

# ***INTG 101: INTRODUCTION to LIBERAL ARTS*** **FALL 2013**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Nick Dobson  
**TIME:** M-F 11:00-11:50  
**OFFICE:** WH 2, x2103



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1-2 & by appointment (or  
serendipity)

## **Required Texts**

- The Botany of Desire*. Michael Pollan. Random House Trade Paperbacks, ISBN 0375760393. 2001.
- Socrates Café*. Christopher Phillips. W.W. Norton & Co., ISBN 039332298X. 2001.
- Bacchae*. Euripides, (tr. Paul Woodruff). Hackett, ISBN 0872203921. 1998.
- Brave New World*. Aldous Huxley. Harper Perennial Classics, ISBN 0060850523. 2006.
- The Bedford Handbook*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers. Bedford/St. Martins, ISBN 0312652690. 2009.

## **Goals of the Introduction to the Liberal Arts Class**

"ILA is a transition into the Monmouth College learning community which values the spirit of inquiry in pursuit of academic excellence." Its primary focus will be academic. You will work on skills of critical analysis and expression that will serve you in all of your future classes. The skills include (among others) critical reading, academic research, and written and oral expressions of your thoughts. In other words, you are learning how to be a contributor to the academic exchange of ideas.

Being a member of a small liberal arts college entails more than academics. So this class will also provide opportunities for you to learn about other aspects of the Monmouth community, such as social organizations on campus, career development, and personal counseling. The common ILA experience connects you not only to the other members of this particular class, but to all of the students who have matriculated with you.

Here are the specific goals for ILA. Students will be able to:

1. Engage in the practice of reading, in order to see books as sources of pleasure as well as knowledge;
2. Engage in an effective critical thinking process;
3. Utilize an effective writing process;
4. Demonstrate proficient listening and speaking skills;
5. Explain the distinctiveness and value of a liberal arts education;

## **Class Format**

Class will generally meet **Mon.-Wed. + Fri.** from 11:00 a.m. until 11:50 a.m. In addition, you will have some meetings on Thursdays outside of the classroom, for example in the library. As required by consensus of the ILA instructors, you are expected and required to attend all seminar classes and required meetings of this course. Since this course is a seminar course that revolves about class discussion, it is particularly important for you to be in class to benefit from all that your fellow student-scholars and instructor have to offer. **No more than four unexcused are permitted. You will fail the course on your fifth unexcused absence.**

Course materials will be available in electronic form on the Monmouth College Moodle webpage (<http://lms.monmouthcollege.edu/moodle/course/view.php?id=114>).

Do not hesitate to ask questions in class. Asking questions is a vital part of participation. If you don't understand something, there are surely others in the class who do not understand either. You will do the entire class a favor by asking for explanations.

## **Introduction to the Liberal Arts Writing Requirements**

- A. Two formal thesis-focused essays (750-1000 words) that have been drafted.
- B. One longer (1000-1500 words), thesis-focused final essay that has been drafted.
- C. Informal Writing: You will be expected to write informally on a regular basis. Informal writing might include journals, free writing, convocation descriptions and others. As with all college writing, your professors will expect these pieces to be carefully drafted and well thought-out before submission.
- D. A library-based research exercise as determined by your instructor. This exercise (oral or written) will focus on the collection, evaluation and citation of sources.
- E. A thorough discussion of plagiarism and the importance of academic honesty
- F. A comprehensive essay final exam.

## **Weekly Work Expectations:**

I expect each student in this class to spend approximately **1-2 hours working outside of class for each hour spent in the classroom.** Outside work includes (but is not limited to) reading and analyzing texts, preparing written assignments, doing research, and attending campus events. **Including class attendance, students should anticipate spending an average of 10-14 hours per week on ILA.**

## **Participation in the life of the College**

In order to make you aware of and encourage you to appreciate the wide variety of cultural offerings available on campus, **you will be required to attend at least 5 extracurricular cultural events on campus this semester: one sporting event, one music event, one theater event, one art opening, and one lecture.** Event programs

(when available) and a brief essay must be submitted as proof of attendance for each event. The guidelines for essays will be posted on Moodle.

