

Syracuse University  
**FRESHMAN FORUM**

CAS101.053  
Fall 2016  
Office: 100 Eggers Hall  
Office Hours: Tu: 1-4 PM  
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**About the Course:** Welcome to Freshman Forum, a most unusual course at Syracuse University! Because entering college is a watershed in any young student's life, this course aims to enable you to make the transition to university life. The course also allows you to become acquainted with me (as a faculty member) in a more personal and less academically specialized setting. The course will also try to deepen your intellectual experience of the first year by exposing you to a free-floating atmosphere of creative and critical thinking. With these aims in mind, a set of activities has been planned to expose you to a wide spectrum of issues affecting new students at a major urban university. My hope is that by the time you leave this course you have developed a better appreciation of the university, its academic culture, as well as its human assets (students, faculty and staff).

**Goals of First Year Forum:**

- 1) To help you make the transition to being an active and effective university student.
- 2) To introduce Syracuse University and its environment through shared experiences.
- 3) To obtain an understanding of the Liberal Arts Core and how it will contribute to your success.

**Seminar Topic: "Islam and the West":** The focus of our course is "Islam and the West." In the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, "Islamic fundamentalism" has emerged as the *bête noire* of the post-Cold War world. In three of our class meetings we will discuss the following topics pertaining to our theme: Is there a clash of civilizations? Is there Islamophobia? What should be done to deal with the issue of Syrian refugees? My aim is to critically examine a series of assumptions that have now become part and parcel of the citizenry's everyday speech about "Islam" and "Muslims."

**Course Text:** *Learning Outside the Lines*, by Jonathan Mooney and David Cole (copied distributed in class)

Note: You are expected to read through page 84 of *Learning Outside the Lines* and be able to discuss the topics covered in those pages. The contents of this book may seem provocative to some; they represent the views, ideas, and opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the College of Arts and Sciences or Syracuse University.

## Course Schedule (tentative)

- Aug. 30:** Introduction: Getting acquainted
- Sept. 6:** *Class will not meet*
- Sept. 13:** Discussion: Is there a clash of civilizations? Is there Islamophobia?
- Sept. 20:** Discussion: What should be done to deal with the issue of Syrian refugees?
- Sept. 27:** Class Activity: Money 101 presentation by Derek Brainard (Financial Literacy Coordinator at SU)
- Oct. 4:** Marie Kulikowsky from SU Abroad explaining study abroad opportunities. After class, we will have dinner at Dinosaur Bar-B-Que (246 W Willow St, Syracuse, NY 13202). Come Hungry!
- Oct. 11:** Class Activity: Sue Casson (A&S Director of Career Development and Services), and Amy Mirabelli (a College Advisor) explain the Liberal Arts Core and advising services
- Oct. 18:** Discussing *Learning outside the Lines* (the upcoming Milton Lecture)
- Oct. 19 (Wed):** *Milton Lecture:* Jonathan Mooney, Learning Between the Lines (7:30 PM, Schine Student Center's Goldstein Auditorium). Meet in front of Tolley building at 6:45 p.m.

**ASSIGNMENT:** 1-2 page Milton Lecture reaction paper (due by email on 10/25): Discuss your thoughts regarding the Milton Lecture. Be sure to explain your reasoning. Describe one point made during the lecture that you found the most interesting. Why? Describe one point that you found uninteresting or confusing. Why?

**GRADES:** You will receive a letter grade (A-F) for this one-credit course. Your grade will be based on the following:

- Attendance - This class depends on every student being “present” for us to achieve our class goals. You are required to attend *all* meetings of your First-Year Forum, *especially* the Milton Lecture and the dinner outing together. Absence from a class due to an accepted documented reason will not count against the student. Any absence from a class for reasons other than an accepted documented reason will result in a grade penalty of half a letter grade from the final grade for the Class. **You must attend the Milton Lecture; failure to attend this event will result in failure in the course.**
- Participation - Active engagement through talking, listening, responding, and writing.
- Milton Lecture reaction paper

- Advising meeting: You need to have one fifty-minute meeting with me. We can either meet in my office (100 Eggers Hall) or better yet have lunch together at the Maxwell Café (my treat). These meetings can be scheduled through Blackboard.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

Syracuse University's academic integrity policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The university policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. The presumptive penalty for a first instance of academic dishonesty by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of academic integrity policy. The presumptive penalty for a first instance of academic dishonesty by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. SU students are required to read an online summary of the university's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>.

## **DISABILITY SYLLABUS STATEMENT**

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), [disabilityservices.syr.edu](http://disabilityservices.syr.edu), located at 804 University Avenue, room 309, or call 315.443.4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue "Accommodation Authorization Letters" to students as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. My goal is to create a learning environments that are useable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, I invite any student to meet with me to discuss additional strategies beyond accommodations that may be helpful to your success.

## **FAITH TRADITION OBSERVANCES**

Syracuse University does not set aside non-instructional days for any religious holiday. SU's religious observances policy, found at [supolicies.syr.edu/emp\\_ben/religious\\_observance.htm](http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm),

recognizes the diversity of faiths represented in the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students should have an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors no later than the end of the second week of classes. Student deadlines are posted in MySlice under Student Services/Enrollment/My Religious Observances/Add a Notification.

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, INCUSION AND RESOLUTION SERVICES**

The Code of Ethical Conduct is a statement of principles guiding the activities of all faculty, staff, and students. It provides, in part, that we: Respect the rights and dignity of all persons and recognize that discrimination or harassment in any form undermines the fundamental principles of the University; and Support a respectful environment through our own actions, encourage respectful behavior in others, and speak out against hatred and bias. Additional information can be found at [www.syr.edu/hcd/equal-opportunity.html](http://www.syr.edu/hcd/equal-opportunity.html). If you have any concerns about these matters, write to the Office of Equal Opportunity, Inclusion and Resolution Services at [titleix@syr.edu](mailto:titleix@syr.edu).