INTRODUCTION

This is a “Reacting to the Past” course, and all students must participate in the reacting game in an assigned role.

We will enact a “Reacting to the Past” game dealing with the problems Galileo faced in the beginning of the 17th century as he tried to prove that the Copernican model of the Solar System was correct. We will break up into 3 factions and debate the merits and faults of Galileo’s ideas following the historical sequence of events. More on this below.

METHODOLOGY

This type of course may be new to you. It involves a pedagogy called “Reacting to the Past”. Basically, the students re-enact an important event or sequence of events by assuming the roles of some of the participants in these events. The re-enactment takes the form of a game with rules and objectives and criteria for winning. You can read more on this pedagogy at:

http://www.barnard.edu/reacting/

We will re-enact the two trials of Galileo during the beginning of the 17th century. I quote below from the website what the basic idea of this game is:

In The Trial of Galileo the new science, as brilliantly propounded by Galileo Galilei, collides with the elegant cosmology of Aristotle, Aquinas, and medieval Scholasticism. The game is set in Rome in the early decades of the seventeenth century. Most of the debates occur within the Holy Office, the arm of the papacy
that supervises the Roman Inquisition. At times action shifts to the palace of Prince Cesi, founder of the Society of the Lynx-Eyed that promotes the new science, and to the lecture halls of the Jesuit Collegio Romano. Some students assume roles as faculty of the Collegio Romano and the secular University of Rome, the Sapienza. Others are Cardinals who seek to defend the faith from resurgent Protestantism, the imperial ambitions of the Spanish monarch, the schemes of the Medici in Florence, and the crisis of faith throughout Christendom. Some embrace the “new cosmology,” some denounce it, and still others are undecided. The issues range from the nature of faith and the meaning of the Bible to the scientific principles and methods as advanced by Copernicus, Kepler, Tycho Brahe, Giordano Bruno, and Galileo. Central texts include Aristotle’s On the Heavens and Posterior Analytics; Galileo’s Starry Messenger (1610), Letter to Grand Duchess Christina (1615) and Dialogue on the Two Chief World Systems (1632); the declarations of the Council of Trent; and the Bible.

I will break up the class into the three factions (Conservatives, Moderates, Progressives) and we will play the game as described in the Trial of Galileo Book. Three essays are required for this course and will be done during the course of the game. In addition, there is a participation component in this course that will contribute 25% to your final grade. I will judge how many points (out of 25) to give you based on your participation level during the game.

GRADING POLICY

Each essay is worth 25% of your final grade. Class participation accounts for the remaining 25%.
If the essays are not turned in on time, I will deduct a letter grade for every class day that the essay is late.

Letter grades for the revised essays will then be assigned numerical equivalents following this scale:

A+ corresponds to 100.0
A corresponds to 96.0
A- corresponds to 92.0
B+ corresponds to 88.0
B corresponds to 84.0
B- corresponds to 81.0
C+ corresponds to 78.0
C corresponds to 75.0
C- corresponds to 72.0
D corresponds to 65.0
F corresponds to 50.0
Class participation will be judged subjectively by me according to the following scale:

- **Excellent participation** corresponds to 25 points
- **Good participation** corresponds to 22-24 points
- **Average participation** corresponds to 18-21 points
- **Below average participation** corresponds to 13-17 points
- **Little or no participation** corresponds to 0-12 points

Your total grade will then be obtained from the 4 numerical components and converted to a final letter grade using the following scale:

- **A** corresponds to 93.00 – 100.0
- **A-** corresponds to 90.00 – 92.99
- **B+** corresponds to 87.00 – 89.99
- **B** corresponds to 83.00 – 86.99
- **B-** corresponds to 80.00 – 82.99
- **C+** corresponds to 77.00 – 79.99
- **C** corresponds to 73.00 – 76.99
- **C-** corresponds to 70.00 – 72.99
- **D** corresponds to 60.00 – 69.99
- **F** corresponds to less than 60.00

**FIRST-YEAR ODYSSEY SEMINAR EVENTS**

As part of the First-Year Odyssey Seminar program we want students to be aware of all the resources available on campus and to become engaged in the cultural and intellectual life of the University. Therefore, students enrolled in First-Year Odyssey seminars will be required to attend at least three campus events during the semester that highlight some aspect of the mission of the University. There are many events to choose from, including musical performances, films, visiting speakers, and the Study Abroad Fair. In addition, students may participate in five hours of service to the community through VolunteerUGA as one event. A list of events can be found at https://fyo.uga.edu/BrowseEvents.aspx

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Please make a reasonable attempt to arrive on time. If you must leave earlier than the scheduled end of class, try to do so with as little fuss as possible. Class disruptions or distracting behavior will not be tolerated.

You are responsible for all topics discussed in class, as well as class announcements. Although attendance is not mandatory, it is in your best interest to attend every class and absence from class does not excuse you from the just-stated responsibility. Since a
portion of your grade is based on class participation, you cannot participate if you are not present.

You are encouraged strongly to read the material that is to be covered in class ahead of time. If the schedule of readings changes from that posted below, then those changes will be announced in class.

Ask for clarification on anything you find unclear, ambiguous, or unspecified. This includes both course policies and physics topics.

Know the rules concerning withdrawals and incompletes, published in the UGA Undergraduate Bulletin. Note that I will NOT withdraw you from the course for excessive absences. Note also that after the midpoint of the semester, a withdrawal is always assigned a grade of WF, except in those cases in which the student is doing satisfactory work and the withdrawal is recommended by the Office of Student Affairs because of emergency or health reasons.

Tentative Class Schedule & Readings & Homework Assignments:

Week 1 – Aug. 17 – Introductions; Intro to Reacting to the Past and the Trial of Galileo
Week 2 – Aug. 24 – Background on the Geocentric – Heliocentric Debate – Read p. 1-19; Appendix A and B of The Trial of Galileo manual (TG)
Week 3 – Aug. 31 – Library tutorial – bring your laptop
Week 4 – Sept. 7 – Intro to the Game Mechanics & Roles – Read p. 20-42; Appendix C, and D (TG)
Week 5 – Sept. 14 – Discussion of Galileo’s Early Works (Appendix E and F)
Week 6 – Sept. 21 – Discussion of Galileo’s Early Works (Appendix E and F)
Week 7 – Sept. 28 – College of Rome Lectures (Appendix E and F)
Week 8 – Oct. 5 – Holy Office Debates I – Essay 1 due
Week 9 – Oct. 12 – Holy Office Debates, II
Week 10 – Oct. 19 – Prince Cesi’s Party
Withdrawal Deadline: Oct. 22
Week 11 – Oct. 26 – Holy Office Debates I
Week 12 – Nov. 2 – Election and Installation of New Pope – Essay 2 due
Week 13 – Nov. 9 – Holy Office Debates II
Week 14 – Nov. 16 – Holy Office Debates III
Week 15 – Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving Break
Week 16 – Nov. 30 – Holy Office Debates IV – Essay 3 due
Week 17 – Dec. 7 – Post mortems
