SYLLABUS
Fall 2011

IDH 3034 Honors Seminar V
section UO4 class no. 84146
IDH 4007 Honors Seminar VII
section UO4 class no. 84153

Instructor: Stephen M. Fain
Office Green Library 232B
Office Hours: Tuesday: 1:00 - 2:00 pm by appointment
Wednesday  5:00 - 6:00 pm  by appointment
other times may also be arranged
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Class Meetings: Wednesday 2-4:45 pm
Room: TBA

AESTHETICS, VALUES AND AUTHORITY: CONFRONTING AMERICA

In recent years it has become commonplace for American citizens to look critically at the behavior of the nation and its people. The idea that it is a good thing for citizens to actively critique and criticize the government and the people is alive and well in the United States. Today there is a spirit in this nation that supports challenges to authority and individualism, and there is a conflict between citizens as to what beliefs and behaviors define national loyalty and patriotism. Clearly there is conflict within the nation. In the United States articulation of conflicting views is protected by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The American experience is grounded in this spirit and the authority associated with citizenship empowers all to participate in the process of governing the nation. Evidence of this is obtained by considering the struggles and changes, which mark the evolution of the nation from its inception. Beginning with a reading of Common Sense, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights we will examine personalities and phenomena, which give America meaning. Utilizing selected readings, films, and other cultural artifacts, as well as through individual and group projects, we will examine the character of America. The Fall semester will focus on the foundations of the American character and the Spring term will focus on an analysis of more contemporary issues grounded in the foundations central to the academic work done in the Fall.

In the past this seminar has planned a four-day trip to Washington, D.C. during the Spring term. Early in the Fall seminar participants will decide if they wish to build such a trip into their Honors experience. If the seminar decides to include this experience in the Spring term it will be expected to earn money to help reduce out of pocket expenses for all.

Honors College Citizenship Requirements

1 This course is designed to span both the Fall and Spring semesters.
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. All College members are expected to participate in the community-building activities listed below:

1. Attend one Honors Excellence Lecture per academic year and one Honors Colloquium per semester (fall and spring). (Attendance will be taken).

2. Participate in the Honors College Convocation each Fall. (Attendance will be taken).

3. Attend at least three Honors Hour sessions per semester or enrichment events specified by the Honors College as satisfying this requirement. (Attendance will be taken).

4. 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.

**Important Honors College Fall Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convocation</td>
<td>October 5, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excellence Lecture</td>
<td>October 27, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Awards Assembly</td>
<td>December 2, 2011</td>
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**FALL 2011: THE AMERICAN CHARACTER**

The seminar will begin by examining cultural artifacts, personalities and events that have shaped the character of the people of America from the founding of the nation to 1975. Recognizing that it is not possible to consider all of the forces that shaped the American character, specific themes have been identified which provide a basis for understanding aspects of this unique national prospective. These understandings will serve as a base-line for the analysis of contemporary issues in American life during the Spring semester.

**Goals of the seminar are to:**

- engage students in critical thought
- create and maintain a simulating intellectual experience for all seminar participants
- advance each seminar participant’s understanding of the importance of aesthetics, values and authority in establishing a national character.
- demonstrate the interrelationships linking aesthetics, values and authority in shaping a world view
- identify the issues which will serve as the central themes for the spring seminar
- encourage Honors College students to actively participate in University service and activities.

**Format:**

This course is offered as a seminar. It is expected that meetings will include regular and lively focused discussions. The course instructor has the responsibility for setting the themes, making assignments and respecting the contributions of well-prepared seminar participants in all discussions. The participants have the responsibility to come to meetings prepared, actively participate in discussions, act respectfully towards all seminar participants, and to complete all assignments on time. It should be understood that students who arrive at seminar meetings late and/or unprepared are by definition disrespectful to the entire seminar.
Because the seminar meets for 2 hours and 45 minutes there is plenty of time for discussion and the viewing of full-length films.

**Course Requirements:**

**Class notes: 20%**
When noted on the course calendar students will submit “class notes” based on the assigned readings prior to class. Class notes are typed and may not exceed 2 standard pages. **Class notes should end with two (2) questions that are reflective of the student’s understanding of the readings.** Although it is expected that class notes will always be submitted when noted on the course calendar **only the five (5) highest grades in this category will be averaged for the final grade.**

**Reflective papers: 20%**
At intervals noted on the seminar calendar students will submit reflective papers of no more than 3 pages. These papers are intended to provide seminar participants with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the evolution of the seminar up to a specific point in time. **Three (3) reflective papers must be submitted.** Students carrying an average below A in this category may write a forth-reflective paper. Students who elect this option cannot earn a grade higher than A- for their reflective papers.

