THIRD-YEAR SYMPOSIUM
IDSEM-UG 1800
New York University, Gallatin School of Individualized Study
Spring 2014
Tuesdays, 2-4:45 in Silver: Room 411

Professor Gregory Erickson
gte1@nyu.edu
1 Washington Place, Room 417
Office Hours: T: 10-11; R: 10-11, 2-4

Professor Hannah Gurman
hrg2@nyu.edu
1 Washington Place, Room 616
Office Hours: T/R: 9-11

Course Description: In this class we will begin by discussing such questions as “what is my concentration?” and “what is the relationship between a concentration and a rationale or a colloquium?” Using these questions to explore not only your own process but also the nature of interdisciplinarity, individualized education, and the value of the liberal arts, we will spend the first half of the semester developing methods of interdisciplinary study and applying them to your own concentration. We will spend the second half of the semester drafting, workshopping, revising, presenting, and completing your colloquium rationale and booklist. Students will work as a class, with guest speakers, in small groups, and individually with their advisers and with the professors, as detailed in the syllabus. Try to think of this class as an opportunity to engage with exploring your interests and your thinking, rather than a necessary hoop you have to jump through in order to graduate.

Requirements and Evaluation: Writing assignments will include multiple short pieces as well as drafts of your rationale and booklist.

Required Reading: Most weeks will involve reading assignments that will be made available on the course site. Some of these are listed on the syllabus, and class needs and interests will determine others. We may also occasionally divide the class up and do different readings.

Attendance: Mandatory. Absences from class may result in a failing grade.

Adviser meetings: You will be required to meet with your advisor. See syllabus course schedule for deadlines and details.

Course Schedule

Week 1 [1/28]: Introduction: Reflections on the Gallatin model: What is a concentration? How does it relate to the colloquium? What is interdisciplinarity? What is individualized study?
- In class: Submit brief description of your concentration
Week 2 [2/4] From Topics to Texts: What is a reading list? Canonical texts vs. quirky texts; Scholarly discourse and your voice.
- Assignment Due: IAPC Redux: Your Intellectual Autobiography Now
- In class: Establish working "affinity" groups

Issues in Inter-textual Inquiry

Week 3 [2/11]: Ancient Texts: What counts as an “ancient text?” How to relate ancient text to contemporary concerns. How to write and think about religious texts.
- Guest Speaker: Professor Bruce King
- Reading: Genesis; a Platonic dialogue
- Writing: A page employing an ancient text in thinking about your concentration

Week 4 [2/18]: Social Science and Experiential Learning: What are the social sciences? Can you use an internship on your rationale? How do we relate books and the “real” world?
- Guest Speaker: David Moore
- Reading: TBA
- Writing: A page connecting a text from the social sciences or your own experiential learning to your concentration.

Week 5 [2/25]: Humanities/Narrative Arts: How do narrative and story-telling figure into your topic? What do the humanities help us think about? How do the humanities figure into science, social science, and professional fields of inquiry? How to think like a philosopher. How to use non-verbal texts (music, visual, architecture).
- Reading: from Richard Kearney's On Stories
- Writing: a page either using a non-verbal text, a philosophical concept, or a poem.

Week 6 [3/4]: Historicizing Your Topic: How to think historically; moving from history to historiography; thinking about “histories of the present”; using current events and popular culture.
- Writing: a page historicizing a text from your book list.

Week 7 [3/11]: Thinking “Globally”: Non-western Texts: What does it mean to think “globally”? What is the role of the local in the global? How to contextualize non-western texts
- Assignment Due: What Eurocentric assumptions are implicit/explicit in your current framework?
- Reading: TBA
-Writing: A page using a non-western text offer a new perspective on your concentration or rationale.

**SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS**

**Group/Adviser Study**

Week 8 [3/25]: Affinity Group/Adviser Meetings: No class meeting  
-Assignment Due: First Draft of Booklist/Rationale

Week 9 [4/1]: Affinity Group/Adviser Meetings: No class meeting

Week 10 [4/8]: Affinity Group/Adviser Meetings: No class meeting  
-Assignment Due: Submit Proof of Adviser Meeting by today

Week 11 [4/15]: In-class Workshop  
Assignment Due: Second Draft of Rationale/Booklist

Week 12 [4/22]: In-class Workshop

Week 13 [4/29]: Group Colloquia

Week 14 [5/6]: Group Colloquia  
-Assignment Due: Final Draft of Booklist/Rationale

*During these final two weeks of the semester, student affinity groups will present their common project to the rest of the class. In these presentations, students will discuss their "common text" as if they were participating in the actual senior colloquium. After introductory remarks and dialogue within the panel, the discussion will be opened to questions and comments from the teachers, other students, and guests. Pizza will be provided.*