HNRC 201 HONORS CORE III
Fall 2012: Common Syllabus

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Welcome back to the company of those who love learning! You have chosen to be a member of the Cook Honors College community. Your choice indicates to us that you are serious and highly motivated as you enter this course. We expect that you will be willing to commit the time and mental energy to do your very best on each assignment, and we expect that you will attend class regularly and participate eagerly in what is going on here. For our part, we will do everything we can to challenge you to do your best work!

This syllabus augments the HNRC101 and HNRC102 syllabi you received earlier and which are posted on the HC web site; please consult them if you need a fuller discussion of such items as thesis statements, essay instructions, peer editing, and general procedures. There are also guidelines for enjoying and writing about Fine Arts events ONLINE in the Appendices to the HNRC 101 Common Syllabus. For each of this year's units, you will receive a supplementary syllabus listing discipline-specific reading, assignments, and other pertinent information.

I. COMMON READING FOR UNITS H AND G

UNIT H. "Must the Need for Social Order Conflict with the Need for Individual Liberty? What, therefore, Should I Do?"

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (excerpts, online)

Daily Reading of the *New York Times* (Monday through Friday)

UNIT G. "How do we understand the sacred? What, therefore, should I do?

Blythe Clinchy, "On Critical Thinking and Connected Knowing" (handout if needed)

Robert Bellah, "Civil Religion in America," (handout)

James Boyd White, Introduction to *How Should we Talk about Religion*? (handout)

Daily reading of *The New York Times* (Monday through Friday)

II. THE ROLE OF THE *NEW YORK TIMES* IN HONORS CORE

Once again, we are fortunate to have copies of the weekday *New York Times* (Monday through Friday) available in Whitmyre Hall, and this splendid resource—one of the world's great newspapers—is part of the common reading for both units. This is an excellent opportunity to

connect what we are thinking in class with current events, to exercise our critical thinking skills, and to ponder the implications of learning's consequential question—"What, therefore, should I do?" You will write a weekly journal entry based on this reading; your unit professor will give you specific instructions for this assignment and indicate when it is to be submitted.

III. COMMUNITY FINE ARTS AND INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT

One of the great joys of living in a university community is that the fine arts and other intellectual events such as lectures or readings are available in abundance. As witness to this, many people choose a university town as the location for their businesses or professional practices or even as their retirement homes because they relish the opportunity to enjoy these activities.

Here at IUP, we are blessed with strong and active departments in art, music, and theater. In addition to excellent campus talent, major national and even international performers come to IUP each semester. Unless you eventually end up living in a major city, the lively arts may be more available to you now than they will be at any other time in your life. (This doesn't even consider the fact that city ticket prices can easily be ten times those on campus.)

Many of you would immerse yourselves in IUP's cultural life without any encouragement from the faculty. But we know how easy it is for all of us to become so engrossed in our work and lives that the arts get lost amid our hectic pace. Because we know that some of you will underestimate the importance of the arts for our lives, and others will, despite good intentions, think themselves too busy, Honors Core includes some intentional incentive for attendance and reflection. You must attend a minimum of **four events** (far fewer than many of you will choose to attend) and report your attendance to us with a brief description of what you saw or heard and, more importantly, with your thoughtful reflections on the experience. You should select your events from an approved list in such a way that, over all, you have one music, one theater/dance, one visual arts, and one scholarly lecture or professional creative reading.

All required critiques should be in the hands of your Unit H professor **within one week of the event attended.** E**ach missing critique will lower your Unit H grade by 2.5%. Your Unit H professor will specify a date by which all critiques must be submitted.**

IV. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CLASS

The success of this course depends on your active involvement and participation. You are expected, by your peers and by your professors, to be in class promptly and fully prepared each day. Our concern is not merely for what you miss by nonattendance or unpreparedness, but also for what the rest of us miss as a consequence. We are a community of learners whose minds are expanded by contact with others' thoughts. When you are absent (or passively silent) the community suffers, and we are all the poorer for having been deprived of your knowledge, wit, and wisdom.

