

Missouri Baptist University
HONR 313: Conducting and Presenting Research
Student Syllabus

Course Description:

This course focuses on engaging Honors students with the philosophy and ideas underlying rhetoric and argumentation, and inviting them to investigate in depth various components of effective research and writing, such as plagiarism; good language use; logical argument; and understanding and establishing common ground with other scholars. Students will complete two papers (one analytic, one argumentative), participate in one group discussion, give a presentation, and complete a metacognitive project that assembles their ideas and preliminary research concerning their future Capstone Projects in MBU Honors.

Required Text(s):

Jacobs, Alan. *How to Think*. New York: Currency, 2017.

Hembold, W.C., trans. *Plato's Gorgias*. Prentice-Hall, 1997.

Nehamas, Alexander and Paul Woodruff, trans. *Plato's Phaedrus*. Hackett Publishing, 1995.

Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. New York: Penguin, 2006.

Bilbro, Jeffrey. *Reading the Times: A Literary and Theological Inquiry into the News*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2021.

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave New World*. New York: HarperCollins, 2006.

Course Assignments, Projects, or Activities:

(Also see schedule at end of syllabus)

Type 1:

Analytic Essay (Jacobs and Plato)

Type 2:

Media Analysis Essay (Postman and Bilbro)

Type 3:

Book Review

Type 4:

Course Capstone Project Components

Type 5:

Daily Work

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS

(Note: Prepare the assignment / reading listed BEFORE the class date by which it is listed;
note due dates and times in Canvas for Daily Work)

Day	Date	Topic	Assigned Reading, Due Dates, etc.
1	8/23	First Day: Introductions	Syllabus
2	8/25	Thinking about Thinking: Jacobs	Read <i>How to Think</i> pp. 11-49 Write: Choose one idea Jacobs brings up in this section and write a brief (@200 words) response to it.
3	8/30	Thinking about Thinking: Jacobs	Read <i>How to Think</i> pp. 51-88 Write: Choose one idea Jacobs brings up in this section and write a brief (@200 words) response to it.
4	9/01	Thinking about Thinking: Jacobs	Read <i>How to Think</i> pp. 89-138 Write: Choose one idea Jacobs brings up in this section and write a brief (@200 words) response to it.
5	9/06	Thinking about Thinking: Jacobs	Read <i>How to Think</i> pp. 139-156 Write: Choose one idea Jacobs brings up in this section and write a brief (@200 words) response to it.
6	9/08	Intro to Plato and Socrates: the "Apology"	Read Plato's "Apology" (Canvas) Read / consult the outline of the "Apology" (as needed) (Canvas) Write and submit a brief précis (@200 words) of the "Apology."
7	9/13	Plato's <i>Gorgias</i>	<i>Gorgias</i> Introduction and pp. 3-49 Write and submit a brief précis (@200 words) of this section of the <i>Gorgias</i> .
8	9/15	Plato's <i>Gorgias</i>	<i>Gorgias</i> pp. 49-107 Write and submit a précis.
9	9/20	Plato's <i>Gorgias</i>	Reread / finish reading the <i>Gorgias</i> as needed. Optional Reading: Article on the <i>Gorgias</i> (Canvas)
10	9/22	Plato's <i>Phaedrus</i>	Introduction pp. ix-xxvii Write and submit a précis.
11	9/27	Plato's <i>Phaedrus</i>	<i>Phaedrus</i> pp. 1-51 Write and submit a précis.
12	9/29	Plato's <i>Phaedrus</i>	<i>Phaedrus</i> pp. 52-86 Write and submit a précis.
13	10/04	Synthesis Discussion of Jacobs and Plato's Rhetorical Theories	No reading
14	10/06	NO CLASS	Analytical Essay Due by 11:59pm

		Let me know if you would like to meet to discuss your essay.	
15	10/11	Postman, <i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i>	Read <i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i> pp. vii-43 Read Postman Essay assignment sheet
16	10/13	Postman, <i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i>	Read <i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i> pp. 44-98 Submit a response
17	10/18	Postman, <i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i>	Read <i>Amusing Ourselves to Death</i> pp. 99-163 Submit a response
18	10/20	NO CLASS	Fall Break! Take a break!
19	10/25	David Foster Wallace, "E Unibus Plurum"	Read David Foster Wallace's essay "E Unibus Plurum" Submit a response
20	10/27	NO CLASS	Some of our number will be attending the NCHC Conference. The rest of us will take the day off.
21	11/01	Bilbro, <i>Reading the Times</i>	Read <i>Reading the Times</i> pp. 1-64 Submit a response
22	11/03	Bilbro, <i>Reading the Times</i>	Read <i>Reading the Times</i> pp. 67-116 Submit a response
23	11/08	Bilbro, <i>Reading the Times</i>	Read <i>Reading the Times</i> pp. 119-174 Submit a response
24	11/10	Discussion Day	NO READING – Reread or finish up assigned reading if you're behind. We'll use this day to discuss the Media Essay and synthesize our ideas about Postman and Bilbro.
25	11/15	<i>Brave New World</i>	Read <i>Brave New World</i> chapters 1-4 (pp. 3-71)
26	11/17	<i>Brave New World</i>	Read <i>Brave New World</i> chapters 5-8 (pp. 72-139) Submit a response
27	11/22	<i>Brave New World</i>	Read <i>Brave New World</i> chapters 9-14 (pp. 140-207) Submit a response
	11/23	This is a Wednesday. Don't come to class. No one will be there.	Toulmin Essay Due by 11:59pm
28	11/24	THANKSGIVING RECESS	No assignments
29	11/29	<i>Brave New World</i>	Read <i>Brave New World</i> chapters 15-18 (pp. 208-259) Submit a response
30	12/01	WORK DAY	Presentation and Culminating Project in-class work day
31	12/06	Presentations	Use this week to finish up your Culminating Projects and to do your presentations. Prepare your presentation if you're on the docket.
32	12/08		

	12/13	Final Exam Date 8-10am Presentations	Prepare your presentation if you're on the docket. Culminating Project Due by 11:59pm
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Note: *The instructor reserves the right to make minor changes to the syllabus at any time during the semester. In case a change is made, an announcement regarding the change will be made during class hour and on Canvas.*