

Decisions, Biases and the Creation of Knowledge

How do biases constrain science and research?

How do biases impact the interpretation of evidence and knowledge gaps?

If your goal is to become a skilled problem solver and a leader in society, this is the course for you!

Fridays 10 am - 12:40 pm

INSTRUCTORS: Dr. Hans-Peter Plag
Michelle Heart

IDS 795/895, ENGL 795/895, OEAS 795/895

I know that!

How do you all know?

You are biased.

So what should we do?



For more information go to : www.mari-odu.org/dbck

Decisions, Biases, and the Creation of Knowledge

Course title: Decisions, Biases, and the Creation of Knowledge

CRNs : IDS: TBD, TBD, ENGL: 32565, 32566; OEAS: 26365, 26367

Credits: 3

Course type: On campus

Instructors: Dr. Hans-Peter Plag, Michelle Heart

Listing Departments: IDS 795/895, ENGL 795/895, OEAS 795/895 Advanced/Special Topics

Term: Spring 2016; Fridays 10:00 - 12:40; **Room:** TBD

Contact Information: hpplag@odu.edu; mheart@odu.edu

Course description: Wisdom and knowledge impact decisions made in society from individual level to community, country, and global levels. How are the knowledge and wisdom created that inform decisions? To what extent is the creation of knowledge impacted by individual, community, and cultural biases? What are the origins of these biases? In which ways do the biases drive progress and evolution of thoughts? Can adaptation happen without these biases, and how do the biases impact the interpretation of facts, evidence and, in particular, knowledge gaps? Importantly, how do the biases constrain science and research? These are core questions the course will address. In the context of these questions, the course will examine the nexus of knowledge creation, biases and decisions in society. In an open forum, the students will combine their own experiences with creation and usage of knowledge and decision-making in the context of their relationship to the world around them. Among others, students will use thought experiments to practice out of the box thinking and to develop a deep understanding of the role and impacts personal and cultural biases have on science, knowledge creation and societal decision-making. In these experiments, they will analyze societal use of scientific knowledge, evidence and wisdom with the goal to become skilled problem solvers and leaders in society.