EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY  I  SO-300 SECRET SOCIETIES IN AMERICAN CULTURE  Æ FALL 2013

SYLLABUS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 P.M. – 9:20 P.M.

INSTRUCTOR
Jonathon L. Noble
Attorney at Law
Kansas Legal Services
527 Commercial Ste 201
Emporia, KS 66801
785-317-5300
noble.esquire@gmail.com

CLASS TEXTS (REQUIRED)
Chris Hodapp. Conspiracy Theories and Secret Societies (For Dummies) (Wiley 2008);
Michael Halleran, The Better Angels of Our Nature: Freemasonry in the American Civil War (Alabama, 2010);
Mark Fenster, Conspiracy Theor ies: Secrecy and Power in American Culture (Minnesota, 2008) (Not Kindle Version!)

GRADING SCALE

100 POINTS
A 90-100%
B 80 – 89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
F 59% or below.

GRADING CRITERIA

1. Attendance & Participation
2. Mid-Term Examination
3. Truth in Fiction Presentation
4. Final Exam

POINTS
16
15
19
50
100

CLASS SCHEDULE – 15 CLASS MEETINGS

WEEK 1 (August 21): Introduction to Conspiracy!
• Introduction, syllabus, course requirements
• Read Hodapp 1-4 , for Week 2 discussion

WEEK 2 (August 28): Conspiracy Theories Abound
• Discuss Hodapp 1-4
• Read Hodapp 5-8
• Last day before official drop deadline

WEEK 3 (September 4): The Grassy Knoll, the Blame Game, Little Green Men, and 9/11
• Discuss Hodapp 5-8
• Film clip: JFK Autopsy Part 11 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2y7MG1leKY
• Film clip: Area 51 Conspiracy Theory http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6OXBk7Aco
• Film clip: Zeitgeist
• Read Halleran 1-2 & Hodapp 9-10 for discussion on Week 4
• Begin reading the Lost Symbol if you haven’t already started

WEEK 4 (September 11): Freemasonry and Occult Offshoots
• Discuss Halleran 1-2 & Hodapp 9-10
• Case study: Hollywood & the Freemasons
• Film: Secret Brotherhood of Freemasons
• Read Hodapp 11, 13
• Read Supplemental Materials Provided

WEEK 5 (September 18): Illumination and Fraternalism
• Discuss Hodapp 11, 13
• Discuss Supplemental Materials
• Truth in Fiction Slides/Written Assignment Due; No late submissions
• Read Halleran 3 – 6

WEEK 6 (September 25): Freemasonry in the Civil War
• Discuss Halleran 3 – 6
• Special Guest Lecturer Michael A. Halleran, Attorney at Law
• Author, The Better Angels of Our Nature: Freemasonry in the American Civil War
• Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Kansas
• Grand Master Elect of the Grand Lodge of Kansas
• Truth in Fiction Presentations
WEEK 7 (October 2): Dan Brown Eat Your Heart Out
- Finish Truth in Fiction Presentations
- Film: Hunting the Lost Symbol
- Review for Midterm

WEEK 8 (October 9): Midterm
- Mid-Term Examination
  - Closed Book • Comprehensive • Short Answer • Multiple Choice • True / False • Fifteen Points
- Read Hodapp 12, 14, 15

WEEK 9 (October 16): Agents of Terror
- Discuss Hodapp 12, 14, 15
- Read Hodapp 16-18

WEEK 10 (October 23): Tales From Beyond and the Bizarre But True
- Discuss Hodapp 16-18
- Read Fenster 1-3
- Last Class before Withdrawal Deadline

WEEK 11 (October 30): Conspiracy as Politics
- Discuss Fenster 1-3
- Read Fenster 3-5

WEEK 12 (November 6): Conspiracy as Cultural Practice
- Discuss Fenster 3-5
- Read Fenster 6, 7, Afterword

WEEK 13 (November 13): Conspiracy Communities
- Discuss Fenster 6, 7, Afterword
- Review for Final Examination

WEEK 14 (November 20): Wrap Up
- Inside the Lodge (Tentative)
- In Class review for Final Examination

WEEK 15 NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK
- Review for Final Examination

WEEK 16 (December 4): Last Day of Class
- Final Examination
  - Closed Book • Comprehensive • Short Answer • Multiple Choice • True / False • Fifty Points

**Class schedule subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

ATTENDANCE
All ESU policies regarding attendance and behavior will be enforced. Three (3) unexcused absences are considered excessive and may result in an involuntary drop from the course. Excused absences will still result in participation reduction.

