

Syllabus

Hiaasen: Hilarious Farcical Florida

1181 IDH 3035 RVK Spring 2018 #23419

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General Information

Professor Information



Photo by Jean-Michele

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Please use Canvas course email; if necessary <pfeiffer@fiu.edu>

Course Description And Purpose

Course Overview:

This Honors upper division 2-semester course (3 credits/ semester) examines the works of award winning South Florida author, humorist and *Miami Herald* columnist, Carl Hiaasen. His writing spans 40 years from the time he joined the *Miami Herald* in 1976, post graduation in journalism from the University of Florida in 1974. [Yes, he's a Gator!]. His first employment was with *Cocoa Today* and as a feature writer for *Sunrise*. His newspaper columns for *The Miami Herald* vividly display his passions: politics, corruption, criminality and

the environment, particularly The Everglades and the Florida Keys. His novels explore and combine criminal elements with his exceptional research expertise and his fascination with reptiles.

Biography of Carl Hiaasen (edited, Pfeiffer)



Photo by Quinn Hiaasen

Carl Hiaasen was born and raised in Florida, where he still lives with his family. He is a graduate of the University of Florida and joined *The Miami Herald* as a general assignment reporter as age 23. He went on to work for the newspaper's weekly magazine and prize-winning investigations team. Since 1985 Hiaasen has been writing a regular column...[currently] his column appears on most Sundays in *Miami Herald's* opinion-and-editorial section, and may be viewed online at www.herald.com

He began writing novels in early 1980s with his good friend and fellow journalist, William D. Montalbano. Together they wrote three mystery thrillers – *Powder Burn*, *Trap Line* and *Death in China*; all incorporated their excellent reporting experiences. *Tourist Season*, (1986), was Hiaasen's first solo novel. According to *GQ* it [was] “one of the 10 best destination reads of all time,” though it failed to frighten a single tourist away from Florida.

His next effort, *Double Whammy*, was the first (and possibly only) novel ever written about sex, murder and corruption on the professional bass-fishing tour. Since then, Hiaasen has published *Skin Tight*, *Native Tongue* and nine national bestsellers – *Strip Tease*, *Stormy Weather*, *Lucky You*, *Sick Puppy*, *Basket Case*, *Skinny Dip*, *Nature Girl*, *Star Island* and *Bad Monkey*.

All the novels are set in Florida, for obvious reasons. His most recent novel, *Razor Girl* was released this past year and made the *New York Times* best-seller list. He is the author of several popular novels for young readers: *Hoot*, which won a Newbery Honor, *Flush*, *Scat* and, most recently, *Skink – No Surrender*, introducing one of the wildest characters in his adult books to a teen audience. The film version of *Hoot* came out in 2006. It was directed by Wil Shriner, and produced by Jimmy Buffett and Frank Marshall. Buffett plays a teacher in the movie, while the author himself makes a forgettable cameo.

He has also written two nonfiction books, *Team Rodent*, “a wry but unsparing rant against the Disney empire and its grip on American culture” and in 2008 *The Downhill Lie*, “which chronicles the author's ill-advised return to the sport of golf after a ‘much-needed’ 32-year hiatus. His books have been published in 34 languages. The London Observer has called him “America's finest satirical novelist,” while Janet Maslin of the New York Times has compared him to Preston Sturges, Woody Allen and S.J. Perelman.”

“To prove he doesn’t just make up all the sick stuff in his books, Hiaasen has also published three collections of his newspaper columns, *Kick Ass*, *Paradise Screwed* and *Dance of the Reptiles*,” the volumes edited by Diane Stevenson. Hiaasen has received numerous honors, including the Damon Runyon Award from the Denver Press Club and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. “His nonfiction work has appeared in many magazines, including *Sports Illustrated*, *Playboy*, *Time*, *Esquire* and, most improbably, *Gourmet*. One of Hiaasen's most well-known novels, *Strip Tease*, was turned into a major motion picture starring Demi Moore, and directed by Andrew Bergman. Hiaasen still believes that the Vaseline scene featuring Burt Reynolds is a landmark moment in American cinema.

https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/09/28/mpr_news_presents

<http://gardenandgun.com/article/carl-hiaasen> (see below)

