JUNIOR COLLOQUIA
FALL 2024

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.

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%) Reading & Individual Responses:

> Before class you must read the assigned text, as discussing it and its subject matter is the heart of each colloquium session. Additionally, at the start of each class you'll **write a short individual reflection**. This must contain a brief summary of the text's content, with at least three key quotations, as well as your own impressions of the topic.

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

8/13 - 8/15 -> Draft Discussion Consensus Document

8/20 - 8/22 -> Review Document - Group Assignment - Project Introduction

8/27 - 8/30 -> Learning and Teaching ([Rancière Chapter](#))

LABOR DAY EXTENDED

9/3 - 9/4 -> NO COLLOQ

9/10 - 9/12 -> Project Discussion, Role Selection

9/17 - 9/19 -> History ([Wineburg Article](#))

9/24 - 9/26 -> Language & Culture ([Borges Story](#))

10/1 - 10/3 -> Literature ([Bayard Chapters](#))

OCTOBER EXTENDED

10/8 - 10/10 -> NO COLLOQ

10/15 - 10/17 -> Science ([Worth Article](#))

10/22 - 10/24 -> Math ([Devlin Article](#))

10/29 - 10/31 -> Second Check-In - Project Confirmations

11/5 - 11/8 -> Project Work

11/12 - 11/14 -> Project Work

11/19 - 11/21 -> Project Work

BREAK

12/3 - 12/5 -> Project Work

12/10 - 12/12 -> Project Work

FINALS - Project Presentations

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.

INDIANA ACADEMY UNEXCUSED ABSENCE POLICY

It is the policy of the Indiana Academy that any absence from class is unexcused, except for illness, death in the family, college or school-related activities, and extenuating circumstances. When a student is absent from a class, the instructor reports the student absence to the Faculty Attendance Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs. Unless the absence is excused by a school official, it is considered unexcused. The decision as to whether an absence is excused is not determined by the instructor. Four or more unexcused absences in any particular class a student takes will lead to academic and residential consequences to be determined by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Residential Life that may include detention, residential groundings, parent/principal conference, among others.

LATE/MAKE UP WORK

Generally speaking I will expect you to submit your work in a timely fashion, with each unit project being due before the start of the next unit's first class, and the final project being due at the end of the final week. If you find that you cannot complete the work in the allotted time, please contact me as quickly as possible so we can work out a plan for late submission. I will not credit missing assignments. For missed writing exercises, I'll expect you to speak to me in office hours about the circumstances of the missing work, and so we can decide on a reasonable timeframe for you to make up those assignments.

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.

APPROPRIATE USE OF LLM/'AI' TECHNOLOGY

Official Humanities Division Statement:

The Humanities Division recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) provides some exciting new tools for academic work. However, AI also poses significant dangers for academic integrity. Passing off as your own any research, words, or ideas which you did not create is plagiarism. That is always the case whether the source is print, internet content, or generated by AI. It is vital to read the policies your individual humanities instructors have regarding AI, and ask them any questions you may have about the use of AI in their course.

Instructor Statement:

Large language models (colloquially known as AI chatbots) are powerful tools which are rapidly altering the landscape of humanities scholarship. As with many such devices, there are benefits and drawbacks. Take for example motorized transport: automobiles made remarkable things possible for transit and logistics. It has also fostered a sedentary lifestyle, with all the concomitant health problems (i.e. driving instead of walking causes your legs to wither, your heart to weaken, your lifespan to contract).

Similarly, while large language models can accelerate a number of tasks, **it risks replacing invaluable skills and leading to the atrophy of the very capacities this class is meant to exercise and refine**. Letting an LLM write for you will not only produce mediocre, intellectually vacuous work, it will also cause your own abilities to shrivel precisely when they should be developing.   It is also a priori plagiaristic: **all the words a LLM uses are drawn from uncredited, uncompensated sources**. It is not a voice from nowhere; it is stolen language. I want you to use your own words and ideas, and credit the words and ideas of others when you use them.

For the purposes of this class, **LLM/AI chatbots can be legitimately used for research purposes**: you can ask them questions (though always double check, since they frequently 'hallucinate') to increase your awareness of a topic, with the understanding that proper sourcing and citation must follow. **They may**

not be used to produce prose that represents itself as your own. If you have doubts about the appropriate use of this technology, simply get in touch with me and we can clarify.

IA WIRELESS DEVICE POLICY

Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-5-40.7, The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities prohibits student use of wireless communication devices for non-instructional purposes in the classroom. As such, any and all portable wireless devices that have the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, must only be used for academic purposes directly tied to the classroom activity or related educational task. Exceptions to this wireless device policy are eligible through academic accommodations, individualized education programs, or with instructor approval permitting the use of a wireless device for justification related to health, safety, and/or well-being. The improper use of a wireless device in an active classroom setting is subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to; a verbal warning, temporary seizure of said device by a school official, an unexcused absence for the class in question, written communication to parent/guardian, among other elevated consequences for repeated improper use.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE STATEMENT

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. As a reflection of Ball State's commitment to respect, civil discourse, and the Beneficence Pledge, Inclusive Excellence at the Indiana Academy emerges as one of the priorities of our living and learning community. We strive to exist together respectfully and compassionately, creating an environment where every member can thrive. Unfortunately, there might be occasions when something occurs that disrupts our progress toward meeting these objectives. In this case, we encourage any member of the Academy community to file a Campus Climate Report (CCR) https://bsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6mbRbL5acAntUTI. All reports will be taken seriously, and appropriate responses will be carried out by Academy administration.

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.**