

ACES 199, Section JS: Honors Seminar
4:00-4:50 PM Wednesdays – 316N Mumford Hall
Instructor: Dr. Bill Simmons, ACES Honors Dean
Syllabus – Spring 2006

This course is designed to promote exposure to, and subsequent thinking about, a broad array of topics relevant to ACES James Scholars. Students will be asked to engage in the topics, think about them, and enter into conversation or questioning during and after the presentations. The “follow-up” discussion periods will be as varied in scope as the speakers’ topics. The presenters will help guide us in determining how the second week unfolds. The emphasis of this course will be on “internally motivated learning.” What does this mean? It is a transition from your student “graded life” to your future, where you will want to think for the pure enjoyment and benefits that learning brings.

<u>Wednesday Sessions</u>	<u>Topics/Lecturers</u>
Week 1: January 18th	Dr. Bill Simmons (ACES): Introduction
Week 2: January 25th	Dr. Hans Blaschek (FSHN): “Molecular Bioengineering of Bio-mass Conversion”
Week 3: February 1st	Follow-up Discussion with Dr. Blaschek
Week 4: February 8th	Dr. Michael Mazzocco (ACE): “Organic Grain Marketing”
Week 5: February 15th	Follow-up Discussion with Dr. Mazzocco
Week 6: February 22nd	Dr. Donald Briskin (NRES): “M”
Week 7: March 1st	Follow-up Discussion with Dr. Briskin
Week 8: March 8th	Dr. Michael Schlesinger (Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, UIUC): “How Dangerous Is Climate Change? Assessing the Likelihood of a Collapse of the Atlantic Thermohaline Circulation” – NOTE CHANGE OF ROOM: 370 Armory
Week 9: March 15th	Follow-up Discussion on Global Warming Issues (Potential Debate)
NO CLASS: March 22nd	SPRING BREAK
Week 10: March 29th	Dr. Rod Johnson (ANSC): “The Paralysis of Initiative: How the Immune System Talks to the Brain When We're Sick”
Week 11: April 5th	Follow-up Discussion with Dr. Johnson

Week 12: April 12th	Dr. Mark David (NRES): “Agriculture and Water Quality: Are They Compatible?”
Week 13: April 19th	Follow-up Discussion with Dr. David
Week 14: April 26th	Dr. Robert Hughes (HCD): “eACES: Blogs, Wikis, and Podcasting Your Degree”
Week 15: May 3rd	Follow-up Discussion with Dr. Hughes Followed by ACES 199 Grillfest
PAPERS DUE: May 10th NO FINAL EXAM	Submit Final Papers by 5:00 PM 104 Mumford Hall

Grading

A letter grade of at least B- must be earned in this course to obtain honors credit. The grading scale is as follows:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

The breakdown of the course grade is:

Attendance/Participation = 75%

Seminar Paper = 25%

Attendance is highly encouraged. You may miss one class period without recourse. All subsequently missed classes will require outside work to get full credit.

You are asked to write a total of six typewritten pages over the course of the semester. This total can be achieved in any way you see fit, including (but not limited to):

- Six one-page opinion pieces on any of the seven topics we cover.
- Three two-page papers on topics related to those covered in class.
- One six-page paper on a topic pre-approved by me (let’s discuss it).
- Any combination of the above that results in six pages.

Early Bird Discount!

- You may turn in a four-page paper by March 29th for full credit.
- You may turn in a five-page paper by April 19th for full credit.

Characteristics of Achievement Levels

- **“A” Students:** Consistent attendance and participation combined with effective writing as described above. Scholarly approach to the class will be characterized by “engagement” (i.e., looking alert and speaking).
- **“B” Students:** Spotty attendance and/or participation.
- **“C” Students:** An unlikely outcome for someone who failed to meet the simple requirements.