**Group project: 10%**
Participants will be assigned to a drama team and develop an in class performance lasting no more than 20 minutes focused on specific aspects of the American experience represented in an assigned readings. Additionally, the group will submit a rationale supporting their presentation and demonstrating the specific connection between the performance and the assigned readings.

**Take home mid-term examination: 20%**
Students will respond to 2 of 3 questions on a take home examination. These questions will be drawn from the experiences of the seminar up to the point of the examination. Students will have two weeks to complete this task.

**Final synthesis project: 20%**
Each participant in the seminar is required to develop a creative/artistic project that synthesizes their seminar experience. This idea behind this assignment is that students will identify a concept, value or theme they believe to be a core element of what we will call the American character and as such transcends time. Through the synthesis project students will communicate this understanding in a non-traditional format to the entire seminar. This project will take 2 forms: first there will be a 5-8 minute presentation of the project to the seminar and second, a one-page paper will be submitted explaining the rationale behind the project. Students will not be graded on artistic talent. Instead they will be graded on the effort and insights reflected in the project.

**Participation: 5%**
A seminar is only as good as the participants make it. Students will be graded on the quality of their participation in seminar activities. It should be understood that quality is significantly more noteworthy than quantity.

**University Citizenship: 5%**
Students in the Honors College you are expected to be involved as active citizens in our University community. By the close of the fall semester each member of this seminar will provide evidence of participation in at least six (6) diverse University sanctioned activities: at least 1 athletic competition, at least 1 aesthetic experience (fine or performing arts), at least 1 lecture or other formal discussion, at least 2 other citizenship activities (this includes, but is not limited to, student government, The Beacon, FIU Radio, other FIU sanctioned activities). The Honors College Parade and Convocation count in the last category and participation is expected. Activities that meet the Honors College Citizenship requirements are appropriate for this requirement. **Students will submit a citizenship log at the close of the semester.**
Guideline for all written work:

All papers and the mid term examination will be submitted electronically. This work should be produced in accordance with the guidelines below.

- Work will be submitted electronically no later than 1 pm on the date it is due.
- Work should be formatted as if on standard 8.5/2 x 11 paper, doubled spaced, with standard margins, and prepared using a standard 12-point font.
- All work done outside of the seminar will be proofread and corrected thoroughly.
- Students should follow a manual of style when preparing written work. Any standard style is acceptable.
- Name and Panther ID number as well as page numbers should appear on top of each page of all work.
- All work should have a title page. (not counted in page limits)
- Students should keep a copy of all written work submitted
- Work received after deadlines may be marked down for lateness
- ALL STUDENT WORK IS TO BE ORIGINAL. PROPER REFERENCES ARE REQUIRED WHEN USING THE WORK OF OTHERS IN YOUR PAPERS. VIOLATORS OF THIS POLICY MAY BE AWARDED A GRADE OF “F” FOR THE COURSE.

Submission of written work

All work should be sent electronically to fainhonors.11.12@gmail.com
Students are advised to always keep copies of all work submitted electronically.

Academic Honesty and 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. Any student 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 Student Handbook – http://honors.fiu.edu/handbook0910.html

FIU Honors College Plagiarism Policy – http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_plagiarism.html

REQUIRED TEXTS: (texts marked with * will be used in during both Fall and Spring Semesters)


Electronic Readings: See the course calendar for access to electronic readings²

The Founding of the Nation
Thomas Paine; Common Sense
Second Treatise on Government; Chapter 2 - Of the State of Nature
Benjamin Franklin On the Federal Constitution
Time Magazine: Citizen Ben's Great Virtues
Securing the Republic: Thomas Jefferson, Notes on the State of Virginia
George Washington's Farewell Address
Last Will and Testament by George Washington

Unification and Emancipation
The Emancipation Proclamation
A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand- 1858
The Avalon Project; Second Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln
Industrial Education for the Negro by Booker T. Washington
The Case of the Negro

2. This list will be modified during the semester.
The Talented Tenth by W.E.B. DuBois
Susan B. Anthony; Women's Right to Vote
Presidential Executive Order 9981

An Emerging Nation Responds to Immigration
The New Colossus
Ancestors in the Americas; The Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act
United States Immigration Policy; Bill of Rights in Action
Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882
No Irish Need Apply
Melting pot America
NEW DIALOGUE: Cuban immigration, Haitian repatriation
True Americanism

Unique American Art forms
Casey at the Bat
Isadora Duncan and The Dance
Louis Sullivan, The tall office building artistically considered
Louis Sullivan, Buildings Extant in Chicago
William James, What Pragmatism Means
Susanne K. Langer, Feeling And Form
The Life of Louis
O Captain! My Captain
You’re a Grand Old Flag
Born in the USA

The Spirit of a Nation
Franklin Delano Roosevelt; The Four Freedoms Speech
The Great Depression and the New Deal