HONR 2305 Freshman Seminar in the Humanities, Fall 2017, “Journeys”
Instructor: Dr. Hama
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Office hours MWF 12:00-1:30pm; TR 11:00am-12:00pm; also by appointment with 24-hours notice

CLASS POLICIES

Required Texts

Additional readings will be distributed as handouts or online.

Students are required to purchase these specific texts and to bring the assigned text to class each day.

Course Overview
HONR 2305 is designed to stimulate an exchange of ideas among first-year Honors students majoring in various disciplines. Topics and readings vary by semester, but focus on issues that can be viewed from multiple perspectives, including historical, cultural, philosophical, artistic, and scientific. This semester’s theme is travel/journey in all of its manifestations, including personal, political, economic, religious, etc.

Student Learning Objectives
At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a basic understanding of historical, scientific, political, and cultural issues associated with the topic of journeys in a variety of settings and cultures
- critically analyze a range of philosophical, literary, and artistic representations of travel and journeys
- demonstrate an understanding of how science, technology, and human culture advance through inquiry and reflection
- demonstrate an awareness of how social and political ideologies affect our relationship to other cultures/places
- present information effectively in both written and oral formats


**Academic Honesty**
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and adhering to the Academic Honor Code, available at [http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf). At minimum students who are determined to have violated this policy will receive a failing grade on the assignment, and may also receive a failing grade in the course and be referred to the English Department Chair for possible further action.

**Requirements and Grading**
Assignments will include orals presentations, reading quizzes, active class participation, a 4-5 pg. paper, and a final exam. In the case of late written assignments, five points will be deducted from the grade for each day late, including weekends and holidays.
To be considered for a passing grade, each student must complete and turn in all assignments.
Class sessions will include lectures, class discussions, group work, and possibly some additional written assignments. The final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Reading quizzes 5 @ 6 pts. each---------30%
- Oral presentation------------------------15%
- Paper-------------------------------20%
- Final examination-------------------25%
- Class participation----------------10%

**Essay Format**
Written assignments must be typed (using standard Times Roman or Times New Roman 12 point font) and double-spaced with one-inch margins, and they must follow the guidelines of the most recent edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. Written assignments will be given a penalty of five points if turned in after the beginning of class on the due date and five more points for each additional day late. I will accept late assignments without penalty only in cases of documented emergencies (computer/printer problems do not count as emergencies). *Students must complete and turn in all assignments to be considered for a passing grade.*

**Absence Policy**
Each student is allowed three unexcused absences without penalty. For each subsequent unexcused absence, 3 points will be deducted from your final semester grade. All absences will be charged against this allotment unless proper written documentation indicating the nature of the absence is presented; in any case, I reserve the right to determine whether the absence will be excused. Further, you are responsible for keeping up with the syllabus during any absence. You are also expected to be in the classroom and prepared for the day's work at the start of class. If you arrive after the assigned class-time on any regular basis, I will bring the matter to your attention. At that point, any further late arrivals will each be counted as an absence. *Finally, a total of ten or more absences will constitute grounds for failing the course.*

**Classroom Decorum**
Honors seminars are designed to encourage an interchange of ideas and to foster the development of critical thinking and communication skills. The instructor’s primary role is to facilitate discussion of the texts and to provide suggestions and responses to students’
independent and group work. Students will be expected to cooperatively engage in class discussion and activities and to bring insights from their specific disciplines into the discussion of the assigned readings.

In order to succeed in the course, each student must be completely prepared with all assigned reading and must undertake an active, responsible role in all classroom activities. The points for class participation are not awarded simply for attendance; each student must earn them by contributing to the exchange of ideas upon which every successful course depends. Please do not come to class unprepared; if you do, I reserve the right to ask you to leave and to charge you with an absence. Any student who falls asleep will be awakened and asked to leave the class. If these actions would embarrass you, please come to class prepared and alert. Also, eating, drinking, talking disruptively, habitually forgetting the textbooks, and doing coursework for other classes are prohibited. Following University tobacco-use policy, no tobacco products of any kind, including chew or dip, are to be used in the classroom. Finally, please turn off and put away all electronic communications devices before entering the classroom. You will be charged with an absence for each time you use your cell phone or any other tech device in class. This includes having the phone out on your desk or anywhere else it might interfere with your attention in this class.

