

University Perspectives: 8-Week Course

Fall 2021 - UNIV 1001H-305 (10267)

Honors First Floor Conference Room, Gearhart Hall 129

Mon. & Wed. 9:40AM - 10:30AM, Aug. 23-Oct. 12

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description

In 1528, Baldassare Castiglioni published *The Book of the Courtier*, a guide to success and anxiety management for the overachiever. Renaissance Italy was in the middle of knowledge and production revolutions and an unprecedented period of social mobility with all the possibilities and uncertainties these created. The ideal person was a writer, orator, scientist, warrior, artist, and politician rolled into one. Not unlike today's honors student, who feels pressure to succeed in all areas, Castiglioni further burdened his readers with the necessity of doing all these things with "sprezzatura" or effortless grace.

Castiglione's advice—some of which holds up well and some not at all—will form a starting point to discuss critical thinking, diversity and inclusion, writing, speaking, self-care and the other skills and habits that aid student success and development. Other authors from Maya Angelou to Donald Harrington will add their commentary on aspects of the good life as we look at how to be a successful honors student at the University of Arkansas.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

1. Connect with classmates by sharing perspectives, presenting opinions, and accepting differences and similarities.
2. Explore what it means to be a Fulbright College and Fulbright Honors student.
3. Increase self-awareness through an exploration of personal values and qualities to jump-start a life-long mission of self-discovery.
4. Understand opportunities and expectations of an Honors College student—academic and
5. extracurricular engagement, study abroad, undergraduate research, and nationally competitive awards.
6. Develop and hone critical thinking skills, including the ability to analyze, question, and voice your ideas.
7. Utilize campus resources that lead to academic and personal success and move toward graduation.
8. Understand potential majors, the roles of the professoriate, the importance of academic integrity, and the personal ethical responsibilities of being an honors student.

9. Characterize academic strengths and weaknesses and develop plans involving time management, study skills, critical reading, test prep, test taking, and class attendance, all to promote academic success.
10. Promote your own health and well-being—physical, mental, financial, and emotional.
11. Find opportunities for campus and civic engagement and articulate the professional benefits of taking advantage of these opportunities.
12. Understand and foster diversity, equity, and inclusion.
13. Look to the future and explore how choices in the present lead to reaching future goals.

Course Delivery

As of now, this is scheduled as an in-person class. So long as the U of A remains open, we will remain face-to-face. If you have a documented medical reason not to attend in person, such as being immunocompromised or being in quarantine, you may access a recording of the class and complete an alternate assignment to receive the day's attendance points. Participation grades for the in-person and recorded options are explained in the Participation section of the syllabus.

Grading

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>
Participation	400
Self-introduction	100
Whole Health Institute Assessment	50
Life Odyssey Pre Worksheet	50
Life Odyssey Grid	50
Resume draft	50
Resume rewrite	50
Notetaking and test-taking tip	50
Professional email assignment	100
Final Speech	100
Total	1000

Extra credit: What I Got from Castiglione: 50
(See the very end of the syllabus for details)

Grading Scale

A: 900-1000	D: 600-699
B: 800-899	F: Below 600
C: 700-799	

Assignments

Before each assignment, you will be given written instructions in the syllabus, on Blackboard, or as a handout explaining expectations.

Late Work

Late assignments will be docked 10% per 24 hours after the assignment was originally due. This will be waived with written documentation from the Pat Walker Health Center Medical or CAPS staff.

Participation

This is a discussion intensive class. Your daily attendance and participation will be graded as shown below. There are 16 course sessions, each of which is worth 25 points toward the maximum grade of 400 points. You are entitled to two excused absences for any reason, for which you will receive an A. If these are not used, they may substitute for a day when you had a participation grade below an A.

A (23) = Dynamic and informed participation.

B (17) = Solid, consistent participation with evidence of a careful reading of the sources.

C (15) = Occasional participation with evidence of having prepared for class.

