**Instructor:** Dr. Joshua Myers

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**Office Hours:** **M** 11-12 **&** 3-4; **W** 11-12; **TH** 8-10 **&** 1-4; **F** 8-9 **&** 11-12.

**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, a 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.  You will handwrite a short individual reflection in class,** with an emphasis on a.) general comprehension of the article’s main points and b.) specific points that you feel deserve further discussion, especially in the context of your education at the Academy. These responses must demonstrate your understanding of the article’s argument (and your reflections on 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’s **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.

**Grade Scale:** A (95-100%); A – (90-94%); B+ (87-89%); B (83-86%); B – (80-82%); C+ (77-79%); C (73-76%); C – (70-72%); D (69% and below)

**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.

**LATE WORK:** Please make every effort to make sure assignments are timely, and that you meet the deadlines as outlined in the syllabus.

* In the case of an absence, excused or unexcused**, you have exactly 1 week from the day you missed to complete and submit your missed work.**
* Because a major goal of colloquium is to have all juniors reading and discussing the same material during the same weeks, you cannot go longer than a week before you fall behind.
* Thus, no make-up assignments will be accepted after one week has passed; instead, you will receive a zero on the missed assignment.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Please render your cell phones silent before you enter class, put them out of sight, and refrain from using them in class. Use of cellphones or laptops during group discussion will result in a loss of points from your group discussion grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

You are responsible for the integrity of your work, and you must produce work that is

academically honest. This means that all your coursework must be your own and must be created specifically for this course. Failing to maintain the integrity of your work can have serious consequences. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following: submitting someone else’s paper, including papers you obtain online, as your own writing; and, attempting to take credit for someone else’s (or an AI’s) words or ideas without properly citing them. **If you are even remotely uncertain about whether or not any part of your work is academically honest, please contact me for assistance before you submit your work for grading.** Also, please refer to the student handbook for additional information, especially the quoted portions below:

* *Plagiarism: representing as one’s own work any material obtained on the Internet (such as term papers, articles, etc.). When Internet sources are used in student work, the author, publisher and website must be identified. (See policy on Academic Dishonesty in the student handbook.)*
* *Students are prohibited from using any electronic device to capture, record, and/or transmit test, quiz, exam, or other class information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty and students are prohibited from using electronic devices to receive such information.*
* *Plagiarism or violations of procedures prescribed to protect the integrity of an assignment, such as: a. Submitting an assignment purporting to be one’s original work, which has been wholly or partially created by another person; b. Presenting as one’s own work ideas, representations, or words of another person without customary and proper acknowledgment of sources; c. Submitting as new work, without the faculty member’s prior consent or knowledge, one’s own work which has been previously presented for another class elsewhere; d. Knowingly permitting one’s work to be submitted by another person as if it were the submitter’s original work; e. Cooperation with another person in academic dishonesty, either directly or indirectly, as an intermediary agent or broker; f. Knowingly destroying or altering another’s work, whether in written or digital form, computer files, artwork, or other format; g. Aiding, abetting, or attempting to commit an act or action that constitutes academic dishonesty.*

AI POLICY:  
 From the Humanities Division of the Academy (History, Languages, English):

* *“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.”*
  + **On that note, here is my AI policy specifically for this class: it is not permitted. Any usage of it will result in an academic integrity violation.**
    - To limit your temptation to use AI, much of our work will be handwritten and composed gradually during classes. These new technologies, alas, seem to require that teachers monitor student work more in order to assess learning.

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**](mailto:dsd@bsu.edu)