 22	
Wednesday, April 29	

Why I would like to improve my intellectual experience:

How I can improve my intellectual experience this semester:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

### **Engagement Rubric**

- A** Critical, innovative and careful reading of all assignments; substantial notes or written preparation for discussion; frequent text-based contributions; contribution of discussion-shaping questions; careful engagement of the arguments of others; support of positive discussion dynamics.
- B** Complete and careful readings; consistent notes or written preparation for discussion; lively, substantial, and argumentative text-based contributions; contribution of independent questions; engagement of the arguments of others.
- C** Superficial readings; minimal notes or written preparation for discussion; regular (at least once per meeting) discussion participation.
- D** Incomplete or missing readings; lack of notes or written preparation for discussion; mostly passive presence.
- F** Persistent, vegetative state; low-level trance; slightly elevated body temperature.

### **What you need to know about taking Political Science 298**

1. I invite you to visit my office hours. Please be in touch with any questions and thoughts you may have about our work together. You may also contact me by e-mail, [haddad@moravian.edu](mailto:haddad@moravian.edu). Office hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 3:45 to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Please note: Occasionally, I will be at faculty meetings on Thursdays.
2. Please support a culture of discussion: turn off your phone, do not bring food to class, learn the names of other students, engage others intellectually, and take responsibility for the quality of our collective work.
3. In light of the high value I place on your engagement in class, I discourage all unnecessary absences. Please contact me regarding documented absences and emergency situations.
4. You cannot pass this class without completing all assignments.
5. I do not accept late assignments. Please contact me in case of illness or emergency.

6. Plagiarism will result in failure of the particular assignment. Please see Moravian College Student Handbook for an account of academic honesty. See <http://moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>
7. Students with a documented learning disability who desire accommodations for this course must first visit the Office of Learning Services (Extension 1510) and follow College procedures on receiving accommodations.