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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FIRST YEAR SEMINAR</b> <b>FALL 2008</b></p>
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**Patterns in Nature: Chaos, Complexity and Networks**

**Course Texts:** (all paperbacks)

James Gleick	Chaos: Making of a New Science
Anthony Weston	A Rulebook for Arguments
John Briggs & F. D. Peat	Seven Life Lessons of Chaos
Steven Johnson	Emergence
Anne Moody	Coming of Age in Mississippi
Mark Buchanan	Nexus
Diane Hacker	A Writer's Reference

**Student Responsibilities:**

1. Attendance at every class meeting and all assigned activities is expected (see **Grading** below). If you are ill, call my office and leave a message on my voice mail and then arrange to see me as soon as you can. I will usually check with the Student Wellness Center and/or the Dean's office about your functional ability should you miss more than two classes.
2. Class begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. Do not expect to enter late or leave early unless you have made arrangements in advance. Out of respect for your fellow

students, eating is not permitted and cell phones should be off or silent. You may bring something to drink.

3. **You should plan on spending three hours out of class for every hour in class.** (This is true of all courses at the College.)
4. Wooster Forum You are required to attend two (but preferably all) of the four Forum events. Within 24 hours of the event, you must write three full paragraphs in the class journal (described later) that are a **summary** and **reaction** to the Forum event.
5. Readings This is a discussion class which only works if you have read the material and come prepared to discuss it. Your discussion grade will suffer if you come to class without a careful reading of the assignment.
6. Writing Assignments are due on the assigned dates. Extensions are granted only for exceptional circumstances. You should plan on getting the flu the night before an assignment is due and thus you should have your work completed in advance.

Writing assignments include a class journal (described in a separate sheet) and four formal papers. Each formal paper is written in drafts with a peer-reviewed first draft and a final, revised draft that is graded. Writing is a *process* and good writing requires many revisions. We will have fewer but better papers in this course. One of your formal papers will be a research paper, which will require extensive use of the library.

7. Conduct While you are in this college and in my course, you will be treated as adults. You are expected to know and abide by the rules at the institution (The Scot's Key). It is particularly important that you read and understand the

information on this course's web and *Woodle* page about the ethical use of information. **You will be held responsible for your actions.** If you turn in work as your own but some or all of it is copied or paraphrased without attribution, you will **fail** this course. When you make choices, you will experience (good and bad) consequences. You should try hard to make the consequences good ones.

8. During class and electronic discussions, remember that you are analyzing and critiquing ideas and not people. No personal attacks allowed. Nor should you divulge any "secrets" to the class; you want to explore ideas not personal events nor difficulties. You should not share any information during discussion or in your writing that you would not want to see in the campus newspaper (not that it would appear there, but that is how you should think about personal issues).

### **Grading:**

Your grade will be based on both your written assignments (including the *Woodle* journal) and on **your participation in discussions**, which means you must come to class and have read the assigned material. Each of the three shorter papers and your contributions to the class journal are worth 15% of the course grade; the research paper and discussion will be 20% each. "Discussion" will have two forms. One is discussion in class, the other is discussion in the class journal ("forums" in *Woodle*). You are expected to make contribution to both forms of discussion and your grade depends on the quality and frequency of your contributions. Reasoned arguments with supporting references to the readings, responding and contrasting other student contributions, and/or the use of outside, authoritative sources are higher quality than anecdotal events. "College is about listening to other voices and perspectives. It is also about sharing your own. You are expected to be a respectful listener and active participant in class discussion

and activities. If you're a talker, consider how to become a better listener as well. If you're a listener, let this class be a place where you practice speaking out." Prof. Jen Graber, 2007.

A or A- is exceptional work

B+ to B- represents above average work

C+ to C- is typical college-level performance

D is below average

F does not represent acceptable college-level performance

### **Academic Integrity**

Cheating in any of your academic work is a serious breach of the Code of Academic Integrity and is grounds for an F for the entire course. Such violations include turning in another person's work as your own, copying or paraphrasing from any source without proper citation, going beyond what is allowed in a group project, fabricating excuses and lying in connection with your academic work. You will be held responsible for your actions. If you are unsure as to what is permissible, always consult your course instructor.

You are expected to know and abide by the rules of the institution as described in the **Scot's Key** and The **Handbook of Selected College Policies** ([http://www.wooster.edu/home/Academic\\_Policies.php](http://www.wooster.edu/home/Academic_Policies.php)). Particular attention should be directed to the appropriate use of materials available on-line through the Internet. It is important that you read and understand the ethical use of information (<http://library.wooster.edu/services/instruction/ethics/ethics.php>). Whether intentional or not, improper use of materials can be considered a violation of academic honesty and result in a failing grade in the course and possibly other disciplinary actions.

## **Policy Regarding Conflicts between Academic Responsibilities and Co-curricular/Extra-curricular Activities**

The College of Wooster is an academic institution and its fundamental purpose is to stimulate its students to reach the highest standard of intellectual achievement. As an academic institution with this purpose, the College expects students to give the highest priority to their academic responsibilities. When conflicts arise between academic commitments and complementary programs (including athletic, cultural, educational, and volunteer activities), students, faculty, staff, and administrators all share the responsibility of minimizing and resolving them.

It is your responsibility to inform me in writing of conflicts between academic commitments to this course and complementary programs in which you participate as soon as you are aware of them. You are to discuss with me how you might fulfill your academic commitments to our mutual satisfaction without sacrificing the academic integrity and rigor of the course.

### **Academic Support**

The Learning Center (ext. 2595) offers services designed to help students improve their overall academic performance. Sessions are structured to promote principles of effective learning and academic management. Any student on campus may schedule sessions at the Learning Center.

Any student with a documented learning disability needing academic accommodations is requested to speak with Pam Rose, Director of the Learning Center (ext. 2595), and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential.

### **Religious Observances**

Please let your course instructor know if you have a religious observation that conflicts with class.

### **Writing Center**

No matter what your writing skill, Professor Jacobs may recommend a visit to the Writing Center. Feel free to avail yourself of the center's services at any time, not just at a professor's suggestion. The center can help you organize a paper, hone an argument, proofread for grammar, and double-check citation. The center is here to help you be a better writer. Use it.