

# CULTURE AND EXPRESSION: CENSORSHIP, SUPPRESSION, AND PROPAGANDA

-Syllabus-

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## Course and Objectives

For as long as humankind has gathered in groups, we have sought to express ourselves through various means: music, visual art, dance, speech, literature, and now digital media. Yet nearly as long, the seats of power in societies around the world have sought to co-opt, subvert, muzzle, or obliterate altogether the free expression of culture. This course will examine these interdependent issues from diverse vantage points, encompassing everything from the influence of the Catholic church during the Middle Ages through the Civil Rights era, from the agitprop of communist countries to the restrictions, explicit or oblique, right here in contemporary America. We'll discuss how Pussy Riot became a tool of Putin's Russia and how they militarized their message in response to imprisonment; how actors helped to bring down the Berlin Wall; how Reinaldo Arenas employed a critical literary voice and openly gay lifestyle against the Castro regime; and much more.

## Requirements and Grading

The basic requirement of this course is the desire to seek an in-depth understanding of the interrelationships between various means of cultural expression and the socio-political and cultural contexts into which they fit. Students will be expected to participate in ongoing class discussions and, on occasion, distinguished guest artists or lecturers, incorporating reading or listening assignments as necessary. Frequent written or other assignments, to include critical reviews of performances or other events; analytical comparisons; site visits, etc. will also form an integral part of the assessment process. As fellows of the Honors College, students will as well complete a large-scale project each semester in which they will select any work or creator of art or time period of their choice and, through the filter of their own academic disciplines, demonstrate creatively their understanding of the underlying contexts of the topic. When possible, students should, as ambassadors for FIU and as artist-citizens, incorporate community

service into their projects through presentation of their work for one of the Honors College partners or elsewhere. Approximately one month prior to the due date for these projects, students will submit via email a one-page written proposal of the topic to be undertaken. Grading assessments will be made at the conclusion of each semester based upon a scale of 100 total points for the semester, the details of which are enumerated below. As these are the only ways to earn points, regular class attendance is then necessary in order to pass the course. I will consider exceptions only with one week's prior notification of your intended absence, in which case there will be a substitute assignment required, at my discretion.

By the conclusion of the course, you will achieve the Honors College's Student Learning Outcomes (a) and (b): you will develop your ability to use the principles of academic and problem solving AND the abilities to conduct logical analysis and synthesis. In addition, a sufficient number of the assignments will yield work/artifacts suitable for inclusion in your Honors College portfolio. Each semester will result in an interdisciplinary research project, typically not in the form of a paper but rather an artifact, which should satisfy the above requirements.

Generally, assignments should be submitted here on Canvas (the best practice for which is a work in progress -- we'll determine whether my inbox here or some other protocol works best).

10 assignments @ 6 points each = 60 points

1 semester projects @ 40 points = 40 points

= 100 points

## Class Schedule

August 25

September 1

September 8

September 15 NO CLASS

September 22

September 29

October 6

October 13

October 20

October 27

November 3 Project proposals due.

November 10

November 17

November 24

December 1

December 8 Exam week schedule TBD, presentations.

## FYI:

As cases and hospitalizations due to the Delta variant continue to increase in our community, we must unite and take necessary steps to prevent further spread.

· Daily and before arriving to campus, complete the P3 app. If you are not given the green check

mark to enter campus, then return home, and contact me by email.

- Please check your FIU email account and your Canvas course at least once a day. Email and Canvas are the best ways for the university, and your professors, to contact you.
- If you do not feel well, have tested positive for COVID, or have been in contact with a person with COVID while not yet being fully vaccinated, please do not come to class, immediately complete the P3 app to notify the COVID Response Team or call them at 305-348-1919, and contact me by email as soon as you can. To excuse absences for P3 failure/COVID, please contact the COVID Response Team at 305-348-1919. If you are directed to quarantine because of COVID-19, your absences will be considered excused.
- A vaccinated, asymptomatic individual exposed to a COVID positive person does not need to quarantine. They need to continue to wear a mask. It is recommended to test 3-5 days post known exposure. However, if at any time they become symptomatic, they need to test immediately. If the test returns positive, they need to follow the COVID positive protocol at that time.
- Please take every precaution to keep yourself and others healthy. Per CDC guidelines, you are encouraged to get vaccinated and strongly advised to wear a mask indoors and in public including all FIU facilities.
- Missing excessive days may lead to failing a class or a grade of incomplete.
- For me to assist you in achieving your goals, it is important for you to contact me as soon as you experience any events that might disrupt your course participation. For up-to-date information about COVID, please see the [repopulation.fiu.edu](http://repopulation.fiu.edu) FAQs.

## University Requirements 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.

## Honors College

Below are sections on student portfolios, Honors College engagement citizenship requirements, academic misconduct and plagiarism.

## Academic Misconduct Procedures and 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. 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 Academic Misconduct Procedures available at <https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/get-support/student-conduct-and-academic-integrity/academic-integrity/index.php>.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information: FIU Student Handbook: <https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/about/student-handbook/index.php>

## 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. 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 Honors College course includes at least one assignment that could potentially fit portfolio requirements. <http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/portfolio/>

## Honors Engagement Requirements

Honors College students are required to accumulate at least 20 engagement 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 engagement 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. See: <http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/citizenship/> All members of the Honors College are expected to be active citizens of the College, the University, and the community at large.

## Service Hours

All Honors College students must also complete 20 volunteer service hours. These hours DO NOT count toward the 20 engagement points discussed above. <http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/community-service/>

## Honors Education in the Arts (HEARTS)

The HEARTS program is designed to give Honors College students opportunities to "explore and appreciate different artistic and cultural traditions and modes of artistic expression. HEARTS will also serve as a clearinghouse (and curatorial framework) for our students to experience the arts on campus and in the community by providing them with information about cultural activities and

access to performances with free or discounted tickets. <http://honors.fiu.edu/current-students/hearts/>

Resources:

Panthers Care & Counseling & Psychological Services

If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with FIU's Panthers Care website.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Learn more about CAPS at [caps.fiu.edu](http://caps.fiu.edu). Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call 305-348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.

## Global Learning Outcomes (All sections)

- Global Awareness- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems.
- Global Perspective- Students will be able to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems.
- Global Engagement- Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving.

Following is the home page for FIU Emergency Management where you can find resources on emergencies including but not limited to hurricanes, criminal threats, and pandemics.

1. <https://dem.fiu.edu/emergencies/criminal-threats/> (Links to an external site.)
2. This page has links to criminal threats on FIU campus (Active Shooter, Bomb Threats and Suspicious Packages).
3. The Active Shooter link contains a video on what to do in case one is present on campus and to dial University Police at 305-348-5911 or dial 911. University Police will know what DM, CP, GL, and building codes mean while Sweetwater Police may not be too familiar with them.
4. FIU Police recommends to download an app called "Stop the Bleed", which provides instructions on how to efficiently stop bleeding when someone may be shot or have an open wound with excessive bleeding.