Because all honors core faculty take seriously the importance of your committed involvement, we have set a policy that <u>more than one unexcused absence per unit will result in an F grade for that unit</u>. An excused absence is a verifiable illness, emergency, or participation in an official university activity as defined in the IUP Handbook; authority to grant excused

absences resides with your professor. Two incidents of tardiness count as one absence.

V. CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

The final project in each unit will promote exchange between our disciplinary groups. Entitled, "The Best of Unit G(H): Presentation to Peers," the idea is for each group to select one limited but important aspect of what they studied and present it to the other groups. Although the "best of" title might imply that you should try to present the "greatest hits" from the entire unit, this is NOT what we want; we want you to choose one particular idea, example, thought, question, or problem you encountered, perhaps one that generated more interest and discussion than the others. With only 25 minutes to present and discuss this topic, each group will need to carefully consider what they can present in this short period. Each class will come up with its own idea for the project described in the next paragraph and present that idea on Thurs-Fri. 10/11-12 (Unit H) and Thurs. 12/13 (Unit G). Each class will:

* create a written document of no more than two sides of a page that summarizes or introduces its topic (consult with the individual instructor for specifics): this will be made available in the mailbox area **by noon on the Tues. before the Thurs. Project Conference;**
* choose 4-5 people to teach this topic to your peers; this MUST involve discussion and interaction, not just lecture;
* contribute to the general discussion of each presentation.

VI. GRADING POLICY

45% Two Papers, at least five typed pages. One for each unit.
10% Peer Editing (three HNRC 201 papers per unit, plus at least one HNRC101 Unit A paper).
45% Daily, informed, active class participation, group consensus project-paper, journals, or other assignments as indicated by your unit professor's syllabus

Additional Requirement: You are required to attend and respond to three Fine Arts events as described above. Fewer than three events/responses will cause a reduction of your final course grade by 2.5% per event missed. Responses are due to your Unit H professor within one week of the event.

Attendance Requirement: More than one unexcused absence per unit will result in an F grade for that unit.

GRADING SCALE: 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, 0-59 F

VII. OFFICE HOURS

Your individual unit instructor will provide you with office hours, telephone number and e-mail contact information on your unit syllabus or assignment sheet.

Fall 2012 HNRC 201 Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	8/28 **Unit H** Opening Meeting in Great Hall		8/30 Small groups #1	8/31 #2
Wk 2 Labor Day	9/04 #3		9/06 #4	9/7 #5
Wk3	9/11 #6		9/13 #7	9/14 #8
Wk 4	9/18 #9		9/20 #10	9/21 #11
Wk 5	9/25 #12		9/27 #13	9/28 #14
Wk 6	10/02 #15 **Paper Swap**		10/04 #16	10/05 #17 **Peer edit**
Wk 7 **Papers due to profs at NOON**	10/09 Paper Confs.; **"Best of" handout due at NOON**		10/11 **Best of Unit H Presentations;** Paper Conferences	10/12 **Best of Unit H (cont.);** Paper Conferences
Wk 8	10/16 **Unit G** Lecture in Great Hall		10/18 Small Groups #1	10/19 #2
Wk 9	10/23 #3		10/25 #4	10/26 #5
Wk 10	10/30 #6		11/01 #7	11/02 #8
Wk 11	11/07 #9		11/08 #10	11/09 #11
Wk12	11/13 #12		11/15 #13	11/16 #14
Wk 13	11/20 **Thanksgiving**	**Break**	11/22 **Thanksgiving**	11/23 **Break**
Wk 14	11/27 #15 **Paper Swap**		11/29 #16	11/30 #17 **Peer edit**
Wk 15 **Papers due to profs at NOON**	12/04 Paper Conferences		12/06 Paper Conferences	12/7 Paper Conferences
Wk 16	12/11 **"Best of" handout due at NOON**		12/13 **Best of Unit G Presentations, 10:15-12:15**	