

HONORS COLLO

Fogarty, Julia T

(Fall, 2008)

LIT 201HW, HONORS COLLOQUY

FALL 2008

Instructor: Julia Fogarty, Professor

Office Hours:

MW 10:30-11:30

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and by appointment

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Welcome to Colloquy! The word "colloquy" comes from the Latin "colloquium" which means "conversation" or a gathering for the purposes of discussion. Thus, we'll be doing a lot of discussing!

The course emphasizes the philosophy, values and practices associated with the Delta College Honors Program. In the Program, students are encouraged to:

- Further self-knowledge
- Grow intellectually
- Exchange ideas freely
- Develop a sense of community with other Honors students
- Connect learning in one discipline with others, i.e. English to History, Biology to Government, etc.

Here are the course outcomes and objectives:

Outcome 1: Explain and apply the elements of creative and critical thinking.

- A. Read materials related to the theory and practice of thinking, e.g. evaluating an argument, distinguishing fact from opinion, the stages of creative thinking.
- B. Apply the elements of thinking through writing and discussion of relevant issues, e.g. questions regarding truth, knowledge, fact, opinion, etc.
- C. Read and interpret assigned readings for the purpose of applying creative and critical thinking.

Outcome 2: Apply creative and critical thinking in varied situations

- A. Read material about thinking and other high level subject matter that requires range and depth of thought.
- B. Apply creative/critical thinking in writing, e.g. analyze an argument, narrate an incident related to elements of thinking.
- C. Use thinking skills in verbal discussions about reading, life situations, academic material and discourse.

Outcome 3: Interact productively with peers and instructor for the purpose of improving thinking skills.

- A. Write clearly about the elements of listening and speaking as these reflect creative and critical thinking.
- B. Listen effectively in varied situations.
- C. Articulate various points of view about particular subjects.
- D. Explain verbally and in writing how thinking is both an individual and collaborative activity.

Outcome 4: Participate in "writing to learn" activities.

- A. Perform writing tasks to promote learning.
- B. Write effectively for a specific audience and purpose.
- C. Demonstrate the learning of concepts through writing.

Outcome 5: Practice intellectual curiosity and apply it in independent ways to deepen their understanding of the course material.

- A. Complete at least one significant project, either individually or as a group depending on the instructor's discretion, and work with the instructor to assure that the project demonstrates intellectual curiosity and academic rigor.
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Our texts for the semester will be:

Joan Ferrante. 2008. Sociology a Global Perspective. 7th Edition.

Vincent Ruggiero. 2007. The Art of Thinking: A Guide to Critical and Creative Thought. 8th Edition.

Course Content:

The course will usually consist of reading a text that emphasizes thinking, such as The Art of Thinking and applying principles creative and critical thinking to reading and responding to written materials, such as issues and problems raised in the Sociology textbook. Films and media may also be used. Sometimes the course will be thematic—that is, the materials will focus on a particular concept or idea which will be explored in depth.

Writing Assignments:

Writing is essential to thinking well because writing focuses our thoughts and forces us to articulate them clearly. You will write regularly for the course, both formally and informally, and for a variety of audiences—yourself, fellow classmates, the teacher, and possibly audiences outside the classroom. Generally, we will write five or so shorter (2-3 page) informal reading response pieces, a longer more formal paper (5 or pages) and a more indepth I-Search project (8-10) pages. Roughly, the shorter pieces together will be worth 125 points, the longer paper 175 points, and the project 200 points. Regardless of your point total, your active participation and cooperation with others will also make a difference in your final grade.

Ground Rules:

For Me:

I'll provide you with reading materials that will contribute to your thinking, writing, and class discussions. I'll help plan writing and reading assignments and class activities designed to make you a more capable reader, writer and participating student at the college level. I'll set up a rotation schedule of conferences so that each of you can meet with me individually for help on a regular basis. I'll return your work with comments and feedback. Finally, I'll try to create a supportive and respectful atmosphere that will allow you to freely express your ideas and thoughts.