D (13) = Present but not participating.

F (0) = Not present and has already used the two excused absences.

Written participation reflections for days on which cannot attend for a documented reason are to be 225-275 words long (not more, not less) and to be approximately one-third each of a summary of the readings, a summary of the recording, and a presentation of your own thoughts on the day's readings and topic. An A paper shows careful reading, evidence that you followed the recorded session carefully, and a thoughtful response to the material and discussion. Lower grades show a deficit in one or more of these areas. Summaries are due within one week of the date of that the recording for the session you missed is posted. This may be extended with appropriate documentation from the Pat Walker Health Center medical or CAPS staff.

Electronic devices: Use of electronic devices other than for course work during class meetings will result in the student being asked to leave the class for that day and forfeiting their participation points for the day. Bringing printouts of the days readings and taking notes by hand is the norm for this class unless you have documentation from the Center for Educational Access.

Promptness: If you are more than five minutes late, you have missed your chance to attend the live session for the day. Do not come in after the door is closed.

Integrity: Since attendance is a graded activity, signing in for someone else either in person or electronically is a matter of academic dishonesty and will be treated as such.

Required Texts

Castiglione, Baldassarre, and Leonard Eckstein Opdycke, *The Book of the Courtier*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1901. (Readings provided on Blackboard in PDF)

Instructor handouts

Other short readings provided in PDF format or via link.

All texts are free and will be available in the class Blackboard site.

Academic Dishonesty

As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail.

Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy, which may be found at <https://honesty.uark.edu/policy/>. Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor.

For further information, visit <http://honesty.uark.edu/students/>.

Intellectual Property

State common law and federal copyright law protect my syllabus and lectures. Students are not authorized to record my lectures or electronic presentations or to make any commercial use of them without express prior permission from me. Notes and lectures are for your personal use only.

ADA Notice

University of Arkansas Academic Policy Series 1520.10 requires that students with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact me privately at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through the Center for Educational Access (contact 479-575-3104 or visit <http://cea.uark.edu> for more information on registration procedures).

Inclement Weather

If campus is closed, class will be held synchronously and/or made available as a recording. For those who live off campus, use your best judgment.

Syllabus Changes

The syllabus may change at any time at the instructor's discretion.

Emergency Procedures

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at emergency.uark.edu.

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

1. Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.
2. Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.

3. If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.
4. Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

CALL: 9-1-1

AVOID: If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.

DENY: Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it's safe.

DEFEND: Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Course Schedule

Week 1

M-Aug. 23: Course overview and an Introduction to *The Courtier*

Reading: Review the syllabus before class

Handout: "Why Are We Reading Castiglione's *The Book of the Courtier* in 2020?"
The Courtier, B1. S. 1-5 p. 7-12; S. 25-28, p. 33-39 (On the setting of the dialogues and on nonchalance or *sprezzatura*)

W- Aug. 25: Transitioning to College: Finding Resources and Finding Your Way around Honors and the U of A

Reading: "History of the University of Arkansas," <https://www.uark.edu/about/history.php>.
 Honors College Vision, Pillars, and Mission, on Blackboard
The Courtier, Book 2, Sect. 1-3, p. 75-79 (On old men and nostalgia)

Assignment: In the "Meet Your Classmates" section on Blackboard, write a 200-word introduction of yourself to your instructor and classmates. Tell us where you are from, why you are at the U of A, what you hope for from this class and this year, and anything else you would like to share. (100 points)
 Due: Thursday, August 26, 5:00 p.m.

Week 2

M-Aug. 30: Whole Health Assessment and Life Odyssey Part 1

Reading: Worksheets provided.

Assignment: Whole Health Institute Assessment: bring to class (50 points)
 Life Odyssey Pre Worksheet: bring to class in a sharable form (50 points)
 Due: Monday, August 31 by class time on Blackboard

W-Sept. 1 Life Odyssey Part 2
Reading: Worksheets provided.

