Discovery Seminar

"THE GREATEST THING BY FAR IS TO BE A MASTER OF METAPHOR." -- ARISTOTLE

New research demonstrates that metaphors are more than rhetorical devices for poets or playwrights. Metaphors change the way we think about complex ideas like war, time, economy, love, illness, drugs, gender, justice, and race. When one thing is structured in terms of another — for example, thinking of drug addiction as a “war,” or justice enacted with “scales,” or hope as a “thing with feathers” — our perceptions unconsciously shift. New meaning, not just new expression, emerges. In this Discovery Seminar, we will read psychological studies on how metaphors profoundly shape the way we think. Students will have autonomy choosing a prevalent conceptual metaphor to research.

Class meets
TuTh 2:40-3:55
Pierce Hall 104

SARAH.HIGINBOTHAM@EMORY.EDU
OFFICE HOURS
CANDLER HALL 209
TU Th 1:30-2:30

Dr. Sarah Higinbotham
Oxford College of Emory University

"Hope is a thing with feathers"
Classroom Policies
Open for Debate!

In addition to respectful, engaged participation, I have the following (somewhat controversial) classroom policies:
1) no laptops unless we are specifically using them, for example during the workshop days;
2) cell phones on silent and in your bags;
3) you should ask at least two questions or make two comments in each class.

What if speaking during class is extremely uncomfortable for you?
You may write down your comments and/or questions and give them to me at the end of class.

Alternatively, if you are very enthusiastic about speaking in class, please refrain from making more than five comments or asking more than five questions. You may write down what you were not able to say and I will read it after class. I also urge you to come to my office hours, and if they do not suit your schedule, arrange alternative office hours with me. This is to keep the entire class equitably participating during the time we have together.

Important Note on Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism, from the Latin word for “kidnapping,” is presenting another person’s work as your own.

When you use someone else’s language, ideas, images, or other original material without fully acknowledging its source, you will be in violation of Emory Oxford’s Honor Code.

Every assignment will have specific, clear guidelines. While the work itself will be challenging, you should never be confused about what is expected or how it will be evaluated. If you do, please ask questions in class, email, or come see me.
We Should Disagree

I think most of what I have learned that is of any consequence has come through disagreement and further exploration. I welcome your respectful disagreements with me. If we all interpret the articles we are reading in the same way, we have a problem, because no true thinking will be occurring. Learn to relish when someone disagrees with you! Disagreements make the classroom environment more interesting, productive, generative, and challenging.

Our classroom is not Plato’s Cave.

Please note, though, that the college classroom is a place where ideas are exchanged respectfully. I look forward to an environment where this will occur, but I don’t have much tolerance for distracting behavior, such as rudeness, texting, sleeping, or side communications during class. If your participation is disruptive to the classroom discussion, if it creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive environment, you are subject to removal from the classroom at my discretion.

See Emory Oxford’s Code of Conduct

You may revise any of your projects in this Discovery Seminar.

The ability to accept and act on criticism is one of the most valuable abilities you can develop. Can you hear constructive criticism with an open mind, build on lessons learned, and make revisions in response to suggestions? Then I will assess your revised project a second time.

A revision isn’t just a quick fix of the obvious errors, but a “re-vision,” or another look at your project, in which you address feedback. If you choose to revise, it can only help, not hurt your grade. The revision must be emailed to me within one week and include a cover letter, in which you explain to me what and why you revised what you did.
Thursday, August 20  
Introductions & "Metaphors We Think With"

Tuesday, August 25  
More introductions, discuss "Metaphors We Think With"

Thursday, August 27  
"Metaphors We Live By, pp. 1-21"

Tuesday, September 1  
"Metaphors Covertly Influence Reasoning"

Thursday, September 3  
Portfolio Workshop with Dr. Peter McLellan

Tuesday, September 8  
Metaphors and Genius

Thursday, September 10  
Military Metaphors and Covid-19

Tuesday, September 15  
Peer review for first paper (come with draft on your laptop)

Thursday, September 17  
Paper 1 due: Reflection on one of the articles, 3 pages

Tuesday, September 22  
Discuss Paper 1, Anne Le-Huu Pineault Zooms with us

Thursday, September 24  
Climate Change and Metaphor

Tuesday, September 29  
Metaphors Are More Emotionally Engaging

Thursday, October 1  
Cancer and Metaphor

Tuesday, October 6  
Peer review for first paper (come with draft on your laptop)

Thursday, October 8  
Paper 2 due, Reflection on one of the articles, 3 pages

Tuesday, October 13  
Supreme Court Case: Brown v Plata, and dissenting opinions

Thursday, October 15  
Dr. Higinbotham participating in seminar (no class)

Tuesday, October 20  
Discuss Paper 2

Thursday, October 22  
Annotated Bibliography due (Use OWL Purdue for format)

Tuesday, October 27  
Workshopping Presentations

Thursday, October 29  
Workshopping Presentations

Tuesday, November 3  
Presentations

Thursday, November 5  
Presentations

Tuesday, November 10  
Presentations

Thursday, November 12  
Presentations

Tuesday, November 17  
Presentations

Thursday, November 19  
Presentations

Tuesday, November 24  
Reflect & Celebrate