‘TIME’

COURSE #: FYSEM-UA 679.001
SYLLABUS V1 ON 7/18/17
(4 CREDITS)
NYU CAS First-Year Seminar Course for Fall 2017

Class Location: BOBST, Rm LL149
Class Meeting Times: Tu 12:30 – 3:00 PM

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Course Description:

‘TIME’ …a single word, a simple word, and—beyond reading the face of a watch—a term few understand (although all ‘worry about’). We sometimes ‘reflect upon it’ ….but usually—for most—just for a few brief seconds….as we “don’t have the time for this.” Now, in this course, we will take the time to consider ‘Time’…to build a personal philosophy we what we will choose to with our ‘time’, often combatting what our culture tries to impose upon us. You will have the opportunity to further develop your reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills while examining how ideas about ‘time’ are constructed, interrelated, and how they can inform, limit, or inspire the way we see ourselves in our social worlds. Our weekly work will consist of reading a range of texts, viewing films, writing in a variety of modes, and collaborating closely with one another. Class time will be devoted primarily to discussion of readings, and film viewings, all related to an evolving notion of ‘time’. While there are no examinations (i.e., tests) per se, the course evaluation of students will be based upon seven major assignments, six of them written papers (~500 - 750 word essays), with the seventh being the creation and presentation of the student’s own original cartography timeline.
COURSE MATERIALS

Textbooks

For the 6 Major Writing Assignments

1) *A Geography of Time* by Robert Levine, 280 pp  
2) *Woman of the Dunes* by Kobo Abe (1962, re-issue 1991) 256 pp  
3) *The Art of Procrastination: a Guide to Effective Dawdling, Lollygagging and Postponing* 112 pp  
4) *The Slow Professor* by Maggie Berg and Barbara Secker 128 pp  
5) *The Curious Cases of Benjamin Little*, a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, 54 pp  

(so for Readings #1-6: a total of 1,331 pages of assigned reading, \( \mu = \approx 95 \) pages/week;  
with specific weekly reading assignments for texts #1-5 ranging from 54-280 pp,  
with one large text (#6) for the 'Take-Home' Final Exam = 501 pp)

For the Major Oral Presentation Assignment

7) *Cartographies of Time: A History of the Timeline*, D Rosenberg, and A Grafton 272 pp  

General Resource Books & Articles –all required:

1) *A Briefer History of Time* by Stephen Hawkins (2005) *selected Chapters only*  
2) ‘Clocking Cultures’ editorial in *Scientific American* magazine, Special Issue 2011
3) ‘A Chronicle of Time Keeping’ article in *Scientific American* magazine, Special Issue 2011

Films

1) ‘Woman of the Dunes’, directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara (1964)

Song Lyrics

1) *Unchained Melody* written by A. North & H. Zabet (1955)  
   sung by The Righteous Brothers (Publ by Lyrics at SONY/ATV Publ LLC  
   Watch this version on u-tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrK5u5W8af8c
2) *Time is on My Side* written by J Ragovoy, sung by The Rolling Stones (1965)  
   (Publ by Lyrics @ Warner/Chappell Music, Inc.  
   Watch this version on u-tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KukWz1xQQCw&list=RDKukWz1xQQCw#t=114
3) *Time Has Come Today* written by Willie & Joe Chambers, sung by The Chambers Brothers (1967), (Publ by Universal Music Publishing Group)  
   (lyrics accessed at http://lyrics.wikia.com/wiki/The_Chambers_Brothers:Time_Has_Come_Today  
   Watch this version on u-tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CsBwBct0_5U
DESCRIPTION OF MINOR & MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS & other supplemental writings:

1st Minor Assignment writing exercise: As an ‘in-class’ writing exercise, you will write a short essay (250 words) on ‘What does TIME mean to you?’

