

FLR 199 Politically Creative FIG: College Connections
Class meets on Mondays, 1-1:50 PM, WIL 112

FIG Professor: Prof. L. Gilman
Office Hours: M 9-11, R 3:30-4:30, and by apt
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FIG Assistant (FA): Nicole Scopelliti
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(text or call. Can call later if urgent)*
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Course Description: This FIG brings into conversation two disciplines—folklore and political science--that are infrequently considered in relationship to each other, but that together yield significant insight into understandings of how power operates in the United States in both formal and informal spheres. On the one hand, the FIG considers the use of the symbolic, ritualistic, and performative in the orchestration of official political authority. On the other hand, it explores how people outside of state institutions use creative forms in their everyday lives to express political perspectives, negotiate power relationships, and act in response to political and social realities. **We are fortunate that the presidential campaigns are happening this term, so expect lots of activities and discussion about the use of folklore in the political realm right now!**

This course is also designed to assist students in learning about campus resources and to emphasize the importance of student/faculty relationships for academic success. It provides a support system for first-year students as you become better acclimated to campus life.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. If you cannot attend class or a required activity due to an excused absence, please notify Prof. Gilman or Nicole within 24 hours of the absence. Excusable circumstances include such things as: death in the family, serious illness, ill children, observance of a religious holiday, and other university recognized conflicts. Be prepared to provide documentation.

Grading: (100 pts total) This course is Pass/No Pass. Students must receive 70 pts to pass.

****You will not pass this class with more than 2 unexcused absences****

Attendance & Participation--25 pts

Assignments—75 pts

- 1 Meeting with FA Nicole **(by 10/10)--5 pts**
- Library Assignment **(due 10/24)--15 pts**
- Student Example day **(10/10, 10/31, 11/14)--15 pts**
- 1 Visit to an Instructor's Office Hours **(by 10/31)--5 pts**
- 2 Year Plan **(due 11/14)--10 pts**
- Attend at least one the three events below, organized by Nicole **(by 11/28)--5 pts**
 - Oct. 10, 4-6 pm, Knight Library Browsing Room. Lecture: "From the Margins to the Mainstream: Artists with Disabilities Today." Tom di Maria, Director, Creative Growth Art Center, Oakland.
 - Oct. 29, 6-7 pm, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA). Dia de los Muertos Celebration.
 - UO Hip Hop Jam, Date and time to be announced
- Creative Group Project **(11/28)--20 pts**

Guidelines for assignments will be distributed in class or be posted on Canvas. Hard copies of assignments must be turned in to instructors during class, unless otherwise noted.

Out-of-Class Activities

- **OCT 1, Saturday Market visit:** with Prof. Gilman and Nicole. Oct. 1. Fig students meet Nicole at 11 am in front of the Duck Store (corner of 13th & Kincaid). Everyone takes EMX bus downtown **One major fieldtrip** related to the FIG theme of Folklore and Politics will be organized during the term. All students will be required to participate. Details to be announced.
- **Social activities.** FA Nicole will plan outings. Students are expected to join when available.

Special Needs/Disability: Everything possible will be done to accommodate those with special needs. Please meet with us in the first week of class to discuss how we can help you.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 Sept. 26 Welcome!!

Theme: Folklore and presidential election campaigns.

Activity: Students bring examples from summer assignment for discussion.

Week 2 Oct. 3

Theme: Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*

Activity: Nicole leads discussion and activities about book. Be sure you've read it by today.

Week 3 Oct. 10

Due: *meet with FA Nicole for 1 on 1 by today*

Theme: How are politicians and political organizers strategically using folklore, symbols, rituals, and art in the current U.S. presidential campaigns.

Activity: Folklore Example Day. Students in Group #1 bring examples illustrative of today's theme.

Week 4 Oct. 17

Theme: Learning to use the UO Libraries system.

Activity: Library activity

MEET IN FRONT OF KNIGHT LIBRARY at 12:50

Week 5 Oct. 24

Due: *Library Assignment*

Theme: Visiting with Professors Gilman & Lowndes (Q&A session)

Activity: Prof. Lowndes visits class and Profs. Gilman and Lowndes chat with students. Students bring questions

Week 6 Oct. 31

Due: *Documentation of visit to instructor's office hours*

Theme: How are people on the ground (not politicians) using folklore, symbols, rituals, and art to engage with this year's U.S. presidential election campaigns.

Activity: Folklore example day. Students in Group #2 bring examples illustrative of today's theme.

Week 7 Nov. 7

Theme: Time management and planning ahead

Activity: 2-year plan

Week 8 Nov. 14

Due: *Two-Year Plan*

Theme: What kind of folklore, symbols, and rituals are being used by politicians or people on the ground *in response* to the election results.

Activity: Folklore example day. Students in Group #3 bring examples illustrative of today's theme.

Week 9 Nov. 21

Theme: Progress, questions and concerns, going home. Class discussion.

Week 10 Nov. 28

Activity: Groups present creative group projects

!!!!END OF TERM CELEBRATIONS!!!!