From *Garden and Gun*: “Hiaasen’s novels are not dense literary tomes. They are fun, fast reads filled with hilarious one-liners and biting satire (the *Los Angeles Times* once called him the heir to Mark Twain). But what’s most emphatic in the writings of Hiaasen is the outrage—over our rampant moral and political corruption and senseless destruction of the environment, mostly in his beloved home state of Florida, the setting for nearly everything he writes. This outrage, though veiled in the humor and fun, is not heedless. It is comforting, even emboldening, to read his work and realize that we are not alone, that it is perfectly okay to be mad and exasperated about these dark forces that seem to have left us defenseless. Hiaasen gives us a voice, and for this reason he is one of the most important writers of the last half century. He is our howler, Southern in focus but American—even global—in reach.” Hiaasen’s personal biography can be viewed at <http://www.carlhiaasen.com/bio.shtml#linkPoint>

Required reading (fall and spring): Hiaasen’s works will be cross-referenced throughout both semesters)

Team Rodent; electronic readings from *Dance of the Reptiles*; *Tourist Season*; *Stormy Weather*; *Bad Monkey*; *Razor Girl*; *Skin Tight*; *Strip Tease*; *Star Island*, electronic readings noted from *Kick Ass*, *Paradise Screwed*- (by permission from the author); “The Florida Keys: Something Precious is Falling Apart”, electronic readings of current columns from *The Miami Herald*; 1 youth novel (each team division will review 1 of the 5 youth books [like *Hoot*] to present to the class); and excerpts from Diane Stevenson, editor of Hiaasen’s collected works.

Global Learning Initiatives

Hiaasen’s works display his outstanding proficiency and competency in research skills and a distinctive lexicon. He says of his work as a reporter and columnist: “You just cover a lot of territory and you do it aggressively and you do it fairly and you don’t play favorites and you don’t take any prisoners. It’s the old school of slash-and-burn metropolitan column writing. You just kick ass. That’s what you do and that’s what they pay you to do.” (*Kick Ass*)

And he has done just that, as noted in his compilations of columns and articles as displayed in *Kick Ass*, *Paradise Screwed* and *Dance of the Reptiles* and the *Miami Herald*.

Course Objectives

1. Generalize central themes that emerge from Hiaasen's novels and his columns such as politics, corruption, criminality, the environment, reptiles, and Florida's fresh water
2. Conceptualize and apply Hiaasen's environmental policies regarding preservation of South Florida, the Everglades, the Florida Keys, and fresh water
3. Compare and contrast the author's views on race and gender equality
4. Analyze and evaluate tourism from Hiaasen's viewpoint
5. Describe the problem with reptiles that exist in South Florida (notably the Everglades)
6. Characterize the vices that operate and permeate levels of South Florida society and politics according to Hiaasen
7. Recognize patterns that can improve life in South Florida by avoiding greed, hypocrisy and corruption
8. Interpret Hiaasen's thesis regarding *Team Rodent* and evaluate its validity
9. Express the author's knowledge of journalistic reporting through his columns and literary works
10. Identify some of the problems that affect South Florida regarding hurricanes
11. Define and draw conclusions regarding problems that exist with off-shore drilling for oil in the Gulf of Mexico, using the example of the BP oil spill
12. Discuss Hiaasen's ability to integrate humor with serious issues that affect life in South Florida
13. Illustrate the effectiveness of Hiaasen's satire to assuage unsavory behavior in South Florida

Required Reading (spring)

Expectations Of This Course

This is an online course, which means all the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to complete the following

- **Sign the agreement form that you have read and understand the course information and requirements.**
- **Review PPT "Avoiding Errors"**
- **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard.
- **Interact online** with instructor/s and peers to meet all assignment and assessment deadlines/due dates
- **Review and follow** the course calendar. Any appropriate changes will be sent via course message and announcements. so it is important to read and review these weekly if not more often.

- **Log in to the course** at least twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters; for the SHORT Summer sessions, log in more often as noted for Summer A and B to ensure any changes that occur are duly noted.
- **Respond** to discussion boards, blogs and journal postings as required, following due dates that are posted in the course calendar. For discussions, the initial post is usually on Thursday evening followed by a minimum of 3 responses by Sunday evening..
- **Submit** assignments and complete assessments by their corresponding deadlines
- **Respond** to course messages within 3-5 days.
- **Use word doc or docx** to submit. assignments, double line space your work using academic style writing. Some formats are not compatible and cannot be opened in Blackboard; thus your compliance is important. If you send an incompatible document, it will be returned with a grade deduction and resubmitted in the proper format for a grade.(Note that cell phone submissions cannot be posted online.)

