

SENIOR COLLOQUIUM 2021

Online synchronous, unless otherwise noted

Instructor: Dr. Phillip Lobo

Email: plobo@bsu.edu

Office location: EL-B008D

Office hours are **online** and **by appointment**. E-mail me to set up a time, **TWRF, 2:15 to 5:00 PM**.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Senior Colloquium is a discussion-oriented seminar which is meant to foster critical thinking, critical engagement with texts, and rational dialogue with peers. This course is unique, in that, the class sessions are largely comprised of student discussion and often led by students, themselves. The professor is a facilitator, but often not the leader of the discussion.

Seniors across all sections of Colloq will choose the course material we will all engage with throughout the semester. This course material can be things like films, YouTube videos, podcasts, scholarly articles or book chapters, Ted Talks, etc. The material just needs to be accessible for all members of Senior Colloq. Seniors will select material that falls under these categories: sustainability, social justice, ethics, psychology, art, music/film/entertainment, technology, and health/wellness.

Merely consuming this material, however, is not enough. In order to succeed in this course, you must *engage* with the course material and participate in spirited and thorough class discussions about them. In other words, mere receptivity is not enough. You must offer input and ideas via analysis, evaluation, and synthesis. We will aim to achieve respectful, productive, and lively discourse.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

- View/listen to/read content assigned each week and discuss that material in class to show engagement
- Complete and submit to Canvas a written assignment on the course material assigned each week

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Participation – 60% The primary method of evaluation will be an assessment of your consistent and meaningful participation in the class discussion. Every person will be required to speak and provide input to our class discussions, to listen attentively and with empathy to what your classmates have to say, and to reflect on the ideas brought up during our discussions. A few things pertinent to the evaluation of your participation must be said. i) We do not want meaningless talk for the sake of talking; ii) As in life, you absolutely *must* be mindful of others – do not dominate the conversation; do not be mean or prejudicial or discriminatory; if you notice that someone seems eager to say something but can't seem to get a turn to speak, make an effort to *include* that person in our conversation iii) *Cite* your sources – i.e. show us the passage you are referring to, recite to us the quotation you are referencing, point us to the time stamp or page and paragraph, etc.

Your daily grade will be determined by your display of the following observable criteria:

SPEAKING: a) quantity – did you speak at all? did you dominate the conversation or contribute to it?

b) quality – were your comments insightful? did you add to the conversation or detract from it? did you appropriately cite your sources?

LISTENING: did you listen attentively and respond thoughtfully, or did you merely wait out the person speaking so that you could finally have a turn to make your point?

DECORUM: were you respectful? did you take others' views (even when different from yours) into account? did you handle disagreement appropriately? did you attempt to include others in our conversation, e.g. by asking someone else what they think?

Think about the following words as guidelines for your contributions to class discussion:
Respectful. Inclusive. Useful. Insightful. Productive. Relevant.

Weekly Writing Assignments – 40% You will also be evaluated on your preparation for class. For each weekly assignment (article/film/podcast/etc), you will write one annotation paragraph (at least 150 words). Below your annotation paragraph, you must also include two significant quotations from the piece that you found worthy of discussion and two questions provoked by the piece that you want to discuss in class.

Here is the same information in list format:

- i. a one paragraph annotation of the piece that includes the following parts:
 - 1) summary of the piece's purpose,
 - 2) several sentences in which you state the main points in your words. Cite each one using MLA.
This paragraph needs to be at least 150 words.
- ii. two questions, both pertinent to the piece and its main ideas, that you would like us to discuss
- ii. two discussion-worthy quotations from the piece (cite using MLA)

*****Include an MLA citation for ALL words and ideas you reference from the piece. *****

This writing assignment must be typed, 12 point font, single-spaced, in Times New Roman, MLA format
This typed reading response is due by class time to Canvas. Late submissions will not be accepted. If you know you must miss a class, make sure to turn in your reading response to me before class. If you miss due to excused absence, you must contact me to get your work in ASAP.

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

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

COLLOQUIA DIALOGUE RULES OF THUMB

1. The exchange of declarative monologues tends to be dialectically unproductive. The effort to be too complete is often self-defeating. Brevity stimulates dialectic. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there – respectful disagreement is normal and expected.
2. The imaginative and unexpected are frequently more fruitful than a prematurely prudent opinion.
3. In dialectic conversation, listening intently is in everybody's intellectual interest.
4. Agreeing to disagree respectfully is a powerful asset to any conversation. This practice will heighten the courtesy that any good and rigorous conversation demands. Also, don't assume that everyone holds the views they put forward – Colloquium is a space for testing out ideas and analyses.
5. Follow the argument wherever it leads. Think with your peers and trust their intelligence to lead to (sometimes much unexpected) understanding.

