**Instructor:** Dr. Phillip Lobo

**Office:** EL-B008D **E-Mail Address**: plobo@bsu.edu

**Office hours**: MWF 12-1:00pm, 3-4:00pm; T 11:00am-2:00pm; R 2 hours by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Senior Colloquium is a discussion-oriented, topic-focused seminar where we will engage with and discuss issues around employment and labor, work and life, professions and economic policy. The aim is to create intellectual space in which you will grapple with life beyond institutional learning, a life for which institutional learning is meant to prepare you. Many of the topics we will discuss are central to long-running political and social questions; others address newly-arising concerns. As we take positions on these issues, we will practice and refresh our skills of civil discourse.

**COURSE METHODOLOGY**

Each regular class will follow a specific rhythm. It will start with a brief overview of the readings and the topic, before the class moves into small group discussion, in which you’ll share your individual reflections with each other. Over 45 minutes you’ll converse and collectively compose **a group discussion document** the goal of which is to **outline the key points** of the topics and the **positions** on the issue (its pros and cons, the attitudes and –keeping in mind that **many issues contain complexity** **beyond a simple ‘for’ or ‘against’**). The goal of this first conversation is to enrich our understanding of the topic and the positions on it.

The second half will merge these group conversations into a whole-class discussion, pooling the groups’ documents and creating a general understanding of the field. After laying this groundwork, we’ll have a broader discussion of the topic and our thoughts on how the issue impacts our prospective life paths. We will doubtless express a diversity of opinion and reach points of disagreement. Our goal will always be to increase our understanding.

Senior colloquium this year is, at its heart, about conversation with your peers about the world you are joining, building and sharing; it is about the pressures you will face, choices you must make and the life you create for yourself as a consequence. The most transformative discussions will often arise not when we labor to change the beliefs of others, but when we examine our own.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

**1. (35%) Individual responses:**

**Before class time each week**, you’ll need to **read the assigned article** and **write a short individual reflection**. These will be posted on the Canvas discussion boards (for ease of access and reference) before the beginning of class. They must be **at least 250 words**, contain **a summary of key points** as you understand them, as well as the **positions** you identify.

**2. (25%) Participation:**

Your in-class work will largely take the form of group discussion; your **small groups are especially important** in this regard. Your practice in synthesizing information, demonstrating understanding of the topic, and communicating your ideas with your classmates will be evidenced in the **group discussion document**.

**3. (40%) Career/Field Exploration:**

Throughout the semester you will be preparing for the final project, which will document your research on and work to make contact with an area of industry, employment, vocational or professional endeavor which interests you. In the **week after Spring Break**, you will **demonstrate what efforts** you have made towards these goals. In the **week before Finals** you will **present your findings in a mock job fair**, demonstrating your understanding of your chosen field.

Grading: A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ starts at 87, B 83, B- 80, C+ 77, C 73, C- 70, D 69 and below.

**SCHEDULE**

1/10 - 1/12 -> Introductions and Civil Discourse Discussion / Creating a Consensus Document

1/17 - 1/19 -> Ratifying the Consensus Document / Project Roll Out

1/30 - 2/2 -> Social Media

**EXTENDED**

2/14 - 2/16 -> Work / Life Balance, International Paradigms

2/21 - 2/23 -> Remote Work / Digital Commuting

2/27 - 3/2 -> Work Transiency (Single vs. Multiple Careers)

**SPRING BREAK**

3/14 - 3/16 -> Project Verification (Asynchronous)

3/21 - 3/23 -> Loans and Debt

3/28 - 3/30 -> Minimum Wage

4/4 - 4/6 -> Healthcare

**EXTENDED**

4/18 - 4/20 -> Unionization

4/25 - 4/27 -> Affirmative Action

5/2 - 5/4 -> Presentation / Proof of Work

**FINALS**

**COURSE POLICIES**

**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.

**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 we do not discuss a plan for, you risk receiving no credit for it. Please make every effort to make sure assignments are timely, and that you meet the deadlines as outlined in the syllabus. **If you must miss a class, plan ahead to get your work in before the deadline.** In the case of an excused absence (those deemed so by the school), you will need to contact me via email to make arrangements to get your missed work in.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Please render your cell phones silent before you enter class, put them out of sight, and refrain from using them in class. Laptops use is not preferred; if you feel a laptop computer is necessary but do not have an official accommodation, please speak to me about your needs.

# **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

You are responsible for the integrity of your work and you are required to produce work that is academically honest. This means that all of 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 paper, including papers you obtain online, as your own writing is fraud. Attempting to take credit for someone else’s words or ideas without properly citing them is plagiarism. Direct and indirect plagiarism, both of which we will discuss in class, are unacceptable and have serious academic consequences. If you are even remotely uncertain about whether or not any part of your work is academically honest, contact me and we can sort it out. Please refer to the student handbook for additional information, including information that is new this year.

**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](https://www.bsu.edu/about/beneficence). For Bias Incident Response information, please click [here](https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/multicultural-center/bias-incident-reporting) or e-mail [reportbias@bsu.edu](mailto:reportbias@bsu.edu).

**DISABILITY SERVICES**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact me as soon as possible. The [Office of Disability Services](https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/disability-services) coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at **765-285-5293** or **dsd@bsu.edu.**