

Supplemental Syllabus - Honor's Option

The Honor's Option for this course provides an opportunity for students in the Honor's Program to discuss and write about the topics in the course as applied to current events and film.

Procedure for Adopting the Option

A student must declare the intention to adopt the Honor's Option by January 25 (i.e., the last day to add a course). A student should complete the form in the Honor's Program office, obtain my signature, and return the signed form and supplemental syllabus to the Honor's Program office. If a student later decides not to pursue the Honor's Option, the grade will be determined as per the original syllabus and an "H" will not appear on the transcript.

Evaluation and Description of Honor's Work

Instead of the multiple choice exams comprising 100% of the final grade, the exams for students adopting the Honor's Option will comprise 75% of the final course grade. (Everything else is the same: students will take the same 3 noncumulative exams and cumulative final as other students, and I will use the best 3 grades in determining the exam average).

The remaining 25% will derive from the following sources:

Thought papers (~250 words each; 5%) Thought papers will apply a course topic to a current world event. An example would be applying the work on power to Abu Ghaib prison, the work on prosocial behavior to charitable contributions following the recent Asian Tsunami, or analyzing a recent political campaign from the theories of persuasion. Students are encouraged to suggest current events for discussion. Students will share 5 such thought papers electronically over the course of the term, and will share comments electronically with the instructor and with each other. Grades will be assigned based on appropriate use of material, critical thought, and "virtual" engagement with the group. Private feedback on writing will be given, but writing per se will not be a criterion for assigning a grade.

Film commentary (~250 words each; 4%). The group will find a mutually acceptable time to meet together (probably on a weekend or evening), followed by face-to-face discussion of topics such as power, prejudice, romantic love, and gender roles. Students then will write thought papers, submit them electronically to the discussion board, and will share additional comments electronically with the instructor and with each other. Grades will be assigned based on appropriate use of material, critical thought, and engagement with the group. Private feedback on writing will be given, but writing per se will not be a criterion for assigning a grade. We will view two of the following three films (determined by vote):

The Lady Vanishes (1938) Director: Alfred Hitchcock

Casablanca (1942) Director: Michael Curtiz

Shakespeare in Love (1999) Director: John Madden

Critical essay (1000-1500 words; 16%). The critical essay either may address current events or film. Students should select a single topic (e.g., prejudice, persuasion, gender roles) and apply it to three current events OR three films. In assigning a grade, I equally will weight the following four criteria: appropriate application of material, critical thought, organization and flow of the paper, and technical writing.

Examples of the film route: An application of the different styles of romantic love to the film musicals *An American in Paris*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Moulin Rouge*; An analysis of how Native Americans stereotypically (or not) are portrayed in *Key Largo*, *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*, and *Dances with Wolves*. Please select films of stature, such as Academy Award winners, Cannes winners, or recognized classics and b.) append a 50-100 word synopsis of each film, in case I have not seen it.

Examples of the current event route: An application of realistic group conflict theory to Iraq, Dakar, and Northern Ireland; An application of counterfactual thinking to the Asian Tsunami, presidential election, and Superbowl outcome. For events of which I am unlikely to be aware (e.g., a change in Canada's foreign policy toward Bulgaria), please append a 50-100 word synopsis or copy of a news article.