Assignment: Life Odyssey Grid (50 points)
Work to be completed in class

Week 3

M-Sept. 6: **LABOR DAY – NO CLASS**

W-Sept. 8: Self-Advertisement: The Resume
Reading: *The Courtier*, B. 1, S. 15-18, p. 23-28; S.41-46, p. 56-62. (On the ideal courtier)

Assignment: Complete a draft academic resume based on the guidelines from the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards and submit on Blackboard and bring it to class in a forwardable form. (50 points)
<https://awards.uark.edu/applying/advice/academic-resumes.php>

Week 4

M-Sept. 13: Taking Care of Business: Selfcare and Money Management

Reading: Budgeting handout
The Courtier, B.1 S.19-22, p. 28-32; B2, S. 77, p. 149-150, B. 2, S. 86, p. 157-159, B .4 S. 39-41, p. 276-278 (On humor and money)

W-Sept. 15: Time Management, Study Skills, and How to Pull the Spine out of a Book
Reading: Time management handout
Study skills handout
The Courtier, B. 2, S. 26-31, p. 102-109. (On dress, friendship, and trivial skills)

Assignment: Complete the redraft of you resume based on in-class and instructor feedback. (50 points)

Due on Blackboard by Friday, September 18 by 5:00 p.m.

Week 5

M-Sept. 20: Writing in General and Writing Papers: Being Eloquent without Being Affected
Reading: Research paper handout
The Courtier, B. 1, S. 32-37, p. 43-54. (On language)

Plimpton, George, "Maya Angelou, The Art of Fiction No. 119," The Paris Review, Fall 1990. Available on Blackboard. (An interview on creativity, race, and place with one of the state's greatest writers)

W-Sept. 22: Writing and Talking to Get Things: How to Secure Mentors, Recommenders and Other Useful People

Reading: Email handout
Interview handout
The Courtier, B. 2, S. 17-20, p. 92-97. (On pleasing princes)

Assignment: Write a 150-word minimum notetaking tip for you classmates on the course blog sharing what has worked for you in your previous studies for taking notes and tests. Include a sample photo or photos if appropriate. (100 points)
Due on Blackboard course blog by Friday, September 25 by 5:00 p.m.

Week 6

M-Sept. 27: Core Business: Notetaking and Tests

Reading: Notetaking handout
Test prep handout
The Courtier, B. 4, S. 11-18, p. 251-259. (On virtues and their sources)

W-Sept. 29: Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense: Academic Integrity

Reading: Watch the videos and read the policies in Module 5 on Blackboard
The Courtier, B. 2, S. 22-25, p. 98-102; B. 3, S. 26-37, p.194-205. (On being honorable and on the role of women [Ugh!])

Assignment: Write a draft email to a potential research mentor or professor whose work interests you introducing yourself and your interests requesting an informational meeting. (100 points)
Due on Blackboard course blog by Friday, October 2 by 5:00 p.m.

Week 7

M-Oct. 4: Honors Essentials: The Research and Thesis Process and Study Abroad

W-Oct. 6: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Who Is Eligible for a Courtier's Honors?
Reading: *The Courtier*, B. 2, S. 8-10, p. 83-86; B. 4, S. 36-41, p. 273-278. (On competition between the classes, on conquest as a way of spreading civilization, and on good government of subjects.)

George Haley Oral History Transcript (An account from one of the U of A's earliest African-American students.)

Week 8

M-Oct. 11: Symposium: Saying Who You Are and What It All Meant

Reading: Selections from Dorothy Allison, *Skin* (Essays on class and ambition.)

Assignment: Come to class ready speak for two minutes on who you are and what you want to accomplish with your time at the U of A. (100 points)

Extra Credit: Write a 500-word essay on what you got from reading Castiglione.

Due on Blackboard Monday, October 11 by 5:00 p.m. (50 points maximum based on the quality of your reflection)