



IDH 1931 – Introduction to Honors

IDH 1931 – Fall Semester 2016

The Honors College

Florida International University

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Course Description

The purpose of this year-long course is to introduce you to the interdisciplinary culture of the FIU Honors College, while preparing students to complete research for their respective fields. By the conclusion of this course, students will obtain the skills necessary to complete an independent research product and present their findings to a identified audience.

Honors-level academic skills

- a. **Writing:** rhetorical principles, outlining, editing, grammar and syntax, and citing
- b. **Logic:** Basic principles of logical argumentation and critical analysis
- c. **Research:** Library resources (including journals), preparing a proposal, designing a research project, choosing appropriate sources
- d. **Creative collaboration:** Active learning, group projects, use of social media and programming to innovate, communicate, and cooperate

Personal development and college success

- e. **Honorable living:** Creating and sustaining an Honors community, graduation success, academic misconduct, citizenship, and Honors academic requirements
- f. **Leadership:** Study and practice of leadership, understanding leadership and followership styles, inventory of personal attitudes and behaviors toward leading and following

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to demonstrate the ability to completely and accurately address the following:

- What are the basic principles of academic and rhetorical writing and how do I use them?
- 20
- What is data-driven research and how do I undergo a research project?
- How can I plan my college experience to refine and complement my career goals?
- What are basic principles of leadership and how can I develop my leadership style?

Course Materials

- David Eagleman, *Sum: Forty Tales from the Afterlives*. Vintage Publishing, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-307-38993-0 (Purchase at FIU Bookstore).

Reference Video

- [Pecha Kucha on presenting a Pecha Kucha](#)
- [Oral Presentation - A How-To Guide](#)

All lessons and exercises assigned by your instructors are available on Blackboard

Attendance/Classroom Etiquette

Attendance is required and will be reflected in the final grade. You are expected to be on time for class and to remain in class for the duration of the lecture. Material will be covered in class that is *not* covered in the readings, thus each absence will negatively affect your ability to do well on assignments. Students will be allowed 2 absences. All other absences will adversely affect your grade. Please see the chart below for more information.

Number of Unexcused Absences	Estimated Grade											
	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
2	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
3	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F	F	F	F
4+	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

Students will behave in a courteous manner at all times. Talking in class is disruptive and shows a lack of respect for the lecturer, your fellow students and others present in the room. The use of electronic devices (cellphones, laptops, tablets, etc.) may be prohibited during certain activities at the discretion of the instructor.

Guidelines for Written Work

All written assignments **MUST** be typed and must conform to the instructions of the instructor. Papers and other written must include your name, Panther ID number, course number and the name of the instructor. They must be double spaced, 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) and in 12 point font, Times New Roman, and consistently adhere to the [MLA Formatting and Style Guide](#) or to another standard style as required by your professor. Students are advised to carefully proofread *all* papers before submitting them. All students are encouraged to take advantage of the University resources for writing to be found in the Center for Excellence in Writing, a full-service writing center providing writing assistance and feedback to university students. For more information, go to <http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/>.

Notices

Announcements and all guidelines for assignments will be posted on Blackboard. It is **your** responsibility to actively monitor the Blackboard site for information and any changes to the syllabus, schedule, or events.

Assignments

Lessons and Exercises: Complete all weekly lessons and exercises posted on Blackboard before the scheduled class meeting. The assignments will not be available after the set deadline and therefore cannot be made up. The lessons and exercises constitute **10% of your final grade**.

Book Review: Write a review of the book *Sum*. In the paper, you will need to detail the strengths and weaknesses of the author's message. The review should be evaluative, not merely a summary or whether you liked it. Detailed information on how to write a critical book report is posted in Blackboard. Review be well-written, meaning intriguing to read as well as conforming to basic grammatical/organizational principles as discussed in class and on Blackboard content. The book review accounts for **20% of your final grade**.

Research Paper: Write a research paper on a topic you select in consultation with your instructor. You must present a claim and defend it in an argument. Detailed information on how to write a good argument will be posted on Blackboard. The research paper counts as **40% of your final grade**.