1st Major Writing Assignment: ‘The Geography of Time’
As an initial writing assignment (and to get the ‘ink flowing’), you will write a two page, 500 word paper: page one will summarize the storyline of ‘The Geography of Time’ (max: 250 words), and page two will address ‘how your culture/peers influence how you spend/pass your time’ (max: 250 words).
(Due 9/11 at 5 PM)

2nd Major Writing Assignment — ‘Woman of the Dunes: book vs film’ [done in 2 steps]
Your initial task for the 2nd Major Writing Assignment is to write a short academic essay (~500 words) in which you analyze a single text, ‘Woman of the Dunes’ to discuss the meaning of ‘time’ in that book. How does the book ‘Woman of the Dunes’ make an argument about time? Carefully analyze the text of ‘Woman of the Dunes’ in order to illuminate, critique or refine its complex embedded ideas.
(STEP 1: 1st Draft due 9/18 at 5 PM)

You will then draw upon a second source, namely the movie version of ‘Woman of the Dunes’, to deepen your analysis of the primary text’s meaning and significance. Your final draft of Major Assignment 1 (750 words max) should ‘compare and contrast’ the techniques used by the book writer and the movie director to achieve their impact on their audience, being sure to also describe ‘the impact’ that each achieves. Remember that your ideas must be grounded in the written text and in the movie as constructed. In order to do this well, you must support your analysis with direct and substantial evidence from both the text and from the movie.
(STEP 2: Final version due: 10/2 at 5 PM) (~750 words)

3rd Major Writing Assignment: ‘The Art of Procrastination’
Your task for the 3rd Major Writing Assignment is to write a short academic essay in which you develop a complex, interpretive argument about the primary text ‘The Art of Procrastination’, drawing upon several other thematically-related sources in order to deepen and sustain your assessment of the primary source’s significance on the issue of ‘Procrastination: Time Savior or Time Satan?’. In other words, you will build an analytical framework around the scholarly text ‘The Art of Procrastination’ by putting it in the context of 2-3 other rigorous, relevant sources that you will have personally identified that address topics raised in ‘The Art of Procrastination’. Evaluate each source’s perspectives, identify what you consider to be the crucial argument, and then develop an idea of your own that stems from this debate. Make sure your readers not only understand the authors’ motives and the authors’ sense of the implications at stake, but that they also have a clear sense of where you stand. In this way you will make an argument about the meaning and significance of ‘The Art of Procrastination’ while simultaneously making a case for your analytical approach. (~750 words)
(Final Version with 2-3 cited references to back-up your ideas Due: 10/16 at 5 PM) (~750 words)
4th Major Writing Assignment: ‘The Curious Case of Benjamin Little’
You will write a short essay (max: 500 words) on comparing the short-story ‘The Curious Case of Benjamin Little’ by F. Scott Fitzgerald, as originally written in 1922, with its adaptation into the 2008 movie of the same name. Your essay will focus on how the concept of ‘a reverse life’ as written by Fitzgerald is visually ‘handled’ in the movie version. (~500 words)
(Due: 10/23 at 5 PM)

5th Major Writing Assignment: ‘The Slow Professor’
You will read the book ‘The Slow Professor’ and you will develop a nuanced argument of your own that stems from careful analysis of this text and your parallel inquiry into related secondary sources on the book’s topic ‘finding and creating ‘time’ for careful thoughtful work’ and ‘avoiding administrative pressures from bosses that force one rush and multi-task. Your cited secondary sources should consist of 2-3 original research articles on the benefits and/or shortcomings of ‘multi-tasking’. Make sure you don’t lose sight of your primary text (or its context) as you write, and that you incorporate concrete examples from your 2-3 citations. (~500 words).
(Due: 11/20 at 5 PM)

6th Major Writing Assignment: ‘Charles Darwin Biography, Vol 2: The Power of Place’
This 6th Major Writing Assignment will serve as your ‘Take-Home’ Final Exam. You will compare and/or contrast the ‘time’ theme from The Power of Place with any ONE or MORE themes previously met in the course, e.g., Woman of the Dunes, The Art of Procrastination, The Slow Professor, or any other reading—or thinking—you have done in the course. Your presentation must have an argument, supporting evidence, and show a clear awareness of real-world concerns. (max: 750 words)
(Due: 12/18 at 5 PM….the 1st day of Finals Week

