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Office hours Winter 2007: I have one face to face class – this one. You can see me pretty much when you want and normally right after class. If you need further times, by all means ask me. I'll be happy to make things as convenient as possible for you. If/when I set specific office times, I'll let you know.

Honors Colloquy: A Critical Thinking and Inquiry Course

Course Philosophy: Honors Colloquy embodies the philosophy of the Honors Program, and we will emphasize the values and practices of the Program. The goals for students are: to further self-knowledge; to provide intellectual growth; to further discover and develop the creative self; to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas; to develop a sense of community among honors students; to bring out the connections among disciplines; to provide each student with a mentor relationship. We will move toward these goals by focusing on how (rather than what) to think. We will all explore the connection between the intellectual and creative self as well as how that ultimately affects your connection to the world outside the self.

Course Objectives: If you participate conscientiously in the course, you will very likely learn:

- How to think more creatively;
- How to think more critically;
- How to be more conscious of your thinking process;
- How to communicate your thinking more clearly in writing and otherwise;
- How to read with more awareness;
- How to listen better.

Required Reading: I have ordered three books which I hope are all available in the bookstore. However, all three of these books are popular books that you can purchase on-line or in any major book store. They are Stephen King's On Writing, Jodi Picoult's My Sister's Keeper, and Studs Terkel's Working. That is the order that we will read them also. Each book is associated with a major assignment (and normally some smaller ones). You need to keep up with the reading.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is absolutely essential to this seminar style course. Class participation is folded into the grade for the course like so: You have an automatic 100 points for class participation that you are awarded from day one. You can have one "free miss" for any reason. Beyond that every class missed will cause a loss of 15 points from this 100. Beyond two classes missed, I reserve the right to drop you from the course if it looks like you are not able to keep up. If we all do this class right, a lot of

what you learn you will generate through discussion and work during class. So, I put a lot of emphasis on your participation.

Grades: Grades are as follows on a straight point system, all points equally weighted:

- Three major papers at 100 pts each: 300
- Participation points: 100
- Journals 10 at 10 pts. each: 100
- Miscellaneous*: 100

- Total points: 600

* The Miscellaneous Points will consist of small in class assignments and, if necessary or desirable to keep us all together with the readings, quizzes (I'm prone to start in on reading quizzes should it be apparent to me people are slacking off on the readings. I'm prone not to if I don't detect that in the class conversations. Only a couple slackers can trigger the quiz mode in me.). **Huge Important Note: Everyone must turn in all three major papers to pass the class no matter how the points turn out. The three major papers are a gateway requirement to passing.**

Statement of Academic Integrity: All work must be your own. The policy regarding academic integrity involves cheating on every level including plagiarism, cheating on quizzes and exams, and any type of intellectual dishonesty. The consequences of this will, at a minimum, lower your grade in this course by a full letter, and at a maximum, result in your failing the course, at my discretion and be assured, I have that discretion. All instances of academic dishonesty will (by college policy) be reported to the Academic Dean of Delta College. Yes, it actually does go on your permanent record.

Final Statement: Honors Colloquy is a genuinely unique experience because it isn't tied to any one discipline. We have a great deal of freedom in this course to explore and be creative. You are in this course with fellow honors students who become part of your community and provide that extra bit of intellectual stimulation that makes any experience that much better. What you get out of this experience will, as with anything in life, depend on what you, individually and collectively, choose to give it. I am very much looking forward to this semester with you! A Syllabus, due to the contractual nature of it between student and professor, tends to emphasize all these policies and rules and come across with a somewhat snarky tone. But be assured, I want you to really love this experience, to be happy to come to class, and in my experience, that's quite possible with an Honors Colloquy group. It's not a bad way to spend the winter!