For You:

1. Plan to attend all class sessions and to come prepared; your classmates will be counting on you. In order to have a positive, motivated, active class so that everyone will do well and enjoy the course, each of us has to take on the responsibility for being present, motivated, prepared and active.
Missing more than three class sessions will reduce your final grade by half a grade for each additional absence. For example, if you earn a B but are absent four times, that one absence over the limit of three will reduce the B to a B-. Five absences would reduce it to a C and so on.

If you miss more than 5 sessions or if you miss more than 3 in a row, I will drop you from the course.

This is not to imply that it is ever okay to miss class but it does acknowledge that occasionally events occur that are out of our control, such as automobile accidents. Only in such extreme cases should you miss class. Dentist appointments and so forth are within our control and should not be made during class time.

If you do have an extreme emergency and cannot attend a class, you must contact me prior to or immediately following the class. I have voice mail so you can leave a message any time. **Being absent is not an excuse for being unprepared for the next class session.**

This bears repeating: Being absent is not an excuse for being unprepared for the next class session.

After each class session, I will leave in the mailbox on my office door copies of the assignment and handouts for that day's class. If you are absent, you will need to come and pick them up so that you can then be prepared and have the homework done for the next class session. If you call and provide me with a fax number, I can fax them to you. You'll also want to contact a classmate for information about what you missed.

Remember that for each day you miss, your homework for that day will also be discounted as being late unless you drop it in my mailbox on the due day.

Be on time and don't leave early. Slipping in and out of class may be possible in a lecture course where the course can easily go on without you, but it is very disruptive in an activity-based course where you and your presence matters. Your colleagues will need your input for the entire class and shouldn't be asked to give up valuable class time to get you up to speed on what's going on or be disrupted because you're packing up and walking out.

If you are late three times, you will receive a written warning. The next time will result in your being dropped from the course.

Under no conditions are cell phones or any kind of head gear allowed in the classroom unless they are **put away and turned off. The same goes for laptop computers. The class needs your undivided attention.**

It's important that you be alert and attentive. Even the appearance of sleeping in class will result in two written warnings, after which you'll be dropped from the class. If you are working too much or your car doesn't run or you have other obligations that prevent you from attending the whole class and attending regularly, you should drop the course and reregister for it when your life situation is such that you can be a successful student.

2. Turn in your assignments on time. Everything will be due at the beginning of the class period; I usually either collect or go around and check homework first thing. Any piece not ready then cannot be turned in until the following day. Late assignments will be marked down 10% for each day (not class meeting) they are late.
3. From time to time you'll be asked to provide copies of your essays for the class or a particular group. If you are working on a computer in the Delta Computer Lab, the lab will no longer allow students to print out multiple copies.

4. "Did You Read It?" quizzes, if we have them, cannot be made up.
5. If you are absent on a writing workshop day, you can arrange with another student to respond to each other's papers but those responses will be marked late.
6. Keep **all** of your work--all prewriting and drafts of papers, all reading response logs, other assignments, etc. organized in your notebook. **Don't throw anything away.** I rarely make mistakes recording grades in my book but it can happen. One thing I have learned as a student myself is that I must take responsibility for being able to reproduce work a teacher may have recorded mistakenly or forgotten to record. I even go so far as to make sure I have a xerox copy of anything I turn in to someone. It's my grade that's on the line.
7. **Date all of your work.**
8. All final drafts of informal and formal papers **must be typed and double spaced.** Assignments done in class, of course, can be handwritten.
9. Papers that are turned in too late to be worth points must, nevertheless, be done to pass the class and must be done at "C" level or better.
10. Side conversations taking place while someone else is speaking or has the floor, including myself, will result in two written warnings. After that, you will be dropped from the course. The same is true of using or looking at a cell phone or laptop during class time.
11. If your printer breaks at home, you must bring your disk in to campus and print out your assigned material in one of the labs before class. As a faculty member, I cannot function as your printing service. In other words, don't count on emailing your assignment to me for me to print out.
12. Delta's plagiarism policy is in effect in this class.