



Course HONS 3199.HN5
Course Title Collegium V Honors Readings: Fictional Games
Professor Dr. Josef Nguyen (he/him/his)
Term Fall 2022
Meetings Mondays, 3:00-3:50PM in CB 1.223

Professor's Contact Information

Email Address josef.nguyen@utdallas.edu
Please address all emails regarding the class professionally, include course information in the subject line, and allow up to 24 hours for responses

Office Location ATC 3.617
Office Hours By appointment
Office Phone 972.883.7552

General Course Information

Restrictions Prerequisite: Collegium V Honors students only

Description This Collegium V Honors Reading Course investigates how fictional representations of games operate as cultural sites for negotiating contested meanings of work and play, equity and fairness, utopia and dystopia, collaboration and competition, and other social practices and values. By focusing on fictional games in narrative media—such as film, fiction, television, and even games themselves—this course considers ways in which games enable cultures to make sense of themselves, others, and the worlds they inhabit.

Learning Outcomes Students will:

- Develop facility with sociohistorically situated close textual analysis of a range of media texts
- Advance proficiencies in critical thinking, research, and writing
- Incorporate insights from existing scholarship and media production into their own research and creative practice

Required Texts & Materials *Pokémon: Indigo League* (TV Tokyo), episodes 1-5 [television series]
Jumanji (dir. Joe Johnston) [film; available at UTD library]
Tomorrow Corporation, *Little Inferno* [digital game]
Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games* [novel]

All other readings, media texts, and other materials are managed through Box. You will receive two Box invitations: one for a general folder for the course (for readings and assignment instructions) and one for an individual private folder for the course (for assignment submissions).

Course announcements are handled on eLearning and sent via email.

Optional Materials There is a Discord server to facilitate class community. To join, please email the instructor with your Discord handle and four-digit tag (username#0000).

Course Policies

Grading	Thoughtful Class Engagement	50%
Criteria	Fictional Games Journal (5 entries for weeks marked *)	30%
	Final Project	20%

Accommodation Students with disabilities are encouraged to utilize the on-campus resources at the Office of Student AccessAbility. You can contact the office at 972-883-6104 or by email: studentaccessability@utdallas.edu. Their office is located in the Student Service Building (SSB), suite 3.200. They can provide documentation and details for accommodations to address your individual needs. If you need any special accommodations to complete this course successfully, please provide me with this information as soon as possible, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Classroom Conduct It is our responsibility to work together to produce a classroom environment where everyone can share, discuss, and question the materials at hand as well as contribute their own work respectfully and productively. Conflicting perspectives are unavoidable. To ensure that participants feel comfortable contributing a diverse set of thoughts, comments, and views, we will not use oppressive or harmful language, tolerate harassment, personal attacks, and other forms of actions that unduly distract from the educational mission and inflict emotional, physical, or psychological harm on those involved.

Part of the role of encouraging a diverse learning environment is acknowledging that individuals should feel safe and respected to contribute to the classroom in good faith. This involves not only allowing everyone opportunities to contribute their thoughts but to be mindful of how we recognize and address others. Do not assume things about others' identities, backgrounds, or experiences—whether that is age, race, gender, sexuality, ability, class, etc... Address people by their names, pronouns, and other identifiers that they disclose. Avoid insisting on imposing identity markers onto others. Allow people to self-identify as they feel comfortable.

What you share with and create for this class reflects not only you as both a student and a civic subject, but it also reflects on me as your instructor, the class as a learning community, and UT Dallas as an academic institution.

Please discuss with me any concerns you have regarding an unsafe or hostile classroom environment, particularly if something arises that causes distress.

Class Attendance Attend class regularly and in full. Any absences should include documentation of a valid excuse (family or medical emergency, for example). Unexcused absences may impact course grades. Discuss upcoming potential absences with me to make appropriate arrangements.

Arriving more than 30 minutes late or leaving more than 30 minutes early, without prior clearance, may be grounds for marking that day as an absence. Failure to prepare for class participation (such as not having done the necessary reading) will also be regarded as conditions for an absence.