As your instructor, I agree to:

- **Make every attempt to log in to the course** at least every 2 days; often I log in every other day and sometimes daily to check for messages and respond to inquiries.
- **If I am unable to log in** as noted above, you should receive a message from me stating the reason for any delay in the log in process or inquiry responses.
- **Make every attempt** to respond to messages within 24-48 hours. Again, as noted above, if I am unable respond in a timely manner, I will post to you a reason for the delay.
- **Post grades** within 5-7 days after assigned deadlines. My policy for grading includes the following: I read all assignments and assessments once; after the first reading, I reread your submissions and post grades using the grading/discussion rubrics.

Course Details:

Policies

Please review the [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

Honors Policies

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.

- Policy on religious holidays, accommodations for disabilities, and academic misconduct.

[Academic Standing](#)

[Misconduct](#)

[Improvement](#)

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

NEW CITIZENSHIP POINT SYSTEM

New Citizenship Requirements: Honors College students are required to accumulate at least **20 citizenship points** each academic year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities (listed below). Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate **10 citizenship points**. Each activity has a point value. Students may select which events and activities they want to attend. The new system is designed to be more flexible for students, offering events at various days and times (including some weekend events) and allowing for a variety of ways to meet the requirements. Please plan accordingly. The **point value** of an event **will be noted on emails and flyers** when it is promoted. For a general breakdown, see the value table below.

Activity	Point Value
Colloquium	3
Club Meeting	1 (max of 3)
Honors Hour	2
HEARTS Event (all types)	1
Honors College Event – Honors Place	1
Honors College Night – Athletics	1
Other (Specific HC Sponsored Event)	1
Library Study Room (GL 310A) Visits	10 visits = 1

** There will be a few online events to choose from as well. **Because of the added flexibility of the new system, all students must fulfill the annual requirement-no exceptions.** Students must arrive at the activities on time. After 10 minutes, they will be turned away at the door. Students will track their points at [My Honors](#). We encourage students to earn as many points as they can. At the end of each academic year, the top ten point earners will be recognized by appointment to the **Dean’s Citizenship**

List Volunteer Hours:

As always, Honors College students must also complete **20 volunteer service hours**. These hours *DO NOT* count toward the 20 citizenship points discussed above. **Honors Hours** Honors Hours provide seminars, lectures, informational sessions, and workshops to expand your undergraduate experience. If you have ideas for Honors Hours workshops you would like to see, email us at honors@fiu.edu. Each Honors Hour session has a 2 point value. For a full list of Honors Hours for the current semester, go to [Honors Hours Colloquia](#). Every semester we invite Honors College faculty fellow to give a presentation on a topic of interest. Each Colloquium has a 3 point value. For a full list of Colloquia for the current semester, go to [Events](#). **Community Service**. 20-hours of Community Service per Academic Year (Fall/Spring). Being an Honors College student is more than just seeking academically challenging experiences, it’s also about giving back. The Honors College volunteering requirement is meant to get you outside of the classroom, giving back to your community. We ask that you commit at least 20 hours.

Honors College

Sections on student portfolios, Honors College citizenship requirements, academic misconduct and plagiarism.

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. Portfolios provide a rich context for students to show what they have learned and to explain their learning process. The purpose of the portfolio is to assess how successfully our curriculum fulfills its goals, and is not graded. Because the Honors curriculum is meant to be thought-provoking and reflective, student self-assessment through portfolios will facilitate learning and provide in-depth assessment. Each course will include at least one assignment that could potentially fit portfolio requirements. For more information on the student learning outcomes and constructing a portfolio for your senior year, see Portfolios.

Honors Citizenship Requirements

All members of the Honors College are expected to be active citizens of the College, the University, and the community at large. To be a committed Honors College student is to take advantage of enhanced learning opportunities and to assume a leadership role in the world. Attendance will be taken at events where appropriate and practical. All College members are expected to participate in the community-building activities listed below:

- Attend one Honors Excellence Lecture per academic year and one Honors Colloquium per semester (fall and spring).
- Attend at least three Honors Hour sessions per semester or enrichment events specified by the Honors College as satisfying this requirement.
- Perform at least twenty hours of community service per academic year (summer excluded) either through the Honors College service partnerships (Sweetwater, Overtown Youth Center, etc.) or through other community service projects and/or events. If you want to apply this service to your graduation portfolio, be sure to document your hours. Please contact an Honors College Academic Advisor if you have any questions.
- For more information on Honors citizenship requirements, see the Honors College Student Handbook.

Academic Honesty, Plagiarism, FIU Academic Misconduct Statement

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellence in teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and Community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct that demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Honors College Student Handbook.