GADGETS, IPODS, TEXTING, ETC.
Please have the common decency to turn your electronic gadgets, including cell phones, to “off” or silent.
TEXTING IS NOT PERMITTED IN MY CLASS.

OTHER READING (OPTIONAL)
Mark C. Carnes, Secret Ritual and Manhood In Victorian America (Yale, 1991)
Steven C. Bullock, Revolutionary Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transformation of the American Social Order, 1730-1840 (University of North Carolina, 1996)
Robert L. D. Cooper, Cracking the Masonic Code: The Truth About Solomon’s Key and the Brotherhood (Atria, 2007)
ARTICLES AND WEBSITES

Wikipedia article on Freemasonry at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemasonry


David Brian Davis, "Some Themes of Counter-Subversion: An Analysis of Anti-Masonic, Anti-Catholic, and Anti-Mormon Literature," Mississippi Valley Historical Review 47 (September 1960), 205-224

Jessica L. Harland-Jacobs, "All in the Family: Freemasonry and the British Empire in the Mid-Nineteenth Century," Journal of British Studies 42 (October 2003), 448-482


Martin Summers, "Diasporic Brotherhood: Freemasonry and the Transnational Production of Black Middle-Class Masculinity," Gender & History 15 no. 3 (Nov. 2003)

Grand Lodge of Kansas A. F. & A. M. http://kansasmason.org/

THE FINE PRINT

The opinions expressed herein do not reflect the views of ESU or Kansas Legal Services. No one person speaks for Freemasonry.

Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Crime and Delinquency Studies

Course Related Information

Disability Services: Emporia State University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students need to contact the Director of Disability Services and the professor as early in the semester as possible to ensure that classroom and academic accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. All communication between students, Disability Services, and the professor will be strictly confidential.

3D.0701 ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY (FSB 95002 approved by President 1/31/96; FSB 03002 passed by Faculty Senate 1/20/04; approved by President 2/9/04; FSB 05002 passed by Faculty Senate 1/17/06; approved by President 2/7/06; title update approved by President of the Faculty 8/22/2010; FSB 10007 passed by Faculty Senate 3/15/2011; approved by President 3/21/2011)

Academic dishonesty, a basis for disciplinary action, includes but is not limited to activities such as cheating and plagiarism (presenting as one’s own the intellectual or creative accomplishments of another without giving credit to the source or sources).

The faculty member in whose course or under whose tutelage an act of academic dishonesty occurs has the option of failing the student for the academic hours in question, or for any components or requirements for that course. Departments, schools, and colleges may have provisions for more severe penalties. Emporia State University may impose penalties for academic dishonesty up to and including expulsion from the student’s major or from the University. In addition, acts of academic dishonesty shall be grounds to deny admission to a
In addition to the penalties above, the faculty member shall notify in writing his/her department chair and the registrar of the infraction. The department chair shall forward a report of the infraction to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life. The registrar shall block the student from withdrawing from the course to avoid the penalties that result from the infraction. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life shall act as the record keeper for student academic infractions. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life will notify the student in writing that an infraction has been reported and inform the student of the right to appeal and of the appropriate appeal procedures. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life shall notify the student, the department chair, and the faculty member that initiated the proceedings, of any additional action taken beyond those already imposed by the faculty member. Should a single infraction be so egregious, or should a student have a record of multiple infractions, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life may impose additional penalties, including expulsion of the student from the University. The student has the right to appeal the charge of academic dishonesty (see Student Conduct section). If after an appeal it is found that the student did not commit an act of academic dishonesty, no penalties will be imposed on the student.

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A chair of a department of director of a program may request from the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life a list of all currently enrolled ESU students within that major or program who have committed acts of academic dishonesty. This request may be a standing request to be filling automatically during each semester until the request is rescinded by the chair or director. In addition, a chair of a department or director of a program may submit to the office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life a list of applicants to a program or major and the chair or director may be informed if any of the applicants has committed any acts of academic dishonesty.

