ON OPINIONS

We all have one, some of us, have more than one opinion about many different subjects.

An opinion can range from something as mundane as to whether you prefer hotdogs or hamburgers, to something more controversial – whether you believe in leprechauns or fairies.

Our lives are filled with opinions, and while we can all have our own opinion on any subject – opinions are not all equal. If someone believes there are zombies – that is their opinion, but it does not make it true, nor a reality for that person, or anyone on earth. They can still hold the opinion, but they are factually wrong. This does not imply a judgment. They can have a medical condition that has culminated in their believing in zombies.

There is also the matter of taste - we cannot measure it or judge it. For example – the hot dog or hamburger.

If it is an opinion on zombies – it can be measured against a ruler of some sort – reality. Is it true.

If I offer an opinion I will support it. I will not use the internet, for as great a resource as that may be, it is filled with a great deal of noise and worse, inaccurate information. I will support my opinion with studies or facts that come from university level or higher research. Information that would be recognizable and accepted by any reasonable person.

If I do not provide the evidence, ask me. Do not simply accept what I say – UNLESS it is a matter of taste – hot dog or hamburger / ketchup or mustard.

I ask the same of you – you cannot simply dismiss something you do not agree with by saying it is a stereotype. If evidence is provided to show it is true and a reality to the scientific world – you need to adjust your argument or raise a different question. Likewise, if you provide the evidence, I will revise my position.

If you wish to express yourself, please do so. If I offer an opinion on any issue, if you hold a different view – then please present it to the class. If you would rather not speak to the entire class, please speak to me before or after class or during office hours to let me know.

I will always try to make it clear what is my opinion and what is not. I may not always succeed. Nothing I say is intended as personal. Rather, it is and has always been a broader statement on civilization and the culture we live in, all of us – as special snowflakes.