**Students with Disabilities**
Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Absences for Religious Holiday Observation**
Students who intend to be absent from class to observe a religious “holy day” (as defined in ASU OP 10.19) must inform the instructor in writing prior to the absence and make up any scheduled assignments within an appropriate timeframe as determined by the professor. While the absence will not be penalized, failure to complete the make-up assignment within the specified timeframe will result in penalties consistent with other absences and assignments.
Schedule

M 8/28  Class Introduction
Research Project and presentations assigned

W 8/30  Film: Spencer Wells, *The Journey of Man: The Story of the Human Species*

F 9/1    continue *The Journey of Man*

M 9/4    Labor Day, no classes

W 9/6    continue *The Journey of Man*

F 9/8    Tony Horwitz, *A Voyage Long and Strange*, 1-114

M 9/11   continue *A Voyage Long and Strange*, 115-292

W 9/13   continue *A Voyage Long and Strange*, 293-390

F 9/15   **Reading quiz #1**
Voltaire, *Candide*, all; also, Leibniz, “Theodicy,” handout

M 9/18   continue *Candide*

W 9/20   continue *Candide*

F 9/22   Presentation, Group 1: Journey of the Buddha

M 9/25   Presentation, Group 2: Marco Polo’s Journey to China on the Silk Road

W 9/27   Presentation, Group 3: Hernán Cortés and the Conquest of Mexico

F 9/29   Presentation, Group 4: The Middle Passage

M 10/2   Presentation, Group 5: The Journey of Lewis and Clark

W 9/4    Presentation, Group 6: The Journey of the Beagle

F 10/6   Presentation, Group 7: The Underground Railroad

M 10/9   Presentation, Group 8: Lord Stanley’s Journeys into Central Africa

W 10/11  Presentation, Group 9: The Great Migration

F 10/13  Presentation, Group 10: Humankind’s Journey into Space
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| M 10/16    | **Reading quiz #2**
Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*, all                                             |
| W 10/18    | continue *Gulliver’s Travel*                                                         |
| F 10/20    | continue *Gulliver’s Travels*                                                        |
| M 10/23    | continue *Gulliver’s Travels*                                                        |
| W 10/25    | Film: Ingmar Bergman, *The Seventh Seal*; read e-mail article                        |
| F 10/27    | continue *The Seventh Seal*                                                          |
| M 10/30    | continue *The Seventh Seal*                                                          |
| W 11/1     | **Reading quiz #3**
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, all |
| F 11/3     | continue *Narrative*                                                                |
| M 11/6     | continue *Narrative*                                                                |
| W 11/8     | Robert Frost, “The Road Not Taken,” handout                                          |
| F 11/10    | T. S. Eliot, “Journey of the Magi,” handout                                          |
| M 11/13    | **Reading quiz #4**
Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, all                                     |
| W 11/15    | continue *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*                                            |
| F 11/17    | continue *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*                                            |
| M 11/20    | continue *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*                                            |
| W 11/22    | Thanksgiving Break—No classes                                                       |
| F 11/24    | Thanksgiving Break—No classes                                                       |
| M 11/27    | **Reading quiz #5**
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, all                                                |
| W 11/29    | continue *Heart of Darkness*                                                         |
| F 12/1     | continue *Heart of Darkness*                                                         |
M 12/4  Walt Whitman, “The Song of the Open Road,” handout

W 12/6  continue “The Song of the Open Road”

F 12/8  Last day of classes
        Research Project papers due

Final Examination: Wed., Dec. 13, 8:00-10:00am