

FRIDAY SEMINAR SYLLABUS

Integrated Studies 002: Orders and Origins
University of Pennsylvania
Spring 2015

Faculty:

- Dr. Jean-Paul Cauvin, Cohen Hall 175
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 p.m. and by appointment
Contact: jcauvin@sas.upenn.edu
- Dr. Michelle M. Pinto, College Hall 306C
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m. and by appointment
Contact: pintomi@sas.upenn.edu
- Dr. Julio R. Tuma, Cohen Hall 429
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11-12, Wednesdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m. and by appointment
Contact: tuma@sas.upenn.edu

Please attend the seminar assigned to you by the Registrar:

301: 10-10:50 a.m., Arch 110, Tuma
302: 10-10:50 a.m., College 311F, Pinto
303: 11-11:50 a.m., Arch 110, Tuma
304: 11-11:50 a.m., Cohen 237, Cauvin
305: 12-12:50 a.m., College 311A, Pinto
306: 12-12:50 a.m., Cohen 237, Cauvin

This course continues your intellectual journey in the Integrated Studies Program, as we delve into the disciplines of Political Science, Physics and Literature. You are now well-acquainted with the benefits and challenges of living with your classmates, attending intellectually-oriented extracurricular events, and participating in conversations with professors from a range of disciplines.

The Friday Seminars are the ISP cornerstone for developing your ability to integrate different academic disciplines around a common theme; and they also serve as the primary venue for expressing and discussing your ideas with your peers. As you continue to grow intellectually in the Friday Seminars, we encourage you to work persistently on a) building the confidence to share your ideas and b) honing the skill of effectively articulating and communicating your ideas. In the Friday Seminars, we will consider issues raised in the Thursday Integrative Sessions, discuss the content of the three streams for the week, and prepare for the three seminar assignments.

The objective of the Friday Seminars and Integrative Assignments is for you to use the enterprise of integration in order to understand the world around you in ever more diverse ways. We ask what ideas can be generated and what conclusions can be drawn by examining the relationships between different disciplines and concepts. This is a discussion-based seminar and **attendance is mandatory**. We expect you to engage in serious debate, deep thinking, and courteous dialogue because we believe it provides a foundation for understanding ourselves and our relationship with the society in which we live in new and productive ways.

REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and Participation: 20%
Integration Essay 1: 25%
Integration Essay 2: 30%
In-Seminar Oral Presentation: 25%

ACTION PLAN:

Attendance and Participation: In the Friday Seminars, we will discuss your insights, questions, comments, and concerns. It is expected that you respond to your classmates with the sincerity, respect and attention you would expect to receive. Since attendance is mandatory, unexcused absences will affect this component of your grade. If you anticipate missing class for any reason, make sure to discuss it with your seminar professor in advance and be sure to fill out a Course Absence Report as necessary. In addition, you may be asked to participate in online forums by either your seminar professor or by stream professors. Finally, your participation grade includes your participation in the course more broadly: attending all lectures, participating in lectures via questions and comments, and coming to office hours as necessary (especially with regard to essay improvement). We seek engagement across all components of the course.

The two Integration Essays are designed to develop your ability to integrate via effective and elegant writing and argumentation.

In addition, you will each lead—as part of a group—an oral presentation in Friday Seminar to hone your ability to integrate via compelling verbal communication. This 30-minute presentation will consist of an exposition and analysis of the week’s content and key issues so as to launch the Friday Seminar discussion. Students will be expected to produce creative, thoughtful, visually stimulating, and well-articulated presentations that skillfully interweave the week’s readings and lectures. Each student in the group will be expected to participate equally and substantially. Groups and presentation dates will be **assigned and fixed** by January 30.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Essays must be submitted to the Canvas course website by the dates and times listed below
- Essays must include your name **in the Word Document itself**
- Essays must be submitted **in .doc or .docx format** and named as follows:
 LastnameFirstinitial_AssignmentDescription.doc
- Essays **must observe word limit requirements**
- Oral presentations must observe the time limit requirement

Due Date	Assignment Title	Assignment
3/2 10 a.m.	Integration Essay 1 (1000 words)	This essay will be constructed around Eugene Wigner’s 1960 article, “The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics in the Natural Sciences.” Choose a rich passage or theme from the article, and consider how either a political scientist or a literary scholar might interpret this passage/theme. Use specific citations from the readings and lectures in Weeks 2-6 to support your argument. Consider these possible approaches: explore examples of synergy/agreement; investigate interesting points of disagreement; or examine what this article might teach us about the other discipline.
4/22 10 a.m.	Integration Essay 2 (1200 words)	Choose a passage or theme from <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Weeks 7-12, and bring this passage/theme into a conversation with the Political Science and Physics streams from Weeks 7-12. Use specific citations from the readings and lectures in Weeks 7-12 to support your argument.
Date will be set for each student by 1/30	In-Seminar Oral Presentation (30-minute presentation)	Groups of 2-3 students will present and integrate the week’s content once during the semester. Presentations must be prepared well ahead of time: a) Students must meet once with each other prior to the week’s first lecture b) Students must meet with their seminar professor during office hours/appointment that week to review their ideas and format c) Students must meet with each other again after the week’s Integrative Session to finalize their presentation.