

# COM 691: Mindful Heresy (2020 Spring)

## Professor

Sarah Amira de la Garza, Ph.D., D.Min.

**Course Meeting Time & Place:** Tuesday, 3:00 pm - 5:45 pm, Stauffer A 431

## Faculty Office

Stauffer Hall A, Room 341

## Office Hours and Contact Information

Dr. de la Garza is available from 1:30-4:30 on Wednesday afternoons and by appointment. A sign-up sheet is available on her office door for students to reserve 15-minute time segments during office hours. She may be contacted by text message to her dedicated work phone (602-910-9494) or by email to [delagarza@asu.edu](mailto:delagarza@asu.edu) to make appointments. At other times she may be available to meet you.

## Nature of the Course

This seminar explores de la Garza's theoretical construct of "Mindful Heresy" through a thorough exploration of related concepts and theories, with an emphasis on engaged praxis and poesis. Mindful Heresy is offered as the conscious violation of the orthodoxies of esteemed groups to whom an individual feels loyalty and through whom they attribute significant aspects of their social identities. Students are expected to read broadly, write occasional short essays as required, participate in class discussions and activities, and complete one final project (may be a joint endeavor), a final essay, and write a final performative poetic collection of verse for public performance.

## Seminar Assistants:

This course will have two seminar assistants who will be working closely with the professor to prepare class materials, lectures/discussions, and activities. Seminar assistants may be consulted for creative or conceptual exploration on assignments, but all communications will be shared with the professor. *Seminar Assistants are not authorized to alter or adapt class requirements and are not to be consulted regarding grading of assignments. They are not able to access your evaluations or grades due to FERPA guidelines.*

## Required Readings:

Required texts for this class have been ordered through Follett bookstore or will be made available via course folders on Canvas or by hard copy from the professor. Please see schedule following this syllabus to identify the class dates for readings required. Students are expected to do the reading for the class.

## Course Assignments:

*All course assignments will be provided under the Canvas Assignments tab as made available by Dr. de la Garza.*

**Short Essays** Three short essays will be written during the course of the semester, in response to a prompt provided in class and related to the assigned readings during the time immediately preceding the essay due date. Each essay is worth 10 points, for a total of 30 points.

**Course Project** Students will prepare a project that will be presented to the class in a 15-20 minute time frame during the final class meetings. The project is an applied praxis of Mindful Heresy and may be selected from an array of genres (i.e., graphic novel, scripted short play, publicly broadcast podcast, conceptual art installation, children's book, etc.) to be discussed in class. Course projects may be collaborative projects with other classmates. Each project must have a brief written concept paper (250-500 words) which will be submitted by March 17, immediately following spring break. Course project is worth 50 points; Concept paper is worth 10 points; for a total of 60 points.

**Final Paper** Students will write a conceptual paper interrogating an aspect of the construct of mindful heresy. These papers are due on April 28. Each student will negotiate with Dr. de la Garza the theme/topic of the paper they will write. Papers may be collaboratively written if there is a strong case for co-authorship. Papers will be written in a format/style suitable for submission to a conference or journal and must use either APA or Chicago style. Final paper is worth 75 points.

**Poiesis/ Journal.** Students will keep a journal over the course of the semester for reflections and jottings regarding thoughts and insights that are “new” to them, that did not “exist” before consideration of ideas from readings or course discussions and assignments. Entries should be made each week of the semester. Will be submitted with the final exam. This is not a personal journal. Journal with evidence of thoughtful consideration and reflection in entries: 75 points

**Final Poiesis/Exam.** Students will use their poiesis journal over the course of the semester to inspire the writing of a poetic text (or texts) which will be read aloud during the final exam time slot. A 100-200 word written reflection on poiesis, along with the poetic texts will be due on the date of the final exam. Poiesis assignment is worth 100 points total.

## **Grading**

Grades will be kept on Canvas and computed according to the percentages calculated therein for grades using the standard ASU grading scale. Grades will be manually submitted after completion of the final exam. There is no extra credit for the course.

## **COM 691: Mindful Heresy, de la Garza**

### **COURSE SCHEDULE, Spring 2020**

\* Additional readings and guidelines will be provided by the professor and/or on Canvas.

#### **Course Introduction: Week 1, January 14/ Overview of the Course**

Overview of Construct of Mindful Heresy and Course Assignments

Readings: Kendi, Chapter 1 (We will discuss other chapters of the book throughout the course--you may wish to read it ahead of time, depending on your schedule)

#### **Unit I: Week 2, January 21/ Mindful Heresy, Heresies of Western Philosophy**

de la Garza pdfs and hard copies (provided in Week 1 class)

Nadler, entire book

Kendi, Ch. 2, "Dueling Consciousness"

Assignment: Read the Nadler book with a highlighter/markers in hand. Mark the "turning points" and "aha!" moments in the story line. Come to class prepared for discussion.

#### **Unit II: Week 3, January 28/ Mindfulness and Engaged Buddhism**

Readings: Assorted pdfs in Course Folder for Unit II

Kendi, Ch. 3, "Power"

#### **Unit III: Weeks 4 & 5, February 4, 11/ Conformity, Orthodoxies, Heresy & Stigma**

Readings: Cahill, Assorted pdfs in Course Folder for Unit III

Kendi, Chs 4, 5 & 6, "Biology," "Ethnicity," and "Body"

#### **Unit IV: Week 6, February 18/ Nonviolence & Civil Disobedience**

Readings: Thoreau's *Civil Disobedience*, Assorted pdfs in Course Folder for Unit IV

Kendi, Chs. 7 & 8, "Culture" and "Behavior"

## **Unit V: Weeks 7 & 8, February 25, March 3/ Liminality, Dissent**

Readings: Calafell readings and assorted pdfs, all in Course Folder for Unit V

Kendi, Chs. 9, 10, 11 "Color," "White," "Black"

\*\*\*\* SPRING BREAK \*\*\*\*

## **Unit VI: Week 9, March 17/ "Ethics, Activism, and Science"**

Reading: Dreger, *Galileo's Middle Finger*

Kendi, ch. 12, "Class"

Assignment: Response Worksheet & Corresponding Expository Essay

## **Unit VII: Weeks 10 & 11, March 24, 31/ Anger, Rage, Performativity, REVOLT**

Reading: Kristeva materials and assorted readings in Course Folder for unit VII

Assignment: Expository Essay, "My Revolt"

Kendi, Chs. 13, 14, & 15 "Space," "Gender," "Sexuality"

## **Unit VIII: Weeks 12 & 13, April 9 & 14/ Trickster Liminality**

Reading: Salinas, and assorted readings in Course Folder for Unit VIII

Assignment: Essay-"My Mindful Heresy" (guidelines in assignments)

Kendi, Chs. 16, 17, 18 "Failure," "Success," and "Survival"

## **Weeks 14 & 15, April 21, 28/ Presentations of Creative/Praxis Projects**

PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS

Assignment: Under Assignments.

## **FINAL EXAM**

Poetry Slam

Critical Self-Analysis Through Poiesis in Poetic Verse and Prose

Details and Dates to be Negotiated

Written Assignment Guidelines Under Assignments

## UNIVERSITY POLICY

### Academic Integrity

As defined in the [ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy](#)[Links to an external site.](#), each student has an obligation to act with honesty and integrity, and to respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments. A student may be found to have violated this obligation and to have engaged in academic dishonesty if during or in connection with any academic evaluation, he or she: (please read the detailed policy at the link, [https://www.asu.edu/courses/acc250m/webs/academic\\_integrity\\_policy.htm](https://www.asu.edu/courses/acc250m/webs/academic_integrity_policy.htm)[Links to an external site.](#))

### Title IX

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs> [\(Links to an external site.\)](#).

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling> [\(Links to an external site.\)](#), is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

### COUNSELING SERVICES

ASU takes the well-being of its students seriously, as do I. Should there be any matters that make your successful experience as a student difficult, for personal or other reasons, please know that you may meet with a member of the Counseling Services. You may find necessary details here, along with the link to the ASU Health portal: <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>[Links to an external site.](#)