INHABITING OTHER LIVES  IDH 2003
The Honors College
Spring 2004

PROFESSORS
Darden Pyron   The History Department in the College of Arts and Sciences
Ediberto Roman   The School of Law
John Stuart   The School of Architecture

SYLLABUS

SELF AND OTHER IN MODERN AMERICA

Introduction
This course will develop and expand upon ideas, issues, and questions established in the fall semester. For the past few months, we have been studying notions of identity as they relate to citizenship, gender, race, ethnicity, and other characteristics assumed or assigned by individuals or collectives. We explored classical fiction, visual artifacts, and political/historical texts in an effort to understand the moral and ethical fabric from which modern Western notions of identity and citizenship continue to be formed, and with which they continue to struggle.

This semester, we will explore these issues in the context of modern America. After a review of issues from the first semester - including a discussion of each of the professors' diverse viewpoints - we will examine the issues through case studies. The first will be the case of Elián Gonzalez. We will look at legal/historical precedence, spatial configurations as they relate to images of home and places of protest, as well as the visual depiction of the case on television. Much of the reading for the course will be gathered through journalistic sources available on the web including The New York Times, The Wallstreet Journal, and The Miami Herald.

ASSIGNMENTS
Working individually, each student will complete a research topic of their choice related to the subject of the course. They will present their findings to their small sections and may be asked to present portions of their work to the larger group. Each student will be responsible for a 10-15 page research paper due at the end of the semester.

PARTICIPATION
Your professors expect your attendance every class meeting and your full participation. Your participation in class is an important part of your grade for the semester and can significantly enhance the grade you receive for the course. You are required to read all the material assigned on the dates they are due. Rules for class attendance are left to the discretion of the instructor.

COURSE EVALUATION
25% Class presentation
25% Class participation
50% Final research paper

PLAGIARISM POLICY AND DEFINITION
(Adapted from http://www.fiu.edu/~comptalk/project2/plagiarism.htm)
Plagiarism means to present, as one's own, the work, writing, words, or computer information of someone else. For correct attributions and references, consult The Chicago Manual of Style, or ask your professor for their preferred reference style. In the case of plagiarism, the instructor may fail the student in the course. And, in consultation with administrators, the instructor may recommend other action in accordance with university policies, including such severe disciplinary action as suspension from the university.
SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS  
(not including assigned readings and video viewings)

INTRODUCTION  
01.06 – 01.08  Discussion of first semester issues. Roman
01.13 – 01.15  Discussion of first semester issues. Pyron
01.20 – 01.22  Discussion of first semester issues. Stuart

ELIAN GONZALEZ CASE STUDY  
01.27 – 01.29  Introduction of Elián Gonzalez Case Study. Roman/Pyron/Stuart
02.03 – 02.05  Identity and Symbolic Speech. Roman
02.10 – 02.12  Cuba, Cubans, and Castro: National Perceptions. Pyron
02.17 – 02.19  Room/House/Neighborhood/City: Issues of Cuban Identity
02.24 – 02.26  General Discussion of the Elián Gonzalez Case. Roman/Pyron/Stuart

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CASE STUDY  
03.02 – 03.04  Introduction to the Affirmative Action Debate. Roman
03.09 – 03.11  Diversity and Multiculturalism in America. Pyron
03.16 – 03.18  The Space of Race. Segregation in Miami. Stuart
03.23 – 03.25  Spring Break
03.30 – 04.01  Summary discussion of Decision led by Roman
04.06 – 04.08  Summary discussion led by Stuart
04.13 – 04.15  Summary discussion led by Pyron