Academic misconduct includes:

Cheating – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources, or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations or other work; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. Cheating violates both University and College

codes.

Plagiarism –The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source, and the representation of such work as the student’s own is plagiarism. Anyone who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including Internet sources, commits plagiarism. Plagiarism violates both University and College codes.

Unacceptable behavior – Students who show repeated or egregious disrespect for classmates or instructors, are disruptive, or consistently violate course rules are subject to the sanctions of the Honors College.

Registration in this course implies an acceptance of and compliance with the Honors College policies for students and the FIU Code of Academic Integrity. Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

FIU Code of Academic Integrity – <http://www.fiu.edu/~dwyere/academicintegrity.html>
FIU Honors College Policy – <http://honors.fiu.edu/students/policies/>

Procedures

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, within one week of the discovery of the suspected act the faculty member will hold an informal meeting with the student in order to inform him/her of the allegation(s), provide any evidence available, and allow the student to respond. 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 Academic Misconduct Procedures, available at Academic Misconduct.

The student will have the right to appeal the outcome of the meeting with the instructor within one week of the faculty member’s decision, when the decision is to pursue informal resolution or file formal resolution charges. The appeal will take the form of a letter to the Dean outlining the circumstances of the case and the reason for the objection to the professor’s recommendation. The Dean or his designee will examine the case and make a final determination about the pursuit of Informal Resolution or the filing of formal resolution charges.

Penalties

An Honors College student found responsible for plagiarism or other academic misconduct by informal resolution or formal resolution will receive an F in the relevant Honors course, and will be dismissed from the Honors College by the Dean, effective from the end of the semester in which the infraction occurs. Dismissal will be in writing and will entail the loss of all privileges and benefits of being in The Honors College, and the student will not be readmitted to The Honors College. The decision of the Dean will be final. This decision relates solely to the student’s status in The Honors College and does not affect the student’s right to appeal the original faculty decision. The penalty of dismissal from The Honors College may apply to academic misconduct in any course within Florida International University and not only to courses offered by The Honors College. In the case of courses outside The Honors College, the Dean of The Honors College will rely on the Office of the Provost for notification about the infraction(s). More stringent penalties, such as dismissal from the university, may be pursued through the university’s established academic misconduct process.

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. Academic

misconduct is a violation of the University Code of Standards, the Code of Academic Integrity, the ethical relationship between the student and the academic community, and especially between the student and the instructor. It is the responsibility and prerogative of the instructor to ensure adherence to these policies

Assignments- Essays, PPT's, Prezi presentations	7	20%
Final presentation	1	20%
Assessments- quizzes	4	20%
Discussions	3	20%
Live chats	3	20%

Spring 2018 required reading: *Skin Tight, Stormy Weather, Star Island, Bad Monkey* Essays from *Paradise Screwed*; youth novel selection- *Hoot, Skink No Surrender*; electronic readings

Week 1

Jan 8- Jan 14

Reading and viewing assignments

Stormy Weather

Assignment

Assignment #1 Essay, PPT or Prezi presentation- hurricanes that made landfall in South Florida and the Keys, from 1900's to present, a wiki page assignment, **due Jan 14 at 23:59**; GLI

Week 2

Jan 15-21

Reading and viewing assignments

Complete *Stormy Weather*; Essays from *Paradise Screwed*

Assignments

Assignment #2 Using a wiki page, discuss the problems that have resulted from hurricanes i.e. the scams presented in *Stormy Weather*, articles from *Paradise Screwed* and *Dance of the Reptiles*, **due Jan 21 at 23:59**; GLI

Week 3

Jan 22-28

Reading and viewing assignments

Bad Monkey

Assignment

Discussion #1, post initial thoughts on *Stormy Weather* and scams during hurricanes, **due Jan 25 at 23:59**; respond to at least 3 others **due Jan 28 at 23:59**

Assessment

Quiz #1 covers material from weeks 1-2, 10 questions, multiple choice, true/false/ matching, 1 attempt; **opens Jan 25 at 08:00, closes Jan 28 at 23:59**; GLI

Week 4

Jan 29- Feb 4

Reading and viewing assignments

Complete *Bad Monkey*

Begin both you novels *Hoot*; *Skink*, *No Surrender*

Assignment

Assignment #3 Essay with sections or a wiki page for each section; divide the following topics into 5 sections: Key West and the Florida Keys- real estate development, tourism, over population, fishing, fresh water supply, about 150 words per section (list all references), total, about 750 words total; **due Feb 4 at 23:59**; GLI

