

Humanities 195j
Fall 2004
Mon. 2:45-4:15 (sometimes longer)
and by Institute calendar
Humanities 105

Professor Liss
Humanities 214, x73541
Office Hrs: Mon. 11-12
Thurs. 2:30-3:30

Humanities Institute Junior Fellows Seminar

The theme for the Fall 2004 Scripps College Humanities Institute is “The Politics of Knowledge Production.” What does this mean? Our program will explore the connections among knowledge, information, and power. Our approach will be interdisciplinary and, we hope, wide-ranging, including such topics as the way information is created and used in policy-making and the formation of political culture; the role of think tanks; and relationships among the academy, public policy and social movements. As is the tradition at the Institute, the program approaches these issues from a variety of disciplinary and experiential perspectives, drawing on the expertise of historians, journalists, attorneys, activists, philosophers, and others.

Course requirements:

All Fellows will participate in a seminar that accompanies the lecture series. We will read texts recommended or written by the speakers in preparation for their visits. Fellows are expected to attend the weekly seminar and all other Institute events. Fellows will have opportunities to meet individually with the speakers.

Each student is expected to fulfill the following requirements throughout the semester:

- Read all of the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss them.
- Write weekly, two-page reading responses (due at the beginning of class).
- Make an oral presentation on one week's assignment to initiate and focus discussion. This presentation includes summarizing the argument or major concerns, presenting what is at stake (why does this work matter?), and posing questions for discussion. Because the readings focus directly on particular authors/speakers, you may find it useful to read about them and their work beyond the assignment. In order for these presentations to be productive and helpful, you should be as clear as possible about what you think the author's main concerns are and about your own analysis or reaction to them. You can assume that everyone else has done the assigned reading, so you won't need to summarize it. Depending on the enrollment, these presentations may be done in groups.
- Write a response paper about each of the Institute events; these may include an interview with one of the speakers.
- Write a fifteen-page research paper on a topic of your choice related to the topics we discuss this semester. You must discuss your topic with me beforehand as noted in the schedule below. Students will present their work to the class at the end of the semester. Students may pursue a project in another format, equivalent in scope and rigor to a research paper, e.g. a video or art project based on the materials for the semester.

Schedule of meetings and readings:

We will meet regularly on Mondays to prepare for the Institute events. Although the class is scheduled for the 2:45-5:30 time slot, to compensate for the out-of-class commitment for this course, class will usually conclude at about 4:00.

Students are required to attend Institute events. Most talks are on Thursdays either at 4:15 or at 7:00 p.m. On the Friday morning following the lectures we will meet separately with the speakers, most likely at 11:30 a.m. There will be a seminar for 1 to 1 ½ hours, followed by lunch. Separate lunch talks take place at Noon in the Hampton Room. Details are included in the syllabus.

The readings are assigned based on what the speakers made available as of the first day of class. Changes or additions may be necessary. Copies of the selections are available from Claire Bridge in the Humanities Institute office.

The following books are available at Huntley Bookstore:

Robert McChesney, The Problem of the Media

John Podesta et al., A Little Knowledge

Lee Cokorinos, The Assault on Diversity

Kent Wong, Voices for Justice

Kent Wong, Voices from the Front Lines

The Federalist Papers

- Sept. 2 (Thursday):** Introduction to the class and to the program
 Robert McChesney, The Problem of the Media, preface, ch. 1
 Jean Stefancic and Richard Delgado, No Mercy, selections
 Elizabeth Minnich, “Teaching Thinking”
- Sept. 6:** Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation”
 David Brooks, “Age of Political Segregation” and letters to the editor
 Nicholas D. Kristof, “Calling Bush a Liar” and letters to the editor
 Jon Wiener, “Copyright as Censorship,” “The Archives and Allen Weinstein,” “Historian with a History”
- Sept. 13:** Robert McChesney, The Problem of the Media, review preface and ch. 1, finish book
- Sept. 16: Jon Wiener, “‘Fairness and ‘Balance’ in Politics and the Classroom”
 Judy Muller, “Media Bombardment: A Case for Media Literacy”
 (4:15 p.m., Hampton Room)**
- Sept. 20:** John Podesta et al., A Little Knowledge
www.americanprogress.org
- Sept. 23: John Podesta, “Think Tanks, Democracy, and Public Policy,” (7 p.m., Hampton Room)**
- Sept. 27:** Lee Cokorinos, The Assault on Diversity
www.idsonline.org
www.capacitydevelopment.net
- Sept. 30: Film Screening: *Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election* (2002, USA, 50 min.)
 dir. [Richard Ray Perez](#) and [Joan Sekler](#) (7:15 p.m., Boone Recital Hall)**
- Oct. 4:** Kent Wong, Voices for Justice and Voices from the Front Lines
 Christopher Erickson et al., “Justice for Janitors in Los Angeles: Lessons from Three Rounds of Negotiations”
<http://www.labor.ucla.edu/>
Kent Wong will attend this class
- Oct. 4: Lunch Talk: Kent Wong, “Voices for Justice: Organizing Immigrant Workers” (Noon,
 Hampton Room)**
- Oct. 11:** Federalist Papers #9, 10, 39, 41, 51, 69, 78-81, 84, and 85.
www.fed-soc.org
- Oct. 11: Lunch Talk: David Attyah, “On Stopping the Manufacture of Political Apathy: Arguments for
 Politicizing Art” (Noon, Hampton Room)**
- Oct. 18: Break**
- Oct. 21: Final Project Proposals due in my Humanities mailbox by 4 p.m.**
- Film screening: *Orwell Rolls in His Grave* (2004, USA, 103 min.), dir. Robert Kane Pappas,
 Discussion and Q&A with the director, (7:15 p.m., Boone Recital Hall)**

Oct. 25: Antonio Gonzalez, President, William C. Velasquez Institute
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project

www.svrep.org

<http://www.wevi.org>

Antonio Gonzalez will attend this class

Oct. 25: Lunch Talk: Antonio Gonzalez, “‘Su Voto Es Su Voz’: Civic Engagement and Public Policy”
(Noon, Hampton Room)

Oct. 28: Lee Cokorinos, “Does Knowledge Matter? Think Tanks and the Assault on Diversity”
Eugene Meyer, “The Federalist Society: Broadening the Debate in the Law Schools in Theory
and in Practice”
(4:15 p.m., Hampton Room)

Nov. 1: Final Project Outlines due in class

Nov. 4: Film Screening: *Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism* (2004, USA, 78 min)
dir. [Robert Greenwald](#) (7:15 p.m., Boone Recital Hall)

Nov. 8: Elizabeth Minnich, [Transforming Knowledge](#) (selections from first and revised editions)
Review Minnich, “Teaching Thinking: Moral and Political Considerations”

Nov. 11: Elizabeth Minnich, “Transforming Knowledge: Refusing and Refuting Logics of
Domination,” (7:00 p.m., Hampton Room)

Nov. 15: discussion of Minnich visit; individual conferences about projects this week

Nov. 18: Film Screening: *Control Room* (2004, USA, 84 min.). dir. [Jehane Noujaim](#) (7:15 p.m., Boone
Recital Hall)

Nov. 22: Presentations
Rough drafts due

Nov. 29: Presentations

Dec. 6: Presentations

Dec. 9 (reading day): Presentations

Dec. 13: Final projects due by Noon