Oral Presentation (Pecha Kucha format): Prepare and present an oral presentation in support of the claim you made in your argument essay. The oral argument will be presented in a [Pecha Kucha](#) style. PechaKucha is a simple presentation format that radically trims and streamlines the traditional PowerPoint presentation. Pecha Kucha allows students to show 20 images, each for projected for 20 seconds. The images advance automatically and you talk along to the images. The format forces you to know your topic, structure a concise, effective argument, and improve your presentation skills. You will present **12 slides** related to your research paper. The Pecha Kucha presentation accounts for **20% of your final grade**.

Participation: Every student is expected to participate in class and in discussion board conversations. All students must post a minimum of two replies to every other student. Students will be graded on the quantity and quality of discussion board posts. Students must also attend one full session of the FIU Undergraduate Research Conference sponsored by the Honors College. Please note that attending class is not considered "participation," but a requirement. Pay close attention to your attendance record as unexcused absences can have serious effect on your final class grade. Participation makes up **10% of the final grade**.

Assignment Grading Scale

<u>Assignment Category</u>	<u>Weighted Percent</u>
Lessons and Exercises	10
Book Review	20
Research Paper	40
Pecha Kucha Oral Presentation	20
Participation	10
TOTAL:	100

Grading Scale

A 93+ A- 92-90 B+ 89-87 B 86-83 B- 82-80 C+ 79-77 C 76-73 C- 72-70 D 69-67 F 66>

Honors College Requirements and Policies

Registration in this course implies an acceptance of and compliance with the Honors College policies for students and the FIU Code of Academic Integrity.

Honors Citizenship Requirements

Beginning in Fall 2014, Honors College students are required to accumulate at least **20 citizenship points** each academic year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities. Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate **10 citizenship points**. See [Citizenship](#).

Student Portfolios

The Honors College will be using a portfolio method to assess students' learning outcomes. The portfolio allows for maximum flexibility in gauging student learning. Students decide (with instructor consultation) what "artifacts" or assignments to include for consideration in their portfolios to demonstrate successful achievement of each of five key student learning outcomes over the 4-year Honors experience. See [Portfolios](#).

Academic Misconduct Procedures and Penalties

In The Honors College, the term "honor" refers both to academic accomplishment and character. Students in Honors should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal academic accountability. Academic dishonesty in any form, including plagiarism, is antithetical to the very definition of being an Honors student at FIU. Consequently, an Honors College student found responsible for academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.

An Honors faculty member may bring charges of academic misconduct against an Honors student if the faculty member suspects plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct. The faculty member will decide whether to pursue informal resolution, file formal resolution charges, or take no further action, and will follow the procedures outlined in the Honors College website at [Policies](#).

Religious Observances

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements or scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor *at the beginning of the semester* of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

Physical, Mental and Sensory Challenges

Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center, if you have not done so already.

Class Calendar - Fall 2016

<i>Week</i>	<i>Online Assignments (complete BEFORE class)</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Class Session</i>
1 8/24	Watch: "Surviving Your First Year" Review: PP--Intro to FIU and Honors		Complete Index Card Review Syllabus
2 8/31	Read: <i>Sum</i>		How to write a book review
3 9/7		Book Review: 9/11 by 11:59PM	Discuss <i>Sum</i>
4 9/14	Review: (1) PP--Getting started writing (2) PP—Research FIU Undergraduate Research Portal	Research Question: 9/14 in class	What is the purpose of research? How to write a research outline? Research Design
5 9/21	Review: PP--Ethics		Research Ethics
6 9/28	Review: PP—The writing process	Research Outline: 9/21 in class	Review Research Outlines
7 10/5	Exercise: Rhetorical appeals		Primary vs. Secondary Sources How to write an annotated bibliography?
8 10/12	Exercise: Research skills		How to write a literature review?

9 10/19	Exercise: Punctuation	Annotated Bibliography: 10/19 in class	Review Annotated Bibliographies
10 10/26	Review: PP—Writing logically		Methodology
11 11/2			Finalizing your Research Paper Organizing your Presentation
12 11/9	Watch: (1) Oral Presentation - A How-To Guide (2) Pecha Kucha on presenting a Pecha Kucha Read: Guide to Evaluating Oral Presentations	Pecha Kucha Slides: 11/13 by 11:59PM	Oral Presentations
13 11/16			Pecha Kucha Presentations
14 11/23			Pecha Kucha Presentations
15 11/30		Research Paper: 12/4 by 11:59PM	Pecha Kucha Presentations