

JUNIOR HONORS COLLOQUIUM

HONR 300A
Fall 2004
Thursdays 4:00-5:15
MH-682
Wayne Hobson

Office Hours: Honors Center (PLN-120): Drop in any time
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Course information will be available on Blackboard – access it via
your student portal

About the course:

This is a required one-unit course that has been designed to give you a common intellectual experience with your junior-year honors classmates. We will meet four times during the semester to hear presentations by members of the Honors Faculty, talking about their current interests, research, and intellectual passions. There will be an opportunity in each of these sessions for you to discuss the topic with the presenter.

Requirements and Evaluation:

Class attendance is required and will be 40% of your final grade. Your only other responsibility is to submit three brief response papers, which will be graded. You may revise and resubmit any or all of the response papers. Each paper will be 20% of your final grade.

All five presentations will be videotaped. If you must miss a session, please contact me. You will be able to check out a video to view in the Library's Audiovisual Center (4th floor).

Response papers: You select any three presentations. Write a 3-5 page essay in response to the presentation and discussion. Due date is two weeks after the presentation. You may submit your essay in class, to me in the Honors office, to me via e-mail (as an attachment), or at the class Blackboard site.

The response paper is a "think piece." Its tone and organization should be appropriate for an academic essay. It should reflect your understanding of the presentation, but it should not be a simple summary. Your voice should be apparent, as should your thoughtful reflection. You may pose a question that the presentation has raised in your mind. You need not answer the question that you pose, although you may. In any case, you should discuss the significance of the question and explore what might be required to answer or resolve it. Alternatively, your essay could discuss links you see between an important idea or piece of information from the presentation and other material you have read or studied. Such an essay would discuss the relationships you see and assess their implications. Please feel free to try out response paper ideas on me before you write—come to see me, e-mail me, or phone me.

I'll be looking for signs of engagement, serious reflection, and joy in the play of ideas.

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE =====>

Tentative Schedule of Class Meetings:

August 26 – Introduction

September 23

October 7

October 21

November 4