Major Oral Presentation Assignment: Your original ‘Cartography Timeline’
Your task is to make a 5-minute presentation to the class of your own original ‘Cartography Timeline’ plus 250 word description your ‘Cartography Timeline’. Your original ‘Cartography Timeline’ must be an illustration/graphic showing ‘some aspect of time passing’ accompanied by an engaging oral presentation related to the key theme of the course, i.e., ‘Time’.
N.B. You are free to use notes but presentations should not be read out loud from typed pages (unless…UNLESS…you are a world-class actor, such as Sir Alex Guinness or Sir Richard Burton!)
(Due date for online submission of your original Cartography Timeline graphic + 250 word description: 11/27 at 5 PM)
(Oral Presentations for this Major Oral Presentation will occur on: EITHER on 11/28 or 12/5)

GRADING Policy
The breakdown of your final grade is as follows:
10% 1st Major Writing Assignment: on The Geography of Time
10% 2nd Major Writing Assignment: on Woman of the Dunes
10% 3rd Major Writing Assignment: on The Art of Procrastination
10% 4th Major Writing Assignment: on The Curious Case of Benjamin Little
10% 5th Major Writing Assignment: on The Slow Professor
30% 6th Major Writing Assignment, the Take-Home’ FINAL EXAM: on Charles Darwin, Vol II: The Power of Place
20% Major Oral Presentation Assignment: 5-minutes on ‘your Cartography Timeline’
+ written description of ‘your Cartography Timeline’
PARTICIPATION
As a class we’re striving to create a inquiring and thinking class atmosphere….and our success hinges on your engaged preparation and active participation. This means students are expected not only to do the assigned reading and writing assignments, they are expected to come to class having completed assigned readings and ready to think, write, and speak regularly class.

[N.B., ‘participation’ is NOT graded separately, as it is fully expected that all students will fully participate in class discussions and that the resulting enrichment and insights gained will materially improve their written papers. But mostly, the absence of ‘participation’ is a ‘wasted opportunity to grow’ in thinking and articulation of one’s own ideas, which is the most critical skill to acquire in a liberal arts education]

Due Dates—All exercises and portfolios should be submitted on or before the deadline.
- All written assignments must be uploaded to NYU Classes as a WORD.docx file into the Assignment section of our course website on NYU Classes.
- The Cartography Timeline graphic should also be uploaded to NYU Classes as a PDF file, again into the Assignment section of our course website on NYU Classes.

If you have a legitimate reason for needing an extension you must contact me before the work is due.

Attendance—You are expected to attend all class sessions.

In addition, on all submitted written assignments:
1) Put your full name and the page number
2) Use Times New Roman Font 12
3) Always type and double-space your work
4) Each document you submit to NYU Classes should use the following naming protocol:
   Your First & Last Name + the name of the assignment + the date.
   for example: John Sexton 1st Major Writing Assignment September 16, 2017

Plagiarism (Academic Integrity)—The passing off of another’s words or ideas as your own is a serious offense and will be handled in accordance with the official university policy on academic dishonesty: https://nyuad.nyu.edu/students/campus.life/policies/policy.academic.integrity.html

RVK comment on Plagiarism…and academe’s failing attempt to ‘control’ it in today’s world:
In this modern, global, multicultural world of ‘online’, ‘social media’ and ‘blogs’, some confusion arises at times in a student’s mind whether it is necessary to ‘cite’ a source. First, let’s remember that there is no culture on this planet in which ‘taking credit for someone else’s ideas or writing….or possessions’ is well-regarded (except for criminal cultures!). Second, if you have any doubt as to whether a citation ‘is needed’, that very doubt suggests it is….so cited it! Remember: this is no penalty for ‘over-citation’, but severe penalties for omitting a required citation.

