

Instructions for Honors Students

Honors students have two basic charges this semester:

- 1) To organize and host a minimum of four informal discussions on Marxist thought
- 2) To develop a final project of your choosing.

1. Informal discussions (maybe you can find a better name for these)

Working together, honors students will plan and host at least four informal meetings to discuss the class materials. These meetings will be held outside of class, be scheduled to last 1-2 hours long, and will invite all students in the class to attend. (Interested persons who aren't in the class are also welcome.)

Organize at least four meetings; each honors student must attend three meetings throughout the semester. I ask that you hold meetings as late in the evening as possible and not on Monday or Wednesday nights. That will help me make the meetings, but if these restrictions don't work for you all, ignore them.

You all can decide what you want to discuss and how you want to organize the discussions. (Don't be surprised, or worried, if things don't go quite how you planned it—that's how informal discussions go.) I request meetings that discuss Gramsci's argument for how to study philosophy (on or after April 7) and James on popular culture (on or after April 21, but these are just suggestions. Ignore them if you want.

I will evaluate these discussions in the following ways: 1) were they well organized (adequately advertised to the rest of the class, good turnout, held at a comfortable and accessible public location at a good time), 2) was there a substantive discussion of material, 3) was there useful facilitation of the discussion by an honors student(s), and 4) did the discussion improve participants' understand of the material? (I also welcome discussions of the structure and organization of the course itself.) Honors students will evaluate these four points in a report filed to Vista after each meeting. My evaluation will be based on this report, any subsequent discussion of the report on Vista, as well as my attendance, if I can make it.

2. Semester project

Honors students will also devise, plan, and carry out a project of your choosing related to the content of the course. This could be a series of individual research papers (expanded versions of the one already assigned), a collective paper, a multimedia project, a public event, or anything else of your choosing. I must approve the project before you begin. A project proposal(s) is due by March 3. I suggest you get started on this before then; I am happy to work with you at any time to develop the proposal, including the plan and its scope.

If you have any questions or problems with either of these charges, *please let me know*. I am giving you a lot of leeway in how to complete these charges, but I'm always happy to advise and assist. I have created a separate "Honors" topic on the Vista discussion board to facilitate your planning and discussions.