



## HC 400: Honors Colloquium Spring 2016

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

**Time & Location:** T 12:15-1:15 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:** [Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu](mailto:Yvonne.VRussell@tamuc.edu) or [Raymond.Green@tamuc.edu](mailto:Raymond.Green@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.

The paper may cover some of the following points:

- 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.***

***Due Dates: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on 3/1 & 4/19***

***Assignments will not be accepted beyond one week of the original due date***

### C. Class Discussion

We will periodically have class discussions to debrief at regular intervals during our course. These sessions provide the opportunity to collectively share our reactions and discuss the topics raised by our speakers more in-depth. Students are expected to attend these class periods and become active members of the conversation.

### D. Letter to Freshman Assignment

Each colloquium speaker will highlight their own individual expertise and often draw upon life lessons that may be applicable to your own experiences. As you near the end of your college career, you have grown and developed an acumen for success. Pen a letter to an incoming freshman in the class of 2020. What lessons have you learned during your time in the Honors College? at TAMU-C? in life? What advice would you give a brand new college freshman so they can maximize their college experience?

***Please submit a hard copy of your letter; no email attachments.***

***Due Date: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on 4/5***

***Assignments will not be accepted beyond one week of the original due date***

### E. Grading Scale

Your grade in the course will be calculated as follows:

Attendance	15%
Class Discussion	25%
Letter to Freshman	20%
Reaction Papers	40% (2x20%)
	100%

Final grades are based on the total number of points earned during the term in accordance with the following levels of proficiency:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 65-69

F = below 65

## 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 we do not 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**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

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](mailto: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.

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1/19	<b>No class</b>		
1/26	Drs. VR & G	Honors College	<b>Meet in PC Media Room</b>
2/2	Dr. Christopher Gonzalez	Literature & Languages	
2/9	Dr. Ricky Dobbs	Dean, University College	
2/16	Dr. Mario Hayek	Marketing & Management	
2/23	Dr. Brent Donham	Dean, College of Science & Engineering	
3/1	<b>Class Discussion Day</b>		<b>Reaction Paper #1 Due</b>
3/8	Dr. Elvira White-Lewis	Sociology & Criminal Justice	
3/15	<b>Spring Break</b>		
3/22	Dr. Johanna Delgado-Acevedo	Biological & Environmental Sciences	
3/29	Dr. Kent Montgomery	Director, University Planetarium	
4/5	Class Discussion Day		<b>Letter to Freshman Due</b>
4/12	Dr. Gerald Duchovnay	Literature & Languages	
4/19	<b>Class Discussion Day</b>		<b>Reaction Paper #2 Due</b>