

WP 216H: Signature Experience *On Bullshit* (J-term 2021)

Professor: Thornton Lockwood
Office Hours: By appointment
Personal zoom room (for appointments):
quinnipiac.zoom.us/j/7857819440

Office phone: (203) 582-3345
Class time: Wed 10:00-11:30 (web-based course)
Email: tlockwood@qu.edu

Course description

This J-term honors signature experience will explore the nature of bullshit through a three-week “book club” that will read Harry Frankfurt’s short essay, *On Bullshit*. A book club is an opportunity for peers to read and discuss a book together, focusing on what the peers are interested in discussing. In one class, a peer may be interested in figuring out what an author means by a specific sentence or term. In another class, a peer may be interested in drawing parallels between bullshit in the author’s essay and bullshit in the 2020 election cycle. In another class, a peer may be interested in figuring out bullshit in his or her life. Rather than having Prof. Lockwood lecture on the Frankfurt’s essay, we will “flip” the class and have students facilitate discussion. A book club “works” as long as its members read the book and ask questions.

Required text

Students should obtain a physical or electronic copy of Frankfurt’s essay as soon as possible (and well in advance of our first meeting on 1/6/21, when we will discuss the first 19 pages of the essay and students will prepare questions as per below). An electronic copy of the text is uploaded to the course Blackboard site (under “Course Materials”). Students who wish to obtain a physical copy of the essay may use the information below:

- Harry G. Frankfurt. *On Bullshit*. Princeton University Press, 2005. ISBN: 0-691-12294-6.

Student discussion facilitation and reading schedule

On days that students are responsible for facilitating discussion, each student on the schedule should prepare TWO questions to ask the class, which they should send to the instructor by email in advance of the class. Student questions can range across all aspects of a book club—but they should ultimately come back to some aspect of Frankfurt’s essay. Students should prepare readings and questions according to this schedule:

Class	Reading assignment	Student discussion facilitators
1/6/21	<i>On Bullshit</i> , pp. 1-19	Mia Armen, Kevin Carballo, Aliana Castro, Evan Chan, Julia Delisse, Mason Glod, Anya Grondalski
1/13/21	<i>On Bullshit</i> , pp. 19-46	Benjamin Boyle, Amber Hill, Calistra Lonardelli, Lauren LoParrino, Elena Lopez, Jennifer Marion, Keely McEntee
1/20/21	<i>On Bullshit</i> , pp. 46-67	Kayla McFadden, Elizabeth Reverand, Amanda Riha, Robert Schroeder, Robert Smith, Kathryn Storey, Hannah Van Blarcom

Student evaluation

This honors signature experience is graded pass/fail. Students who attend all three class meetings and prepare discussion questions as per the above schedule pass the course; students who fail to attend the class or prepare questions as per the schedule above fail the course.

Web-based course delivery

All three sessions of our J-term course will take place remotely on Zoom. Students can find the link to individual sessions on the course Blackboard site (under “Zoom meeting”). The link to the course Zoom site is:

<https://quinnipiac.zoom.us/j/97705290292?pwd=UG4yVTRFeVBESSt5MnNnV2dXNXczZz09>

Meeting ID: 977 0529 0292

Passcode: 6w732t