

9-2014

HONR 120.82: Introduction to Honors

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Recommended Citation

Pengelly Drake, Laure, "HONR 120.82: Introduction to Honors" (2014). *DHC Syllabi*. 4.
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Fall 2014
HONR 120.82 Syllabus
Introduction to Honors
Wednesday, 3:10-4:00 P.M.
DHC 118

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Individual and Community

HC 120, Introduction to Honors

HC 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 120.82 Individual and Community

"The tension between self-reliant competitive enterprise and a sense of public solidarity espoused by civic republicans has been the most important unresolved problem in American history. Americans have sought in the ideal of community a shared trust to anchor and complete the desire for a free and fulfilled self" (Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life by Robert Bellah et al., 1985, p. 256).

Students who want to be actively engaged in the extra-curricular intellectual, cultural, and political life of the campus and community will receive challenge, direction, and support for that engagement in this section of Introduction to Honors. Because we will study both the historical and the contemporary theory and practice of the universally significant theme of individual and community relationships, this course can also provide an entry point for students interested in applying for competitive national scholarships.

What is the common good and why does it matter? What does academic excellence have to do with it? Will you be a better citizen if you read widely and think critically? How do the various sub-communities of the University of Montana and Missoula balance individualism and community? We will examine these and other related questions through the United States' founding documents, essays by Bellah, Emerson, Orwell, and other authors, as well as interviews, debates, cultural events, and service projects.

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.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities will receive reasonable modifications in this course. Your responsibilities are to request them from me with sufficient advance notice, and to be prepared to provide verification of disability and its impact from Disability Services for Students. Please speak with me after class or during my office hours to discuss the details. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

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.

Protocol

Always come prepared, participate, honor others in the class, stretch your minds, and give your best. If you miss class for any reason, the **replacement assignment** will be to attend an enriching event that lasts at least one hour and write a two-page reflection on the event. Discuss choices and deadlines with me before you begin.

Grading

One short analysis/argument paper and one rewrite re. *The Things They Carried* (30 percent total)
One scholarship-style personal statement (10 percent)
Two short oral presentations (20 percent)
Interviews: short oral report/notes/discussion (5 percent)
Five discussion questions for each reading assignment (10 percent)
Active participation in all classes and activities; reading all assignments for the day they are listed and providing notes where requested. (25 percent)

Reading List

The First-Year Book, *The Things They Carried*, and various articles (TBA)

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.

August 27, Introduction to the course, Individual and Community

- Introductions, game
- Being prepared for class, preparing to be educated
- Questions/discussion points
- Papers and presentations
- Engagement and ethics
 - Service—HSA projects and group activity
 - Academics—President's Lecture Series and other lectures
 - Culture--First Fridays art, theater, dance, music, etc.
 - Community Scavenger Hunt handout
 - Interviews—more details to follow
- *The Things They Carried*

August 27, Wednesday, 8:00 pm – **Special Event: Academic Convocation** on the Oval. Academic Convocation is a celebration to welcome all incoming students to UM. Visit the **Honors College bonfire** in front of the DHC building.

September 3, What? So what? Now what? Planning futures, writing our lives

Due: Community Scavenger Hunt Projects

Due: "Americans Who Tell the Truth" www.americanswhotellthetruth.org; careful preparation for discussion of the paintings and bios on the website (note at least 10 examples to discuss—a mixture of people you inspiring and disturbing, inside and outside your areas of interest)

******Introduction to long-term interview project: In small groups (2-3), select a campus or community expert on a topic related to this course (professors who are experts on our authors, the mayor or city council members, board or staff members of non-profit organizations, experts on your issue, etc.). Prepare twenty questions for the interview and have the topic, interviewee, and questions approved before the interview. Conduct the interview and present your results to the class as a group. Due: November 12**

September 4, Thursday, 7:00 pm, Special Event: Honors Convocation – a welcome for new DHC students in the UC Theater. UM Assistant Professor Quan Ha will offer a lecture, "Reading *The Things They Carried*," followed by a dessert reception in the DHC Lounge. This event is **mandatory for first-year Honors students. Make sure you sign in with your Griz card at the event.**

September 5, 6:00 pm, Friday Art Walk/First Friday
Meet at Knowles Lounge to walk downtown

September 10, MEET at MMAC in PARTV BUILDING (at 3:00 if possible)

Dr. Herb Swick, docent

Due: review exhibition summary at

<http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum/exeventsschedule/currentexhibitions.aspx>