Prior to the beginning of the next academic year, the office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life shall send to the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate a list containing nonspecific student identifiers, such as Student 1, Student 2, etc., their specific academic infraction(s) reported to the Provost’s office, the total number of infractions that have been reported for each student, and any actions taken by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life.

3D.07 STUDENT CONDUCT (FSB 01011 approved by President, 4/29/02)

Excessive absenteeism is defined as a number of absences beyond which the faculty member has determined on his/her syllabus that a student cannot complete the course without the academic integrity of the course being compromised. Emporia State University is committed toward development of sensitive and responsible individuals and believe this goal is best achieved through a sound educational program and reasonable policies concerning student conduct, both in and out of the classroom. Operating from this concept, recognition is given to the importance of an honest approach to learning which ideally is shared by the instructor and the student. Faculty members may make the disposition of any cases of disruptive behavior, excessive absenteeism, or academic dishonesty within their classes as they deem appropriate. Following such cases, the faculty member shall make available to the chair of the department and to the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs a record of such student absenteeism or disruptive behavior and the action taken by the faculty member. (This information will be helpful in dealing with those students who may have had similar problems in other classes or departments.) If the problem is not settled between the faculty member and the student, assistance will be given from the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. If the problem cannot be resolved at this point the student may request a hearing. This request must be in writing. If a case of dishonesty, excessive absenteeism, or disruptive behavior also involves a
disagreement regarding a grade, the student may be referred to the committee which hears academic appeals.

If the behavior is such that broader disciplinary action by the school/college is recommended, a hearing board shall be established by the President of the University to make disposition of the case. (In all cases of disciplinary action the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is available for assistance.)

At any point where student conduct directly interferes with the health, safety, or well being of individuals in the campus community, the University may apply sanctions or take other appropriate action. Since the University is responsible for the subsidiary duties of maintaining property, keeping records, providing living accommodations, and sponsoring a variety of nonclassroom activities, it is necessary that a climate supportive of such duties be maintained. Student status will not be a basis for any special consideration from the University when a community, state, or national law has been violated, although every effort will be made to assist with the rehabilitation of a student violating such laws. This is done by working with law enforcement or other agencies, and ordinarily further sanctions are not applied after such a case is closed.

No disciplinary sanction as serious as suspension, probation, or adverse notation on permanent records (available to other than official personnel of the college) will be imposed without proper notification given to the student in writing. This notification will state the charges and will give the accused the opportunity to appear alone, or with appropriate representation before the proper committee, judicial council, court, or official. Included will be the nature and source of evidence and the encouragement for the student to present evidence in turn. Following this review final disciplinary action will be taken by the University. Students may also request that such appearance before committees, councils, courts, or officials be waived and the case be determined in conference with appropriate campus officials. The University conduct policy commits all individuals serving on any of the above named groups dealing with student problems to a code of confidence. Failure to comply may lead to sanctions from student, faculty, or administrative governing bodies, or officials. Students, faculty, and administration shall have the opportunity to participate fully in the formulation of policies and rules and their enforcement. Penalties for men and women shall be based equally; like penalties following like violations.

4E.13 FACULTY INITIATED STUDENT WITHDRAWAL (FSB 76006; FSB 95008 approved by President 5/9/96; FSB 09016 approved by President 5/3/2010)

If a student's absences from class, disruptive behavior, lack of prerequisites, or academic dishonesty become detrimental to the student's progress or that of other students in the class, the faculty member may advise the student to withdraw from the class. Withdrawal may also be advised if the student is inappropriately enrolled in the class. If the faculty member chooses to withdraw the student, he/she shall attempt to notify the student in writing that a faculty initiated withdrawal is in progress. This notification will be copied to the department chair and Academic Affairs office to serve as the request for withdrawal. If efforts to contact the student have been unsuccessful, or unacknowledged, the faculty member shall then seek the aid of the Academic Affairs office in contacting the student. The Academic Affairs office shall provide the student with information about the existing appeals procedures. Upon receiving a written request for withdrawal from the faculty member, the Academic Affairs office may initiate a student withdrawal from the class. None of the above implies or states that faculty members are required to initiate any student withdrawal.

General Education
Purpose: