"Dreams are jealous of being remembered; they dissipate instantly and angrily if you try to hold them. When newly awakened from lively dreams, we are so near them, still agitated by them, still in their sphere—give us one syllable, one feature, one hint, and we should repossess the whole; hours of this strange entertainment would come trooping back to us; but we cannot get our hand on the first link or fibre, and the whole is lost. There is a strange wistfulness in the speed with which it disperses and baffles our grasp."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, Lectures and Biographical Sketches, 1884

Professor: Dr. Robert Batsell
Office: Old-Upton #403 B
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E-mail: rbatsell@kzoo.edu

Course Overview
This course examines consciousness and dreams from a variety of different psychological perspectives, including cross-cultural, psychoanalytic, biological, and cognitive approaches. Using a range of scholarly works in combination with each student’s recorded dreams and thought experiments, students will develop their own understanding of their dreams and consciousness.

Course Goals
This course will emphasize reading and interpretative strategies, writing development, and seminar-style oral presentation. The goals of the class are to (i) introduce the students to the theoretical interpretations that have been applied to consciousness and dreams, (ii) develop the students critical thinking and writing skills, (ii) to build student’s oral presentation skills.

Required Readings

Due to the unique nature of the course topic (and time constraints), there is no available textbook for this class. Instead, students will be provided with primary readings, both research articles and book chapters. Please see the syllabus for the required readings.
COURSE COMPONENTS

A student’s grade in this course will be determined by their performance on exams, a in-class presentation, short papers, dream diary log, and class preparation/participation.

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tests (3x 100 Points)</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Papers</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dream Diary</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scheme

This class will utilize the following 10% grading scale:
- A = 91-100%
- B = 81-90%
- C = 71-80%
- D = 61-70%
- F = below 61%

Please note that you cannot pass this course if you fail to complete or submit any of the above assignments, even if your final score is within range for a passing grade.

Tests

Three tests will be given throughout the semester. The test format will include fill-in-the-blank, short-answer, and essay questions. The tests will cover the material presented in class and from the assigned readings designated on the syllabus. Moreover, each test will include questions that are taken from readings that are not discussed in lectures. Please note that all exam dates are clearly marked on the syllabus, and they will be given on those dates. Students are required to abide by the Kalamazoo College Honor Code for all of their work in this class. Each test will be worth 100 points.

Class Presentation

At the end of the quarter, we will have the student presentations. The student presentations will involve an in-class oral presentation (multimedia presentations are encouraged) that will focus on the student’s own interpretation of dreams and consciousness based on the readings and their dreams. The class presentation grade will be worth 15% of the final grade.

Short Papers

At various points during the quarter, short “thought experiment” papers will be assigned in which the students may be asked to react to one of the readings or collect data related to a class topic.
Dream Diary Logs
All students in this seminar are expected to maintain a dream diary throughout the quarter. Each Friday of the quarter (starting with Week 2 and continuing through Week 9), you will submit an electronic description of your dreams from the previous week (previous Friday through Thursday). These dream diaries will be kept confidential and the content will not be shared without the student’s consent. Grading of the dream diaries will be based on grammar and completion of the assignment. Your dream diary will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Preparation and Participation (as demonstrated throughout the quarter)
As this is a discussion-oriented seminar, you are expected to take an active role and to be well prepared for all classes. Reading assignments will be assigned regularly. Every student should be well prepared for discussion, having carefully read and prepared all readings due on that day. Occasionally, short homework assignments may also be assigned. Please arrive on time, with assignments fully completed before class.

II. COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity
The honor code is an integral part of K College life, and academic integrity is upheld as one of the highest callings of students and faculty. Especially pertinent to our writing seminar is the issue of plagiarism (of both the intentional and unintentional sort). As defined in the Brief Wadsworth Handbook (2007): “Plagiarism is presenting another person’s ideas or words as if they were your own. Most plagiarism is unintentional – for example, inadvertently typing a quoted passage into a paper and forgetting to include the quotation marks or documentation” (p. 168). In this and all K College courses, you are responsible for the proper citation of words and ideas that are not your own.

Absences
Attendance is essential to this course. If you miss a class for any reason (including a documented emergency), you are responsible for all material, announcements, and assignments that you missed.

Late Assignments
Out of fairness to the other students in the class, extensions without penalty will only be granted for illness or family emergencies. Otherwise, late work without prior arrangements will be automatically marked down by one letter grade per day. Any assignment turned in over 3 days late must be completed at the equivalent of at least a C, but will receive no points.

If you are unable to meet a deadline due to illness or family emergency, contact me by e-mail/telephone as soon as possible. In order to be eligible for full credit on your paper, you must provide documentation of illness or emergency (i.e., a signed doctor’s note for illness; a letter about your extenuating circumstances from the Dean of Students of the College). Please contact me within 24 hours of the due date or as soon as you return to the
college campus, and a new deadline will be mutually arranged on the day that the extension is granted.

**Incomplete Work**
Please note that you cannot pass this course with any missing or incomplete assignments or exams, even if your final score reaches a passing grade.

**Special Needs**
Any student who needs special accommodations or assistance in this course should see me as soon as possible. I am dedicated to ensuring that every student in my class has the resources and support to do well in this course.

**Classroom Behavior**
The Kalamazoo College Honor Code applies to classroom behavior as well as other types of interpersonal interactions on campus; “respecting others” includes respectful behavior in class. Although Kalamazoo College is committed to respecting fundamental principles of freedom of speech, including even controversial positions taken in class, all types of speech and behavior must be balanced with principles of appropriate classroom behavior. It is ultimately the faculty member who controls the classroom, and if a situation develops in which, in the opinion of the faculty member, the class is being disrupted, the faculty member has the ultimate right to ask a student to leave the class. Longer-term solutions to these problems will be dealt with according to College procedures.

Also, the presence of electronic devices is distracting to the professor and other students. Cell phones should be silenced before class and in-class texting may be met with sarcasm and ridicule.
CONSCIOUSNESS AND DREAMS [Tentative] DAILY SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Introduction to Consciousness

Jan. 3 (Tues) Introduction to the Course
Jan. 6 (Fri) Introduction to Consciousness

WEEK 2

Jan. 9 (Mon) Introduction to Consciousness


Jan. 11 (Wed) Introduction to the Brain & Consciousness


Jan. 13 (Fri) Introduction to the Brain & Consciousness


WEEK 3

Jan. 16 (Mon) MLK DAY—NO CLASS

Jan. 18 (Wed) Contemporary Theories of Consciousness


Jan. 20 (Fri) Contemporary Theories of Consciousness

WEEK 4

Jan 23 (Mon) TEST #1
SECTION 2: ANCIENT & PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACHES

WEEK 4
Jan 25 (Wed) Ancient Approach to Dreaming [Note: The ancient approach to dreams involves the assumption that dream events are real events and some of them may be prophetic.]

Jan. 27 (Fri) Ancient Approach to Dreaming

Van De Castle, R. L. (1994). Dreams that have changed the world. In Our Dreaming Mind (pp. 10-42).

WEEKS 5 & 6: PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACHES TO DREAMING

WEEK 5
Jan 30 (Mon) Ancient Approach


Feb 1 (Wed) Introduction to Psychoanalytic/Freudian Theories [Note: The psychoanalytic approaches to dreaming are typified by an approach that dreams are (distorted) symbolic representations of the dreamer’s personality.]


Feb. 3 (Fri) WINTER BREAK—NO CLASS

WEEK 6
Feb. 6 (Mon) Psychoanalytic Approach to Dreams: Freud


Feb 8. (Wed) Psychoanalytic Approach to Dreams: Jung


Feb. 10 (Fri) TEST #2
SECTION 3: BIOLOGICAL & COGNITIVE APPROACHES TO DREAMING

WEEK 7
Feb 13 (Mon) Modern Sleep & Dream Research


Feb. 15 (Wed) Modern Sleep & Dream Research

Feb. 17 (Fri) Biological Approaches to Dreaming [Note: Biological approaches to dreaming look at the function of REM sleep and the evolutionary benefits of REM/dreams.]


WEEK 8

Feb. 20 (Mon) Biological Approaches to Dreaming

McNamara, P. (2004). Theories of REM. An evolutionary psychology of sleep and dreams. (pp. 94-102). Praeger Perspectives. Westport, CT.

Feb. 22 (Wed) Cognitive Approaches to Dreaming [Note: Cognitive approaches to dreaming examine the similarities and differences from thinking during dreaming versus dreaming during wakefulness.]

Feb. 24 (Fri) Cognitive Approaches to Dreaming

WEEK 9

Feb. 27 (Mon) Cognitive Approaches to Dreaming

March 1 (Wed) TEST #3

March 3 (Fri) Student Presentations

WEEK 10: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

March 6 (Mon) Student Presentations
March 8 (Wed) Student Presentations
March 10 (Fri) Student Presentations