

# SENIOR COLLOQUIUM 2022

Instructor: Dr. Phillip Lobo  
Email: plobob@bsu.edu  
Office location: EL-B008D  
Office hours: MWF 12-1:00pm, 4-5:30pm; R 11:30am-2:00pm

## 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.

We will engage with course material spanning a variety of topics, falling under these categories: social justice, philosophy, art, education and emotion. This course material can be things like films, video essays, podcasts, scholarly articles or book chapters, etc. It will be made accessible via the Canvas homepage.

This course is student-powered. In order to succeed, 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

## METHODS OF EVALUATION

### 1. (60%) Oral discussion grade:

- You will be evaluated daily for your oral discussion grade each class. **Total is 20 pt**
- **You need 3 comments, and one of them needs citation. At least one citation will add extra 2 pt to your overall speaking.**
- **Usually comments with citation will count as a meaningful comment, so try to aim for citations in all your comments**

### Grading scale:

No talking:	14/20
One comment, no citation:	16/20
Two comments, no citation:	17/20
Three comments, no citation:	18/20
Three comments, citation:	20/20

### Comments are deemed meaningful when they:

- Introduces new and intriguing idea that moves discussion along
- Agrees with and expands another participant's remarks

- Disagrees with participants and explains why
- Gives persuasive analysis of text
- Gives opinion with backup text/evidence
- Refers to a relevant event (may be historical or current) and explains why
- Shows connection to other sources, either used in this class or others
- Gave thoughtful comparison to another remark's
- Clarifies an obscure passage so that it makes sense to all of us
- Thoughtful response to classmate's comment

Comments that cannot fall under one of these categories may still be counted if it reflects understanding of text/classroom discussion and explained clearly.

## **2. (40%) Written reflection**

Please write **three important points** from the reading that you can bring to the discussion. This must be submitted before class. Each point must be at least 100 words and contain one citation.

Total: /6pts

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 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.

\*You are expected to attend every class. You are allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will be penalized as follows: Unexcused absence (1) = 1-point subtraction from final grade. Unexcused absence (2) = 3-point subtraction from final grade. Unexcused absence (3) = 5-point subtraction from final grade. (For example, if you have an 89 final average with (3) unexcused

absences your final grade will be 84). Four (4) or more unexcused absences will lead to academic and residential consequences beyond the scope of this class determined by the Office of Academic Affairs (i.e., residential groundings, parent/principal conference, and/or detention).

\*\*Any minor assignment/test/project/presentation missed due to an unexcused absence will be handled according to the late work policy of this class. You will be given an opportunity to retake any missed assignment/test/project/presentation worth more than 20% of the final grade but will be docked a full letter grade as a result.

#### 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.*

Week 1 Jan. 3-7

Intro to class/get to know each other

Week 2 Jan.10-14

Social Justice 1 [“Speaking in Tongues: A Letter to Third World Women Writers”](#)

Week 3 Jan. 18-21 (MLK Day)

Social Justice 2 [“The Other America”](#)

Week 4 Jan. 24-28

Philosophy 1: [Thinking as a Hobby](#)

Week 5 Jan. 31-Feb.4

Philosophy 2: [Letter to an Intellectual](#)

**Week 6 Feb.7-Feb.11 (Extended)**

**NO CLASS**

Week 7 Feb. 14-18

Philosophy 3: [What do we owe to Intellectual Robots](#)

Week 8 Feb. 21-25

Education 1 [Standardized Testing](#)

Week 9 Feb. 28-Mar. 4

Education 2 [“Re-Envisioning Paulo Freire’s ‘Banking Concept of Education’”](#)

**Spring break**

Week 10 Mar. 14-18

Art 1 [Language as Poems](#)

Week 11 Mar 21-25

Art 2 [Ways of Seeing](#) with John Berger - Episode 3, the value of art

Week 12 Mar 28-April 1

Art 3 [The Museum - Leila Aboulela](#) or [Art is How We Justify Our Existence](#)

Week 13 April 4-8

Emotions 1 [Monster Theory](#)

**Week 14 April 11-14 Extended (M-Th)**

**NO CLASS**

Week 15 April 19-22 Extended (Tues-Fri)

Emotions 2 [Jokes and Joking](#)

Week 16 April 25-29

Emotions 3 Happiness [Get Happy: Myths of the Modern Mind](#)  
Week 17 May 2-6  
Emotions 4 Anger [Audre Lorde - The Uses of Anger](#)