Syllabus

Instructor Information
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Office location: DM-318A
Office hours: By appointment.
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Course Information
Course title: Aesthetics, Values, and Authority: Explorations in Research
Course number: IDH 3005-IDH3006
Course description: This course serves as a third year seminar of the Honors College, and it is related to the Student Research and Artistic Initiative of the Honors College. This course is inter-disciplinary and will involve the participation of various professors from different fields, librarians, and curators.
An important objective of the seminar is to provide students with an appreciation of the research and artistic environments at FIU. This will entail visiting a selection of different research labs and creative spaces, to get a "feel" for the "who" and the "what" of research and artistic pursuits in those labs and creative spaces. An additional objective of the course is to give students the opportunity of making effective presentations of their research efforts. Students presenting their papers and projects at the Annual Research Day, the Honors Convocation, and national and international conferences, the last of which will be underwritten by the College, will achieve this.
Course date: Monday, August 27, 2007 through Monday, December 15, 2007
Location: HLS-180
Meeting day(s): Mondays
Meeting time(s): 4:00-6:50 pm

Course Goals
Course goals: In this course we have the following goals:

1. To expose students to different research methods followed in various disciplines as well as to expose them to distinctive artistic initiatives.
2. To offer the tools needed to utilize library and Internet reference resources and services.
3. To offer the students the opportunity to participate in the learning community by presenting major research findings in academic conferences/exhibitions/competitions/etc.
4. To fulfill FIU requirements of getting students involved in oral class presentations and undertaking research over the Internet.
5. To get students involved with the activities of The Honors College as they relate to our class.

Academic Integrity
Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity
to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Misconduct includes:
Cheating – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not.
Plagiarism – The use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student, who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

Students who are brought up on charges of academic misconduct face possible penalties that range from failure of the course to expulsion from FIU.

Office of Disability Services
If you have a disability and need assistance, please contact the Office of Disability Services for Students (University Park - GC190; Ph 305-348-3532)-(North Campus -W-UC 139, Ph. 305-919-5305). Upon contact, the Office of Disability Services for Students will review your request and contact your professors or other personnel to make arrangements for appropriate modification and/or assistance.

Course Requirements
Introduction: Grading in this course will come from various sources.
Requirements: During the Fall semester, students will be evaluated as follows:

1. Class participation and involvement in the topics under discussion (10%)
2. Reviews of two articles from research journals (15%).
3. Search for Summer undergraduate research programs to select an activity of interest and to start an initial proposal for Summer 2006 (5%).
4. Active participation in the workshops prepared by the FIU Librarians (15%)
5. Obtaining the Certificate of Responsible Conduct of Research (10%)
6. Select to participate in four of the field work activities planned for this term (15%):
   (a) Frost Museum on Monday September 10/07: Cintas Finalist Exhibition
   (b) University Park Sculpture Tours, Monday September 17/07
   (c) Frost Museum: Pip Brant: The Flying Carpet and Other Reusables: Monday Oct 15/07
   (d) visit to the Wolfsonian Museum with presentations by librarians and curators on Monday Nov 26/07 at 4:00 pm: Exhibitions: Agitated Images and Fashioning the Modern French Interior
   (e) Visit to the Miami Art Museum, on your own (Free tours are conducted on Sundays at 2:00 pm. This tour can be used to substitute for any of the previous
four tours.)

7. SPSS Assignments (5%).

8. Attendance and submitting reports of activities of the Honors College :( 10%)
   (a) Honors College Convocation, Monday Oct 1/07
   (b) Fall Excellence Lecture, TBA
   (c) at least two of the Honors Hour during the semester, Wednesdays at 12:30
   (d) Registration in SRAI
   (e) Submission of an abstract for a paper or a poster at the 2008 SRAI conference at FIU.
   (f) Other activities TBA

9. Study of the Honors College Third Year Book selected: **Dante: The Divine Comedy** (15%)

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**Calendar - Fall 2007**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Important dates:</th>
<th>Aug. 27 - Classes begin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sept. 3 - Labor Day - University closed</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 1 - Honors College Convocation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov. 12 - Veteran's Day, University closed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov. 21-23 - Thanksgiving, University closed</td>
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<td>Dec. 6 - Classes end</td>
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**Textbook**

Although no official textbook will be used in this course, the textbook by W. Trochim(2000), *The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 2nd Edition*, Cincinnati, OH: Atomic Dog Publishing, is an excellent source of reference. This knowledge base (KB) textbook, used at Cornell, is a "comprehensive web-based textbook that addresses all of the topics in a typical introductory undergraduate or graduate course in social research methods. It covers the entire research process including: formulating research questions; sampling (probability and nonprobability); measurement (surveys, scaling, qualitative, unobtrusive); research design (experimental and quasi-experimental); data analysis; and, writing the research paper.... It also addresses the major theoretical and philosophical underpinning of research including: the idea of validity in research; reliability of measures; and ethics... It is a fully hyperlink text that can be integrated easily into an existing course structure...” It is available at: http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/index.htm

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**Lesson 1**

Lesson: What are the different research methods?

Objectives or Goals: To identify early steps in research.

