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HONR 120.85: Introduction to Honors

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Fall 2014
HONR 120.85 Syllabus
Introduction to Honors
Monday, 1:10-2:00 P.M.
DHC 117

Professor: Megan Stark
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Culture of Reading

HONR 120, Introduction to Honors

HONR 120 is a one-credit required course that provides Honors students with a common first-semester experience. The course is designed to emphasize the essentials of a liberal arts education including critical thinking, reading, writing, and speaking, as well as ethical reflection. The course also develops a sense of community and introduces students to the cultural options in Missoula and surrounding communities. Course requirements include reading the First-Year Book, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien, writing and speaking assignments, and cultural and community service activities.

Davidson Honors College Learning Outcomes

The DHC is committed to offering students the additional resources, challenges, and encouragement to be active and collaborative learners. DHC students are expected to: a) be intellectually curious; b) develop research and life-long learning skills and habits; c) increase their abilities to write and speak effectively; d) learn skills to succeed and engage in cooperative and collaborative learning; e) develop skills and habits of community and public service.

HC 120.85 Culture of Reading

What does it mean to become a scholarly reader? In this course, we will explore the ways that the traditions of reading have transformed intellectual and cultural history. Students will participate in readings, class discussions, a book binding project and a special visit to the Mansfield Library's Special Collections to help frame these discussions.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code, which is available for review online: www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/2585.

Communication

Check your UM e-mail at least once a week to receive important information and updates. (These weekly announcements are archived on the DHC website: www.umt.edu/dhc/news.htm). UM students are required to use their UM e-mail accounts to receive university-related communications.

If you are a student with a disability and wish to discuss reasonable accommodations for this course, contact me privately to discuss the specific modifications you wish to request. Please be advised I may request that you provide a letter from Disability Services for Students verifying your right to reasonable modifications. If you have not yet contacted Disability Services, located in Lommasson Center 154, please do so in order to verify your disability

and to coordinate your reasonable modifications. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://life.umt.edu/dss>.

Protocol

Always come prepared, participate, respect others in the class, practice skillful listening and engagement, and speak openly. If you miss class for any reason, the **replacement assignment** will be to attend an event that lasts at least one hour and write a two-page reflection on the event. Discuss event choices and deadlines with me before you attend the event/write your reflection.

Grading

- One draft essay and one rewrite essay re. *The Things They Carried* (30 percent total)
- Three Discussion Questions per reading (10 percent)
- Reading Log (10 percent)
- Final Presentation (20 percent)
- Attendance and Participation (20 percent total)
- 1-page Reflection (5 percent)
- O'Brien notes (5 percent)

Assignments

- 750-1250 word first-draft essay regarding *The Things They Carried* DUE 9/22
- Rewrite of essay DUE 10/13
- Notes from O'Brien lecture and workshop DUE 11/3
- 1-page reflection on Diverse U Event DUE 11/10
- Reading Log DUE 11/24
- Final Oral Presentation Week of 12/8

Syllabus/schedule

The plans for our meetings will be supplemented after we decide together some of our group activities such as cultural outings and service projects.

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- August 25** Introduction to the course
- Being prepared for class, preparing for academic culture
 - Questions/discussion points
 - Papers and Final Presentation
 - Engagement
 - Service—Honors Student Association projects
 - Academics—President's Lecture Series and other lectures
 - Culture--First Fridays art, theater, dance, music, etc.
 - The Things They Carried* requirements

READING: "A Good Mystery: Why We Read" by Motoko Rich (available at: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/25/weekinreview/25rich.html?_r=0)

September 1 NO CLASS: Labor Day Holiday

Note: Honors Convocation will be held at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 4**, in the UC Theater, followed by a dessert reception in the DHC Lounge. Honors Convocation is the grand welcoming celebration for new students in the DHC; this event is **mandatory for first-year Honors students. Please sign in with Katie or me at the event.**

READING: "A Steam Engine of the Mind" by Alex Wright

September 8 Trip to Mansfield Library Archives and Special Collections. Meet in front of the library! ***Please note: NO beverages allowed; pencils preferred to pens***

READING: Review *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

September 15 Discussion of *The Things They Carried*

READING: Review *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

September 22 Visit with Kelly Webster, Writing Center Director and Library Research Session. Meet in the library SLC, Room 283

READING: Review *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

September 29 Peer-Review Session, Knowles Hall V Lounge, Please bring two copies of your first draft: one to turn in to me and one to share with your peers for review

Due: 750-1250 word first-draft essay re. *The Things They Carried*

NO READING

October 6 Tour of campus Academic Enrichment opportunities. Meet in the classroom and wear shoes and weather-appropriate clothing for walking around campus.

NOTE: The Montana Festival of the Book will be this week. Plan to attend at least one event as a group! We'll decide, in class, what we want to attend.

READING: "Why Read" by Harold Bloom AND "The Shadow Life of Reading" by Sven Birkerts

October 13 Class discussion of Bloom and Birkerts

Due: Rewrite of essay re. *The Things They Carried*

READING: "A Reader's Manifesto" by B.R. Myers (available at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2001/07/a-readers-manifesto/302270/>)

October 20 Class discussion of Myers

NO READING

October 27 Class cancelled but you **MUST** attend **Tim O'Brien's** evening lecture and prepare notes from his lecture (due Nov 3) **AND** one Diverse U event (<http://umt.edu/diverseu/>) on November 5 and prepare a one-page written reflection (due Nov 10)

****Tim O'Brien**, the First-Year Book author, will deliver a lecture in the **President's Lecture Series at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 28, in the University Theater**. He will also meet with first-year students for a discussion seminar that same day, 3:10-4pm in the UC Theater. For further information about First-Year Book events: <http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/fyreading>

****Please attend both lectures and take notes.**

Bring your copy of the book in case you have a chance to get the author's signature. Notes due November 3.

READING: "Why Our Future Depends on Libraries, Reading and Daydreaming" by Neil Gaiman (available at: <http://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/oct/15/neil-gaiman-future-libraries-reading-daydreaming>)

November 3 Class discussion of author lecture and Gaiman

Due: Notes from O'Brien lectures

READING: "The Shape of the Book" by Alberto Manguel

November 10 Book-binding project at Buttercup Café with Audra Loyal; Discussion of Manguel

Due: One-page written Diverse U reflection

READING: "The Very Image of a Book" by Nicholas Carr

****DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TO FIRST-YEAR READING ESSAY CONTEST (optional, but carries a \$250 award. Please consider submitting!)**

November 17 Discussion of Carr

READING: "Google and the Future of Books" by Robert Darnton

November 24 Visit to library exhibit "Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings" and class discussion of Darnton

Due: Reading Logs

December 1 Discussion of reading logs, class wrap and final thoughts/prep for Final Presentations

December 8 Finals Week/Oral Presentations