

Sophomore Colloquium
Indiana Academy – Fall 2024
Dr. Dain Kavars

Office: Academy House 110

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Sophomore Colloquium is a discussion-oriented seminar where we will work to create a space for you to 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 be a common meeting point for all Indiana Academy sophomores. We will discuss your sophomore experiences, 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, including 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 may be guest speakers.

Assessments and Grades

1. (50% - 120 points) Weekly Assignments

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

Assignments will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class.

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

Your in-class work will largely consist of group discussions, including small-group and full-class discussions. If you are having trouble contributing sufficiently to the group and class discussions, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. We will develop a plan to assist 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 2024 Schedule

1. August 15, 2024 – Introductions, sophomore experiences, goals for the year, and brainstorming topics/activities connected to engaging in respectful dialogue.
2. August 22, 2024 – Developing Health Habits – Dr. Wallpe
3. August 29, 2024 – Bullying Prevention
4. September 5, 2024 – Nature and Well-Being – Walk through Christy Woods (pending weather)
5. September 12, 2024 – Strategy-Based Board Games & Respectful Dialogue
6. September 19, 2024 – Academic Support Check-in and Discussion
7. September 26, 2024 – Student Selected Reading and Discussion
8. October 3, 2024 – Student Selected Reading and Discussion
9. October 17, 2024 – Art and Well-Being – Visit to David Owsley Art Museum
10. October 24, 2024 – Student Selected Reading and Discussion
11. October 31, 2024 – Academic Support Check-in and Discussion
12. November 7, 2024 – Virtual Escape Room & Respectful Dialogue
13. November 14, 2024 – Student Selected Reading and Discussion
14. November 21, 2024 – Student Selected Reading and Discussion
15. December 5, 2023 – Academic Support Check-in and Discussion
16. December 12, 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. You will be marked tardy if you are not in class when it officially begins. If you arrive 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 a submission plan with me, credit will not be earned. For a sudden illness, you are responsible for reaching 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 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 violates 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 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 community members 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. You are also encouraged to report all bias incidents through the Indiana Academy's [Campus Climate form](#) or [Bullying form](#).

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). Documentation of a disability needs to be on file with the Indiana Academy before any accommodation can be provided.