

**Instructor:** Dr. Phillip Lobo

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

**Office hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:15-2:00pm; Tuesday 9:45-11:30am; digitally for three hours on Thursday, by appointment.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Junior Colloquium is a discussion-oriented seminar where we will work to create a space in which you can discuss your educational experiences. It has two interlinked goals: a place of practical concerns, where you can check in with classmates and instructors about your time at the Academy, and a place of critical reflection on learning itself. Over the course of the semester we'll explore the philosophies informing the different disciplines here at the Academy, culminating in a project where you'll develop your own ideal educational institution. We'll also have regular times for check-ins to reflect on your actual experience at the Academy, and to provide direction to resources that may benefit you.

### **COURSE METHODOLOGY**

While the first two classes of the semester will focus on laying the groundwork, each regular class will follow a specific rhythm. It will start with a brief overview of the article before breaking into small group discussion, in which you'll share your individual reflections with each other and compose a group discussion document; the second half will merge these group conversations into a whole-class discussion, tackling questions and topics of particular interest. Participation is encouraged at every stage, with small group discussion being especially important; colloquium is, at its heart, about conversation with your peers about your shared experience.

### **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

#### **1. (30%) Individual responses:**

**Before class time each week**, you'll need to **read the assigned article** and **write a short individual reflection**, with an emphasis on a.) general comprehension of the article's main points and b.) specific points which you feel deserve further discussion, especially in the context of your education at the Academy.

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 the article's argument** as you understand it, and have **at least two (2) points of discussion** for your group and the class at large.

**2. (35%) Group discussion:**

Your in-class work will largely take the form of group discussion; your **small groups are especially important** in this regard, since you'll also be sharing responsibilities for the final project. Your efforts to contribute to your group will constitute a large part of your grade, which will draw upon the testimony of your peers as well as each class' **group discussion document**.

If you find you're having trouble contributing sufficiently to your group, or find one of your groupmates is struggling or slipping away, please get in touch with your instructor to help ameliorate the issue. We need to take responsibility for each other's involvement in colloquium!

**3. (35%) Final Project**

The culmination of our work over the semester—taking up the last four weeks of the course—will be a group project in which you'll collaboratively design an ideal educational institution. You'll self-assign roles and take on different tasks in developing this dreamed-up school; the details of the project will be shared in a separate document.

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**

8/15 - 8/17 -> Draft Discussion Consensus Document

8/22 - 8/24 -> Review Document - Values Auction - Group Assignment - Project Introduction

8/29 - 8/31 -> Learning and Teaching ([Rancière Chapter](#))

**EXTENDED**

9/12 - 9/15 -> First Check-In - Project Role Selection

9/19 - 9/21 -> History ([Wineburg Article](#))

9/26 - 9/28 -> Language & Culture ([Borges Story](#))

10/3 - 10/5 -> Literature ([Bayard Chapters](#))

**EXTENDED**

10/17 - 10/19 -> Science ([Worth Article](#))

10/24 - 10/26 -> Math ([Devlin Article](#))

10/31 - 11/2 -> Second Check-In - Project Confirmations

11/7 - 11/9 -> Project Work - Research

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11/14 - 11/16 -> Project Work - Application

**BREAK**

11/28 - 11/30 -> Project Work - Finishing Touches

12/5 - 12/7 -> Project Presentation

**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](#). For Bias Incident Response information, please click [here](#) 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](#) 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](mailto:dsd@bsu.edu).