METHODS OF GETTING INTO CLASS DISCUSSION

- ✓ Clarify a point in discussion
- ✓ Ask a relevant, productive question
- ✓ Offer a comparison
- ✓ Offer a contrast
- ✓ Offer supporting evidence
- ✓ Refer to a literary work germane to the ideas being discussed
- ✓ Refer to historical idea/work germane to the idea being discussed
- ✓ Analyze a section of the course material

- ✓ Agree with and add to someone else's comment
- ✓ Offer a counterpoint that is respectful and productive
- ✓ Offer a definition
- ✓ Help the group move to a new thread
- ✓ Provide a helpful summary
- ✓ Propose a hypothesis
- ✓ Provide a creative explanation or solution
- ✓ Improvise a scenario

COURSE POLICIES

CLASS IS ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS: Due to both safety and pedagogical reasons, our course will be online and synchronous, not in-person. Online synchronous means that if class is at 8:25 am, you will meet for class at 8:25 am in an online conferencing space, such as Canvas Conference or Zoom. I will send you a link to that online conference space each class day.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY: During a time like this, when we are all getting used to new forms of learning and living, communication is paramount. If you have a question or need help with something class-related, please feel free to email me or schedule a time to meet with me virtually.

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. You will also be marked absent if I see you sleeping.

LATE WORK: Reading notes and major papers will be turned in electronically, unless otherwise stated; if I do not have your assignment when it is due, you will not receive credit for it. **If you must miss a class, plan ahead to get your work in before the deadline.** In the rare 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 ASAP.

SAVE YOUR WORK: Backing up your files regularly is a course requirement. Get into a habit of emailing your drafts to yourself, and/or saving them on a thumb drive, external drive, or the cloud. Your computer malfunctioning/blowing up/self-destructing on the day the assignment is due will not be an acceptable excuse for not turning work in on time.

EXTENSIONS: Extensions are very rare. I only give one if the school itself grants you an extension on the basis of extenuating circumstances. In these cases, the extension and timeline for the submission of work needs to be formally agreed upon in advance. This is not something that happens last minute.

TECHNOLOGY: Please turn off your cell phones before you enter class, put them out of sight, and refrain from using them in class.

INDIANA ACADEMY MASK POLICY

- a. Requirement
- b. The Indiana Academy will follow [Ball State University's mask policy](#). Effective July 1, 2020, all people on campus—including faculty, staff, students, vendors, contractors, suppliers, and visitors—should wear face masks (covering nose and mouth) while inside campus buildings. Face masks are specifically required in the following situations:
 - i. When in the presence of others (indoors or outdoors) and physical distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in hallways, elevators, stairs, public spaces, and common areas;
 - ii. When in a classroom or laboratory;

- iii. When using campus transportation (such as a shuttle bus);
- iv. When multiple individuals are in a University vehicle. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to bring their own mask. Masks will be provided to anyone who is unable to bring a mask or their mask is damaged.
- c. Non-compliance: If a student declines to wear a face mask as required, the student will be referred to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. If the situation occurs in a classroom or other academic setting, it is considered a classroom management issue, and the teacher will remind the student of the requirement and give the student a chance to comply with it prior to referring the matter to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. Wearing masks is crucial to preventing the spread of COVID-19 to others.

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 and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>. As such, it is important to ensure that your comments and behavior in class is respectful and inclusive. Discriminatory comments or behavior will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action, in accordance with Indiana Academy and Ball State University policy.

SCHEDULE OF WORK

** I reserve the right to amend this schedule and syllabus. If I do so, I will inform you ahead of time.*

Make sure to prepare for every class by not just consuming the material, but also completing and turning in your writing assignment to Canvas by class time.

Seniors across the Colloq sections will select the course material within these units (Sustainability, Ethics, etc.). Once the course material has been selected and approved, it will be added into this calendar.

- Week 1 Jan. 4-8 Intro the course and get started on content selection
- Week 2 Jan. 11-15 Groups will continue to look for content
- Week 3 Jan. 18-22 Groups will turn in their final selection to their instructor by end of class period today

Week 4 Jan. 25-29	Sustainability
Week 5 Feb. 1-5-----	NO CLASS DUE TO EXTENDED
Week 6 Feb. 8-12	Ethics
Week 7 Feb. 15-19	Social Justice 1
Week 8 Feb. 22-26	Social Justice 2
Week 9 March 1-5	Psychology
SPRING BREAK-----	NO CLASS
Week 10 March 15-19	Music/Film/TV/Entertainment
Week 11 March 22-26	Art
Week 12 March 29-April 2	Technology
Week 13 April 5-9 -----	NO CLASS DUE TO EXTENDED
Week 14 April 12-16	Global Issues 1
Week 15 April 19-23	Global Issues 2; choose wild card for next week
Week 16 April 26-30	WILD CARD
Week 17 May 3-7	Last class, fill out evals