Operational Rule of Thumb: “IF IN DOUBT, CITE IT”
**‘TIME’ Course Calendar for Fall 2017**

**WEEK 1**
- **Tu: 9/5** Welcome, Intros, Course Logistics, & ‘Detoxing on Sharing One’s Writing’ and in-class Minor Writing Assignment #1: What does TIME mean to you? (200-300 words)
  
  **Assignments:**
  - read ‘The Geography of Time’ by Levine (280 pp)
  - write 2-page paper on *The Geography of Time* (due Mon 9/11 at 5 PM)
    - Page 1 (250 words): summarize storyline
    - Page 2 (250 words): on how your culture/peers influence how you spend/pass your time

**WEEK 2**
- **Tu: 9/12** Discussion of 1st Major Writing Assignment: ‘The Geography of Time’ and your essay theme will address ‘how your culture and peers influence how you spend/pass your time’

  **Assignment:**
  - read ‘Woman of the Dunes’ (256 pp) (complete reading book by 9/18)

  **Assignment:**
  - write 2nd Major Writing Assignment, 1st Step: 500 word essay on the book ‘Woman of the Dunes’ - due Mon, 9/18 at 5 PM
    - Page 1 (250 words): summarize storyline
    - Page 2 (250 words): discuss what the ‘meaning of time’ is in the book

**WEEK 3**
- **Tu: 9/19** Discuss the book: ‘Woman of the Dunes’

  Discussion of ‘What does TIME mean to you’ papers
  
  Part I: read your own submitted ‘Time’ paper (handed out by instructor)
  Part II: read (dramatically) your ‘Time paper’ out-loud to class
  Part III: discuss class’ concepts of ‘Time’: reaction to other’s ideas

  **Assignment:**
  - view film ‘Woman of the Dunes’ - by Mon, 9/25 at 5 PM
  - re-read your 2nd Major Writing Assignment essay on ‘Woman of the Dunes’
    (with note-taking for comparing & contrasting with book)

**WEEK 4**
- **Tu: 9/26** View segments of & Discuss film: ‘Woman of the Dunes’

  (with additional & revised note-taking for comparing & contrasting with book)

  **Assignment:**
  - write 2nd Major Writing Assignment, 2nd Step, FINAL VERSION:
    ~750 word essay comparing & contrasting the book & film versions of ‘Woman of the Dunes’ due Mon, 10/2 at 5 PM
**WEEK 5**

- **Tu: 10/3**
  - Discussion of 2nd Major Assignment, FINAL essay on ‘Woman of the Dunes: book vs film’
  - Discussion of *Cartographies of Time, Part I:*
    - bring *Cartographies of Time* textbook to class to begin creating ‘your own’ Timeline
    - EXAMINE ‘*Cartographies of Time*’ to identify one that is closest to your image of ‘time’ that most appeals to you…to present/discuss in class on 10/31
  
  **Assignment:**
  - read *The Art of Procrastination*, 3rd Major Assignment (112 pp)
  - write 1st draft 500 word essay on ‘Procrastination: Time Savior or Time Satan?’
  - 1st draft ….due on Monday, 10/9 at 5 PM
  - select your favorite song on ‘time’ and bring 16 copies of lyrics to class

**WEEK 6**

- **Tu: 10/10**
  - Discussion of your 1st draft of 3rd Major Writing Assignment on the ‘Art of Procrastination’
  - Listen, Read & Discuss: Teacher’s Choice: 3 song lyrics on ‘Time’
  - Present your favorite song on ‘time’ to the class

  **Assignment:**
  - write Final essay on ‘Procrastination: Time Savior or Time Satan?’ (~750 words)
  - this FINAL version should incorporate 2-3 citations as evidence for your ideas
  - ….due on Mon, 10/16 at 5 PM
  - read ‘*The Curious Case of Benjamin Little*’ by F. Scott Fitzgerald (54 pp)
  - by 10/16…….in preparation for the 4th Major Writing Assignment

**WEEK 7**

- **Tu: 10/17**
  - Discussion on 3rd Major Writing Assignment: ‘Procrastination: Time Savior or Time Satan?’
  - Discussion of reading: ‘*The Curious Case of Benjamin Little*’ by F. Scott Fitzgerald
  - Discussion of *Cartographies of Time, Part III:*
    - bring *Cartographies of Time* textbook to class to continue creating ‘your own’ Timeline
    - EXAMINE ‘*Cartographies of Time*’ to identify one that is closest to your image of ‘time’ that most appeals to you…to present/discuss in class on 10/31
  
