

**Sophomore Colloquium**  
**Indiana Academy – Fall 2023**  
**Dr. Dain Kavars**

**Office:** Academy House 110

**Email:** [dwkavars@bsu.edu](mailto:dwkavars@bsu.edu)

**Office Hours:** By appointment

### **Course Description**

Sophomore Colloquium is a discussion-oriented seminar where we will work to create a space in which you can discuss your educational experiences as Academy sophomores. It has two interlinked goals: a place of practical concerns, where you can check in with your classmates and instructor about your time at the Academy, and a place of critical reflection on how we engage in respectful dialogue with others. Several weekly activities will engage students in working together to achieve a common goal.

### **Course Methodology**

The first two weeks of the semester will focus on laying the groundwork for the semester and the remainder of the semester will follow a specific rhythm. This course will serve as a common meeting point for all Indiana Academy sophomores. We will discuss your experiences as sophomores, including opportunities to improve/build support systems. Other weeks will include readings, activities, and opportunities for deep discussion on how we as individuals can effectively communicate with others, including those we disagree with. A couple of local field trips are planned that include Christy Woods and the David Owsley Museum of Art on the campus of Ball State University. At the beginning of the semester, students will have a voice in selecting readings and guiding the discussion topics. Occasionally there will be guest speakers.

### **Assessments and Grades**

#### **1. (50% - 120 points) Weekly Assignments**

Most weeks students will be assigned a weekly assignment to be completed before the next week's class. Assignments will vary throughout the semester but will average approximately 10 points per assignment.

Assignments will be posted on Canvas as well as discussed in class.

#### **2. (50% - 120 points) Weekly Participation/Discussion**

Your in-class work will largely take the form of group discussion. This includes small-group discussions and full-class discussions. If you find you are having trouble contributing sufficiently to the group and class discussions, please reach out to your instructor as soon as possible. We will develop a plan for assisting you in classroom discussions.

### **3. Grading Scale:**

A = 92 – 100  
A- = 90 – 92  
B+ = 88 – 90  
B = 82 – 88  
B- = 80 – 82  
C+ = 78 – 80  
C = 72 – 78  
C- = 70 – 72  
D\* = 0 - 70

### **Tentative Fall 2023 Schedule**

1. August 17, 2023 – Introductions, sophomore experiences, goals for the year, and brainstorming topics/activities connected to engaging in respectful dialogue.
2. August 24, 2023 – Developing Health Habits – Dr. Wallpe and Ms. McDonald
3. August 31, 2023 – Bullying Prevention
4. September 7, 2023 – Nature and Well-Being – Walk through Christy Woods (pending weather)
5. September 15, 2023 – Strategy-Based Board Games & Respectful Dialogue
6. September 22, 2023 – Academic Support Check-in and Discussion
7. September 29, 2023 – Student Selected Reading and Discussion
8. October 5, 2023 – Student Selected Reading and Discussion
9. October 19, 2023 – Art and Well-Being – Visit to David Owsley Art Museum
10. October 26, 2023 – Student Selected Reading and Discussion
11. November 2, 2023 – Academic Support Check-in and Discussion
12. November 9, 2023 – Virtual Escape Room & Respectful Dialogue
13. November 16, 2023 – Student Selected Reading and Discussion
14. November 30, 2023 – Student Selected Reading and Discussion
15. December 7, 2023 – Academic Support Check-in and Discussion
16. December 14, 2023 – Making the Most of the Spring Semester

Titles and links to the selected readings will be added to the syllabus as they are selected by the class.

## **Course Policies**

**1. Attendance** – Regular and punctual class attendance is expected and required of all students. If you are not in class when it officially begins, you will be marked tardy. If you show up to class ten or more minutes late, you will be marked absent for the day.

**2. Late Work** – Late assignments will not be accepted without an in-person discussion and a clear plan for timely submission. If I do not have your assignment when it is due and have not discussed with me a submission plan, credit will not be earned. For a sudden illness, it is your responsibility to reach out to me to arrange a plan to submit your assignment.

**3. Technology** – Please keep your cell phone silent and refrain from using it in class unless it is needed for a class activity assigned by the instructor. You may bring a laptop to class but refrain from using it unless it is required for a class activity.

**4. Academic Integrity** – You are responsible for the integrity of your work, and you are required to produce work that is academically honest. This means that all your work for this course must be your own and must be created specifically for this course. Failing to maintain the integrity of your work will have serious consequences. Submitting someone else's work, including work you obtain online, as your own writing is a violation of the Academy's Academic Dishonesty Policy (see the Student Handbook for full policy details). Attempting to take credit for someone else's words or ideas without properly citing them is plagiarism. Direct and indirect plagiarism is unacceptable and has serious academic consequences. If you are uncertain about whether any part of your work is academically honest, contact me and we can discuss it.

**5. Diversity and Inclusion Policy** - Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our [Beneficence Pledge](#). For Bias Incident Response information, please click [here](#) or e-mail [reportbias@bsu.edu](mailto:reportbias@bsu.edu). You are also encouraged to report all bias incidents to the Indiana Academy's Associate Director of Equity and Engagement, Ms. Nagelkirk ([sanagelkirk@bsu.edu](mailto:sanagelkirk@bsu.edu)).

**6. Disability Services** – If you need course adaptations or accommodation because of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible. You may also contact Ms. Wright, Assistant Director of Academic Advising and Guidance ([mewright@bsu.edu](mailto:mewright@bsu.edu)). Documentation of a disability needs to be on file with the Indiana Academy before any accommodation can be provided.