Q HONS 4200: Senior Colloquium

FALL 2014

R 2:00 – 3:15 P.M.

Innovative Center 100D

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Office Hours: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

HONS 4200 is a one-unit seminar in which students meet to discuss one another's capstone research proposals and to critique work in progress. The goal of this seminar is to expand your previous five-page Thesis Proposal, written in HONS 3500, into a ten-page article for the next edition of the Honors Journal.  Next semester you may decide to expand this article into a Capstone Thesis.

The first draft of your Article is due by Nov 6, and the final draft is due at the end of term.

During the first weeks of the semester, students will select, read, and critique published articles in prior Honors Journals, available online and on campus (hard copies are located in IC 100D). On his/her presentation day (see signup sheet), each student will describe a component of the arguments of at least two articles and then engage in an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses with respect to this component.  We will focus on one aspect of the articles (e.g. the Intro) each week.

The later weeks of the course will be devoted to discussion of your own work in progress. Ideally, your Faculty Mentors will join the colloquium when possible with discussions of their own research and yours.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

To earn a high grade (an “A,” “A-,” or a “B+”) in this colloquium, you will be expected to perform the following tasks:

* read and thoughtfully analyze components of Honors articles
* read and critique your peers’ work carefully and respectfully
* attend the seminar weekly and provide constructive comments on your peers’ work (two absences will lower your course grade by a full letter—an “A” to a “B,” for example)
* expand your own project in ongoing drafts in response to others’ feedback
* submit an abstract
* **visit the Writing Center at least twice** (it will be your job to supply me with the signature of the tutor with whom you worked for at least a half an hour each time) to discuss your essay drafts and receive feedback on the following common grammar errors: sentence fragments, comma splices, run-ons, subordination, agreement, possessive case, pronoun reference, semicolon and colon punctuation, word choice/wordiness. You may also discuss other form and content issues with your tutor. However, class discussions/presentations will be centering on the focus, organization, and development of your essays. Outside of class, you should make the correction of patterns of distracting grammatical errors a priority. **At least two Writing Center visits must be completed prior to the rough draft due date (11/6).** Failure to complete this Writing Center task on time will result in the reduction of your grade by no less than one increment (an “A” to an “A-,” for example).

Course Calendar

8/21 – Week 1 Introduction; Recap of Capstone titles and progress over summer

8/28 – Week 2 Discussion of Honors articles: motivation/problem statement (Why do we care about the problem? What practical, scientific, theoretical or artistic gap is the research filling?)

9/4 – Week 3 Continued discussion of Honors articles: motivation/problem statement

9/11 – Week 4 Discussion of Honors articles: methods/procedure/approach (What did article author actually do to get results?)

9/18 – Week 5 Continued discussion of Honors articles: methods/procedure/approach

9/25 – Week 6 Discussion of Honors articles: results/findings/product (As a result of completing the above procedure, what did article author learn/invent/create?)

10/2 – Week 7 Continued discussion of Honors articles: results/findings/product

10/9 – Week 8 Group 1 discussion of Honors articles: conclusion/implications (What are the larger implications of your findings, especially for the problem/gap originally identified)

10/16 – Week 9 Group 2 discussion of Honors articles: conclusion/implications 10/23 – Week 10 **Abstracts due**; Peer critique of abstracts

10/30 – Week 11 Article peer critique

11/6 – Week 12 Presentation/discussion of sections of student articles (components on which you would like input/critical reaction); **First drafts due**

11/13 – Week 13 Continued presentation/discussion of sections of student articles

11/20 – Week 14 Continued presentation/discussion of sections of student articles

12/4 – Week 15 Final drafts due