



HC 400: Honors Colloquium Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Ray Green and Dr. Yvonne Villanueva-Russell

Time & Location: M 12:00-12:50 p.m. PC Media Room

Office & Phone: Prairie Crossing main office 903-468-3001

Office Hours: Normal business hours (appointment will be best)

E-mail Address: Raymond.Green@tamuc.edu or yvonne.vrussell@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Texts and Other Necessities:

No books required

Students will need reliable Internet access in order to access the course syllabus in eCollege.

Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes:

Honors colloquia are scheduled weekly to provide honors students and the university community the opportunity to discuss timely local, regional, and world issues as well as other enlightening topics with faculty, other honors students, and invited guests. The honors colloquium is informal as well as educational. The overall goals are to provide opportunities to be motivated by other's enthusiasm for their field, to be exposed to new ideas, and to share time with other intellectually curious students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods, Activities, and Assessments

A. Attendance

You are largely here by choice, so I do not imagine that attendance will be an issue. With that said, you are not allowed more than ONE absence this semester. If you accumulate more than one absence, you will not receive credit for the class. Further, once here, please treat our speakers with the attention and courtesy that they deserve.

Please turn off all cell phones and do not engage in texting while in class. During discussion weeks, students are expected to participate actively in what should be lively discussions and debates. Of course, all students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (see current Student's Guidebook).

B. Reaction Papers:

To gain credit for HC 400, students are required to write reaction papers on TWO colloquia presentations. We have set incremental due dates for the TWO papers, and students who miss a deadline will be allowed to submit a late paper for partial credit depending on the quality of the paper. Please be mindful of the deadlines to avoid a silly mistake and a reduction in grade. Additionally, students who do not submit BOTH papers on time CANNOT earn an

A in the course, although simply submitting papers on time does not guarantee a grade of A. Rather, a student must be sure to write a proper reaction paper that contains an intellectual reflection on what took place during the colloquia. That reflection in writing should go beyond being merely a series of notes you take and write up. Ideally, the paper should show your mind at work. What was said that you agreed with? Or disagreed with? Can you connect an aspect of what you learned from the colloquium session to another event you have read about or heard about or observed or even experienced in your own life? What interested you the most? Least? What would you have done or said differently? How did the presentation open ways for you to contemplate pursuing research and eventually writing an Honors thesis?

Obviously, you do not have to answer all of the above questions. Nor do you have to respond to any one of them. What your paper should show is your mind at work—much like a book critic or movie critic does when she or he writes a review. Length? I'd say two typed, double-spaced pages (around 500 words). ***Please submit hard copies of your papers; no email attachments.***

C. Grading Scale

1. Attendance 20%
2. Class Discussion 40%
3. Reaction Papers 40% (2x20%)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Students will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare all assignments in the course.

Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you cannot see us during office hours, please send an email so that we can make an appointment with you. We are both quite happy to see students at any time as long as I don't have a prior commitment.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Dropping the Course, & Classroom Decorum

Students have the option to drop this course at any time, but the Honors College Scholarship contract requires that students complete HC 400 as well as 15 hours each semester. Students who consider dropping the course **MUST** visit with either Dr. VR or Dr. Green before initiating the drop process.

Finally, this class is designed to be an open forum for student comments, questions, and discussions. The speakers and your classmates may help you broaden your knowledge and perceptions, so please give them the respect they deserve. All students enrolled in the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See the Student Handbook.)

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Statement on Nondiscrimination:

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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| COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR |
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| <u>Date</u> | <u>Speaker</u> | <u>Department</u> |
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| 8/31 | Drs. G and VR | Honors College |
| 9/7 | LABOR DAY HOLIDAY | |
| 9/14 | Dr. Dan Jones | President and CEO |
| 9/21 | Dr. Sri Nippani | Department of Economics and Finance |
| 9/28 | Dr. Vipa Bernhardt | Department of Health and Human Performance |
| 10/5 | Class Discussion Day | |
| 10/12 | Mr. Vaughn Wascovich | Department of Art |
| REACTION PAPER #1 DUE by Monday, October 12 | | |
| 10/19 | Dr. David Scott | Department of Music |
| 10/26 | Dr. Matt Wood | Department of Physics |
| 11/2 | Class Discussion Day | |
| 11/9 | Dr. Mary Hendrix | Vice President – Access and Success |
| 11/16 | Dr. Carrie Klypchak | Department of Theatre |
| 11/23 | Class Discussion Day | |

REACTION PAPER #2 DUE by Monday, November 30