Topics: Identify strengths and limitations of each of the following research methods:

1. Experimental
2. Correlation
3. Naturalistic Observation
4. Surveys
5. Case Study.


2. Submit the online tutorial of *Welcome to the Research Methods WWW tutorial*, available at: http://sociology.camden.rutgers.edu/main.htm

Due date:

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**Lesson 2**

Lesson: Foundations of Research

Objectives or Goals: To study the major issues in research and in evaluation.
Goals:

Topics:
  1. Language of Research
  2. Philosophy of Research
  3. Ethics in Research
  4. Conceptualizing
  5. Evaluation Research

Readings: M. Trochin, *Research Methods Knowledge Base, Foundations*

Assignments: Making use of the Research Methods Tutorials, offered by The Web Center for Social Research Methods, the students will be divided into five groups to discuss the topics of:
  1. Language of Research
  2. Philosophy of Research
  3. Ethics in Research
  4. Conceptualizing,
  5. Evaluation Research

Lesson 3
Lesson: Library and Internet Searches
Objectives or Goals: To get students to acquire skills needed to undertake research using library and Internet resources.
Topics:
  - Monday, Sept. 10 - Session 1
  - Monday, Sept. 24 - Session 2
  - Monday, Oct. 8 - Session 3
  - Monday, Oct. 15 - Session 4
  - Monday, Oct. 22 - Session 5
  - Monday, Oct 29 - Session 6
  - Monday, Nov 5 – RefWorks 1
  - Monday, Nov 19 – RefWorks 2

Assignments: Active participation in the activities designed by the FIU Librarians. Due dates: As assigned by the Librarians
The Seminar will meet at GL-280, during regular class time.

Lesson 4
Lesson: Seeking research opportunities
Objectives or Goals: To explore research opportunities with various private and governmental institutions.
Topics: Identify research opportunities, fellowships, employment, internships, assistantships, training or grants that you can apply for.
Assignments:
  2. From your search results, select a program you could apply to for Summer 2006.
  3. Find as much information as possible about this program so that you can proceed with the application process once it gets started.
  4. Due date:

Lesson 5
Lesson: Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)
Objectives or Goals: To learn a statistical package by the use of guided exercises.
Topics:
  1. Learning the basics of SPSS. Due date: Monday Oct 8/07
  2. Looking at Frequency Distributions and Descriptive Statistics. Due date: Monday Oct 22/07
  3. Presenting Data in Graphic Form. Due date: Monday Nov 5/07
Note: The other assignments will be undertaken next term.


Lesson 6
Lesson: Responsible Conduct of Research
Objectives or Goals: To expose students to ethical practices in conducting research with persons and/or animals.
Topics: 1
Assignments: Obtain the certificate in Responsible Conduct of Research available from:

Lesson 7
Lesson: Dante: The Divine Comedy
Objectives or Goals: To share a book with all the third year students in the Honors College.
Topics: Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso
Assignments: Students will be divided into groups to discuss the book, as subdivided into chapters. This is an activity for the full academic year.

As expressed by the Encyclopedia Britannica: "It is usually held to be one of the world’s great works of literature. Divided into three major sections—Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso—the narrative traces the journey of Dante from darkness and error to the revelation of the divine light, culminating in the Beatific Vision of God."

Many useful sites, include:
http://dante.ilt.columbia.edu
www.greatdante.net

Lesson 8
Lesson: Field Trips
Objectives or Goals: To develop an appreciation of the research and artistic environments at FIU.
Topics: 1. Frost Museum: Cintas Finalists Exhibition: Monday Sept 10/07
2. Frost Museum: Sculpture Park tour: Monday Sept 17/07
4. Wolfsonian Museum: to explore research opportunities using the resources of the Museum. Presentations to be given by the Librarians and the Curators of the Museum: Monday Nov 26/07
Assignments: Write a report evaluating, comparing and contrasting research methods presented.
Due date:
Lesson: Reading a Research Article
Objectives or Goals: To get students to identify the different steps followed in research.
Topics: Reading a Research Article:
1. Write an "overview" or brief summary of the article. Indicate your assessment of what the study is about and the major findings of the study.
2. According to the introduction, what information was already known about the topic (look for references to previous research).
3. What variables were studied? What were the hypotheses concerning these variables?
4. Who were the participants in this study? Were there any special participant characteristics?
5. What were the procedures used to test the hypotheses? Did you notice any problematic features of the procedure?
6. Was the experimental or nonexperimental method used? Were there attempts to control any extraneous variables?
7. What were the major results of the study? Were the results consistent with the hypotheses?
8. How do the results relate to the other studies cited in the introduction?
9. How did the researcher interpret the results? Can you think of alternative interpretations?
10. Did the author give suggestions for future research or applications? Can you provide other suggestions?
11. What would you do if you wished to find out more about this research topic?


Assignments: Due dates:
Written reports of both articles: Monday Nov 19/07
Oral presentations and class discussions of both articles: Nov 19/07 and Dec. 3/07

Lesson 10
Lesson: SRAI Conference and Activities of the Honors College
Objectives or Goals: To start getting involved in the activities of the 2008 Student Research and Artistic Initiative (SRAI) Conference.
Topics: Submit an abstract for a paper or a poster presentation at the 2008 SRAI conference at FIU and participation in the activities of the Honors College.
Assignments: Requirements:
1. Reflective Report on Convocation
2. Reflective Report on Excellence Lecture
3. Reflective Reports on Honors Hour 1 and 2
4. Registration in SRAI
5. Submission of abstract to SRAI

Grade Distribution:
100-95 A, 94-90 A-, 89-85 B+, 84-80 B, 79-70 C+, 69-60 C, 59-50 D, 49-00 F.

Incomplete grades are given only in cases of medical emergencies with proper documentation from the FIU Health Clinic.