Political Misperceptions: Motivation and Misinformation

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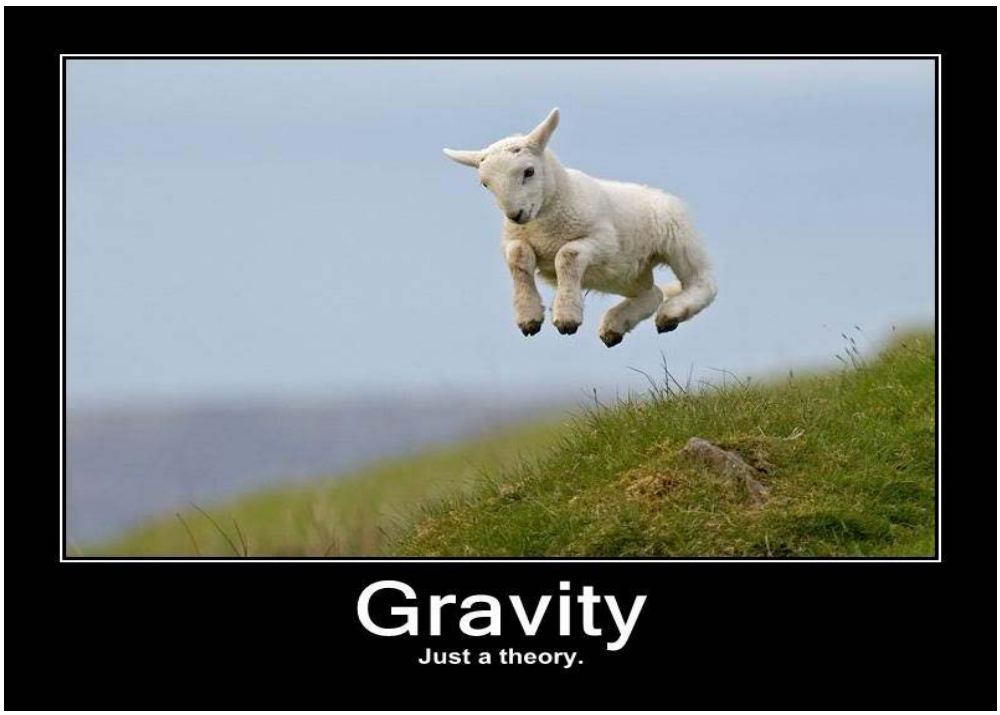
3-4PM, Burton Hall, Room 202



You are entitled to your own opinions, but not your own facts. Nevertheless, some people hold mistaken political beliefs despite evidence to the contrary. Dr. Pat Meirick will report on two recent studies examining this phenomenon. The first looks at predictors of believing that health care reform would create "death panels," while the second looks at perceptions of how conditions in the United States changed during George W. Bush's presidency. Partisanship, political knowledge, and exposure to different news media play roles, as do interactions between these factors, suggesting that both motivation and misinformation can contribute to political misperceptions.