  **Assignment:**
  - view film on u-Tube: ‘The Curious Case of Benjamin Little’ by David Fincher
  - write the 4th Major Writing Assignment on ‘*The Curious Case of Benjamin Little*’, your essay (~500 words) will focus on how the concept of ‘a reverse life’ as written by Fitzgerald is visually ‘handled’ in the movie version. Due: 10/23 by 5 PM
WEEK 8
-TU 10/24  Discussion on 4th Major Writing Assignment: on ‘The Curious Case of Benjamin Little’
Assignments:
- read Chapters 1-6 in ‘A Briefer History of Time’ by Stephen Hawking by 10/30 (49 pp)
- read ‘Clocking Cultures’ editorial, Scientific American magazine, Special Issue 2011
- read ‘A Chronicle of Time Keeping’ article, Scientific American magazine, Special Issue 2011

WEEK 9
- Tu: 10/31  Discussion of Chapters 1-6 in ‘A Briefer History of Time’ by Stephen Hawking
Discussion of ‘A Chronicle of Time Keeping’ article
Identify Cultural Clock ‘variable questions’ a la Levine study in ‘Clocking Cultures’
Cartographies of Time, Part IV: bring Cartographies of Time textbook to class
  Part I: oral reports on each student’s identified illustration of the one that you simply ‘like the best’
  Part II: begin creating your own Timeline
Assignment: work on your own ‘Cartography Timeline’
  - read Part I (pp 1-164) in ‘Charles Darwin: a Biography, Vol 2: the Power of Place’
  and write 250-word summary of pp 1-164 of those pages. Due: 11/6

WEEK 10
- Tu: 11/7  Discussion of Part I (pp 1-164) in ‘Charles Darwin: a Biography, Vol 2: the Power of Place’
Assignment:
  - read Part II (pp 165-324) in ‘Charles Darwin: a Biography, Vol 2: the Power of Place’
  and write 250-word summary of pp 165-324) of those pages. Due: 11/13

WEEK 11
- Tu: 11/14  Discussion of Part II (pp 164-324) in ‘Charles Darwin: a Biography, Vol 2: the Power of Place’
Assignment:
  - read The Slow Professor, the reading for 5th Major Assignment (128 pp)
  - write 5th Major Assignment, on The Slow Professor (~ 500 words), due 11/20 at 5 PM

WEEK 12
- Tu: 11/21  Discussion of The Slow Professor, the 5th Major Writing Assignment
Lecture on ‘the Adventures of the Cold Fusion Boys: an alternative approach to Time’

Assignment: complete Major Presentation Assignment: your own ‘Original Cartography Timeline’
Due date for electronic submission of PDF file of your ‘Original Cartography Timeline’ + 250 description to our NYU Classes website:
Monday, 11/27 at 5 PM

11/22 – 11/26 Wed – Sun            THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
**WEEK 13**

- Tu: 11/28      5-minute Oral Presentations of each students’ Original Cartography Timeline’ with 5-minute class discussion of each presentation
  Major Oral Presentation Assignment, by students #1-8

  - read Part III (pp 325 - end) in ‘*Charles Darwin: a Biography, Vol 2: the Power of Place*’ and begin writing 6th Major Writing Assignment, a 750-word summary,
  your ‘Take-Home’ Final Exam,  Due: 12/18 at 5 PM

**WEEK 14**

- Tu: 12/5      5-minute Oral Presentations of each students’ Original Cartography Timeline’, with 5-minute class discussion of each presentation
  Major Oral Presentation Assignment, by students #9-16

  and complete writing 6th Major Writing Assignment, a 750-word summary of ‘*Charles Darwin: a Biography, Vol 2: the Power of Place*’
  your ‘Take-Home’ Final Exam,  Due: 12/18 at 5 PM

**12/16 – 12/17  READING DAYS**

**12/18 – 12/22  FINAL EXAMS**

  Due on 12/18 at 5 PM:  ‘Take-Home’ Final Exam
  your 750 word essay on: ‘*Charles Darwin: a Biography, Vol 2: the Power of Place*’