



**Course:** UNIV 100 – Section H12    **Theme:** Culture & Literature

**Course Topic:** *Exploratory Reasoning*

**Description:** In this course, I would like students to practice "exploratory reasoning"--a term I use as a contrast to "motivated reasoning". Most people have faith in their beliefs, since they see them as products of their reasoning. More often, however, the inverse holds true. In other words, people find reasons to support the judgments they already hold. As Benjamin Franklin wrote, "So convenient a thing to be a reasonable creature, since it enables one to find or make a reason for every thing one has a mind to do." In order for students to practice exploratory reasoning, they must first learn about what prevents it from occurring in the first place. So we would start with understanding the psychology of judgment and decision making. Next, we would learn about how to reason well. Finally, for the majority of the course, we would practice exploratory reasoning, often on strongly-held topics.