Work in assigned teams to design your PPT or Prezi presentation of the selected youth novel to be presented next week

Week 5

Feb 5-11

Reading and viewing assignments

Complete youth novels, view *Hoot*

Assignment

Live chat #1 regarding the youth novel themes, **Feb 8 from 21:00-22:00**; GLI

Assignment #4 Post your group creative assignment (Prezi or PPT) in a Wiki page **due Feb 11 at 23:59**; GLI

Week 6

Feb-12- 18

Reading and viewing assignments

Star Island; electronic readings from Hiaasen articles

Assignment

Assignment #5 Essay “Who’s who of Star Island, past and present” Select two of the famous persons (past or present); research each selection in a short essay (250-300 words per person) **due Feb 18 at 23:59**; GLI

Discussion #2, this corresponds to Assignment #5, compose a list of the famous people who live or have lived on Star Island, the discussion begins on Feb 12; you must read your classmates posts to ensure the persons are not duplicated **due Feb 18 at 23:59**

Assessment

Quiz #2 covers material from weeks 3-5, same format as all quizzes, **opens Feb 15 at 08:00, closes Feb 18 at 23:59**

Week 7

Feb 19- 25

Reading and viewing assignments

Complete *Star Island*; electronic readings from Hiaasen articles in *Kickass*, *Paradise Screwed*, begin *Skin Tight*

Assignment

Live chat #2 regarding the youth novel themes, **Feb 21 from 21:00-22:00; GLI**

Assignment #6- Cherry's encounter with Skink- Discuss these two in detail, "Who are Cherry and Skink?" **Due Feb 25 at 23:59**

Week 8

Feb 26- Mar 4

Reading and viewing assignments

Complete *Skin Tight* and electronic readings from Hiaasen articles in *Kickass*, *Paradise Screwed*

Assignment

Discussion #3, involves research, "Stiltsville," and Hemingway's house on stilts, a myth or a reality, geographic local of each, real life encounters, **initial post Mar 1 at 23:59, responses to others due Mar 4 at 23:59**

Assessment

Quiz #3 covers material from weeks 6-7, same format as all quizzes, opens Mar 1 at 08:00, closes Mar 4 at 23:59

Week 9

Mar 5-11

Reading assignment

Begin both youth novels *Hoot*; *Skink*, *No Surrender*

Assignment

Assignment #7- corruption in South Florida from *Skin Tight* and current events/articles **due Mar 11 at 23:59; GLI**

Live chat 2 regarding the youth novel themes, **Mar 8 from 21:00-22:00; GLI**

Week 10

Mar 12- 18

Spring Break, No classes

Week 11

Mar 19- 25

Reading and viewing

Complete youth novels, and DVD *Hoot*

Assignment

Live chat #3-major themes of Hiaasen's works and their importance to South Florida, **Mar 22 20:00-21:00**

Week 12

Mar 26- April 1

Assignment

Assignment # 8 Begin work on course final essay in 2 parts, A and B: Discuss and develop Hiaasen's unique humor that gives a voice to the problems of South Florida and the Keys as noted through the themes in his columns, youth novels, citing examples from the readings for Spring: *Star Island*, *Stormy Weather*, *Bad Monkey*, excerpts from *Kickass*, *Paradise Screwed*, youth novels; your selection needs to address two or more of Hiaasen's themes

Assessment

Quiz #4 covers material from weeks 8-11, same format as previous quizzes, **opens Mar 29, closes Apr 1 at 23:59**

Week 13

Apr 2- 8

Assignment

Final Assignment in 2 parts, A (thesis, abstract, outline and bibliography) and B (minimum of 750 words):

Discuss and develop Hiaasen's **unique humor and satire** that gives a voice to the problems of South Florida and the Keys as noted through the themes in his works this semester newspaper columns, youth novels, *Star Island*, *Stormy Weather*, *Bad Monkey*, excerpts from *Kickass*, *Paradise Screwed*; GLI

Week 14

Apr 9- 15

Assignment #8

Assignment #8 Part A- Thesis statement, abstract of 200 words, outline for Part B, and bibliography, **due April 15 at 23:59**, GLI

Week 15

Apr 16-22

Assignment

Assignment #8 Part B Complete the work on your essay: title, text body with footnotes or endnotes, citing examples from you selected bibliography; write a conclusion that supports your thesis statement, GLI

Week 16 Finals

April 23-28

Part B, Submit essay that follows your outline, 750 words; Final essay **due Apr 23 at 23:59**; GLI