### **Grading Guidelines**

55% Formal Writing, Informal Writing, and Research/Library Assignments

20% Class Participation/Oral communication in class

25% Quizzes, exams, final exam.

### **Civility in the Classroom**

Since discussion and the exchange of ideas are critical in this class, collaboration, respect for others, and at least a modicum of enthusiasm are expected. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure such an environment, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using cell phones or beepers, eating or drinking, making offensive or defamatory remarks, reading books or newspapers or magazines, sleeping, bringing a weapon of any kind, or engaging in any other form of distraction in the classroom. In the case of a violation of this policy, I will note the behavior and ask that it stop at once. Subsequent inappropriate behavior may result in removal from the course and referral to the Office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. **No texting! If I see you texting, I will ask you to leave and count you absent.**

### **Honesty and Plagiarism:**

Students in this course are encouraged to work together. All written work, essays, quizzes, exams, etc., whether produced in class or outside of class, must be the student's own. Plagiarism, that is, copying someone else's work without giving credit, is to be avoided. Such copying--from a book, another classmate's paper, or any other source--is dishonest.

At Monmouth College we view academic dishonesty as a threat to the integrity and intellectual mission of our institution. Any breach of the academic honesty policy – either intentionally or unintentionally - will be taken seriously and may result not only in failure in the course, but in suspension or expulsion from the college. It is each student's responsibility to read, understand and comply with the general academic honesty policy at Monmouth College, as defined in the Scots Guide (<http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/life/residence-life/scots-guide/academic.aspx>) and to the specific guidelines for each course, as elaborated on the professor's syllabus.

The following areas are examples of violations of the academic honesty policy:

1. Cheating on tests, labs, etc;
2. Plagiarism, that is, using the words, ideas, writing, or work of another without giving appropriate credit;
3. Improper collaboration between students, that is, not doing one's own work on outside assignments unspecified as group projects by the instructor;

4. Submitting work previously submitted in another course, without previous authorization by the instructor.

(This list is not intended to be exhaustive.)

Ignorance will not be considered a valid excuse for violating college policy. If you have any doubt about proper acknowledgement of sources of information you have used in a paper, ask about it!

**Writing Center:**

*The Monmouth College Writing Center* offers unlimited, free peer tutoring sessions for students at MC. Peer writing tutors work with writers from any major, of any writing ability, on any type of writing assignment, and at any stage of their writing processes, from planning to drafting to revising to editing. The Writing Center is located on the 3rd floor of the Mellinger Teaching and Learning Center, and is open Sunday-Thursday 7-10pm and Monday-Thursday 3-5pm on a first-come, first-served basis. No appointment necessary! Contact [bdraxler@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:bdraxler@monmouthcollege.edu) or visit the website <http://writingatmc.wordpress.com/writing-center/> for more information.

**Teaching & Learning Center (TLC):**

The Teaching and Learning Center offers various resources to assist Monmouth students with their academic success. All programs are FREE to Monmouth students and are here to help you excel academically. Our services are not just for struggling students, but designed to assist all students to get better grades, learn stronger study skills, and be able to academically manage your time here. Visit them at the 2nd floor of Poling Hall from 8am-4:30pm or on line at <http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/academics/support/tlc>. They can also be reached at: [tlc@monmouthcollege.edu](mailto:tlc@monmouthcollege.edu) or 309-457-2257. They want to help you – it's COOL to get the help early!

**Disability Support Services:**

Monmouth College wants to help all students be as academically successful as possible. It is the goal of Monmouth College to accommodate students with disabilities pursuant to federal law, state law, and the college's commitment to equal educational opportunity. Any student with a disability who needs an accommodation should speak with the Teaching and Learning Center. The Teaching and Learning Center is located on the 2nd floor of Poling Hall, 309-457-2257, or <http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/life/disability-services>.

**Caveat:** This syllabus is subject to revision.