Due: notes (outline of main points—about one page) and 5 discussion questions on “Why Public Art Matters”

[http://blog.artsusa.org/artsblog/wp-](http://blog.artsusa.org/artsblog/wp-content/uploads/greenpapers/documents/PublicArtNetwork_GreenPaper.pdf)

[content/uploads/greenpapers/documents/PublicArtNetwork_GreenPaper.pdf](http://blog.artsusa.org/artsblog/wp-content/uploads/greenpapers/documents/PublicArtNetwork_GreenPaper.pdf)

Due: 1000-word personal statement re. the role you want to play in your community

Thursday, September 11, Dennison Theater 8:00 pm

President’s Lecture Series, Alan Wolfe, “Political Evil: What It Is and How to Combat It” Take notes and write 5 discussion questions

September 17, Mike Mansfield and Civic Engagement

Due: Watch and take notes on leadership style and content:

http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/leader_lecture_video_mansfield.htm

Inaugural Leader Lecture in the US Senate, March 24, 1998

Mike Mansfield—drawn from talk he wrote for November 22, 1963, and, of course, did not deliver

Due: Read and take notes on the sampling of letters in the late 1960s to Senator Mansfield regarding US involvement in Vietnam. [Moodle]

Due: notes and discussion questions from Alan Wolfe lecture

September 20, possible date for service project

September 24, Discussion of First-Year Book

Due: 750-1250 word scholarly/analytical essay (option 1) re. First-Year Book

Review the contest website for criteria and mailing information: <http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/fyreading>.

Contest deadline: Monday, November 10

You will receive comments, which you should use to revise your essays before the contest deadline. Due October 8: 2nd draft

October 1, Citizenship Skills

US Government and Citizens as Community

Due: *Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Amendments*; 5 questions for each document

*Maybe **October 3, First Friday outing; meet at 6:00 PM in Knowles lobby to walk downtown for Art Walk***

October 8, US Government and Citizens as Community, part 2

Due: *Federalist 10*; 5 questions

Due: 2nd draft of *The Things They Carried* paper

October 15, “Might Makes Right” Debate

Due: Thucydides’s “The Melian Dialogue” and FDR’s Second Bill of Rights”

--5 questions on Thucydides and Roosevelt, including questions comparing the two authors and documents; prepare for debate

October 22, Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address,” “Second Inaugural Address”

Due: Oral presentation (~2-min.) What role did Lincoln play in founding America?

Tuesday, October 28, Please, attend both the evening lecture and the conversation and **take notes.** For

information about First-Year Book events: <http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/fyreading>

Take your copy of *The Things They Carried* in case you have a chance to get the author’s signature.

As part of the First-Year Reading Experience, author Tim O'Brien will visit UM to speak about his book, *The Things They Carried*. **On Tuesday, October 28, 2014, Tim O'Brien will meet with first-year students at 3:10-4:00 p.m. in the UC Theater** for a "Conversation with First-Year Students," and he will give a **public lecture at 8:00 p.m. in the Dennison Theatre**.

October 29, Student Mentor Sara Thane re involvement

Due: ~ 2-4 pages, notes on the O'Brien talks (include basic content and the questions and/or reflections the talks raised for you)

October 31, Time TBA, Friday, service for HSA Trick-or-Eat; wear your costumes!

November 5, guest

America's Political Community: Obfuscation and Responsibility

Due: George Orwell: "Politics and the English Language" from *Collected Essays*; 5 discussion questions; 5 examples of contemporary political language that illustrate Orwell's concerns

November 10, Monday, essay due to Kelly (Peterson) Webster, Director of the Writing Center, for First-Year Essay Contest (optional)

November 12, Ralph Waldo Emerson

Due: *Essays*, "Self-Reliance" and 5 questions on Emerson

Interview presentations

Due: your notes on the interviews [see September 3 entry]

November 19, Bellah and Rand

Due: Robert Bellah: *Habits of the Heart: Individualism and Commitment in American Life*, ch. 11,

"Transforming American Culture"; Selection from *Anthem* by Ayn Rand

--5 questions on each author (Bellah and Rand); include comparisons with Emerson and other authors we have read

November 26, no class-Thanksgiving travel day

December 3, The Common Good

Due: Readings TBA, 5 questions, and a working definition of the common good

Thursday, December 11, 1:10-3:10, DHC 118

Final Exam: oral presentations (3-5 minutes): Individualism, Community, and the Common Good

NB: Important Dates and Deadlines for Autumn Semester 2014

<http://www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/ImportantDatesFall2014>