- Technology in the Classroom** Laptops and computers can be used in the classroom solely for purposes directly pertinent to the activities and discussions at-hand. Excessive misuse of technology in the classroom will result in an absence for the day.
- Class Materials** The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- Class Recordings** Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- Late Work** Late work will be penalized 10% (a full letter grade) for each 24-hour period beyond the deadline and will not receive written feedback by default. For written feedback on a late assignment, please send an email request. If you need an extension, let me know in advance so we can make arrangements.
- Academic Honesty** All work must be original for this class. Plagiarism is using the words and materials of others as if they were your own. It is a serious offense with consequences. Use proper citation to indicate the use of other people's work to strengthen your own. All suspicions of plagiarism will be investigated. Please consult [utdallas.edu/dept/graddean/gspolDishonesty.htm].
- Comet Creed** *This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: "As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."*
- Academic Support Resources** *The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please go to [go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources].*
- UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures** *The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the sections regarding the [credit/no credit](#) grading option and withdrawal from class. Please go to [go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies] for these policies.*

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Week 01: Monday, 22 August 2022

Introductory IN CLASS:

Business Overview of Syllabus and Introductions
Introduce Fictional Games Journal

Week 02: Monday, 29 August 2022

BEFORE CLASS:

READ: Bernard Suits, "Construction of a Definition," *The Grasshopper: Games, Life and Utopia*

READ: Jane McGonigal, "What Exactly Is a Game?," *Reality Is Broken: Why Games Make Us Better and How They Can Change the World*

Week 03: Monday, 5 September 2022

NO CLASS MEETING IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY

Week 04: Monday, 12 September 2022

* BEFORE CLASS:

WATCH: *Pokémon: Indigo League* (TV Tokyo), episodes 1-5

Week 05: Monday, 19 September 2022

BEFORE CLASS:

READ: Bernard Suits, "Triflers, Cheats, and Spoilsports," *The Grasshopper: Games, Life and Utopia*

READ: Roger Caillois, "The Classification of Games," *Man, Play, and Games*

Week 06: Monday, 26 September 2022

* BEFORE CLASS:

WATCH: *Jumanji* (dir. Joe Johnston) [available at UTD library]
CW – guns, spiders

Week 07: Monday, 3 October 2022

* BEFORE CLASS:

WATCH: Above Everything, "The Settlers of Brooklyn,"
[[youtube.com/watch?v=D-thbQlaMIc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-thbQlaMIc)]

WATCH: Adam Ruins Everything, "The Disturbing History of the Suburbs," [[youtube.com/watch?v=ETR9qrVS17g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETR9qrVS17g)]

Week 08: Monday, 10 October 2022

* BEFORE CLASS:

WATCH: The Onion, "Newsroom: Warcraft Sequel Lets You Play A Character Playing Warcraft,"

[[youtube.com/watch?v=Rw8gE3lnpLQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw8gE3lnpLQ)]

PLAY: Molleindustria, *Unmanned*, [unmanned.molleindustria.org/]

CW – Islamophobia, militaristic imagery, guns, violence, death, misogyny

Week 09: Monday, 17 October 2022

* BEFORE CLASS:

PLAY: Tomorrow Corporation, *Little Inferno*

CW – environmental crisis, spiders, misogyny

Week 10: Monday, 24 October 2022

NO CLASS MEETING

Week 11: Monday, 31 October 2022

* BEFORE CLASS:

READ: Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*, Part I

CW – violence to children, child death, poverty

IN CLASS:

Introduce Final Project

Week 12: Monday, 7 November 2022

* BEFORE CLASS:

READ: Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*, Part II

CW – violence to children, child death, poverty

Week 13: Monday, 14 November 2022

* BEFORE CLASS:

READ: Suzanne Collins, *The Hunger Games*, Part III

CW – violence to children, child death, poverty

FALL BREAK Monday, 21 November 2022
NO CLASS MEETING

Week 14: Monday, 28 November 2022

Wrap-up IN CLASS:

Review and Wrap-up

Week 15: Monday, 5 December 2022

Work on Final Project **NO CLASS MEETING**

FINALS WEEK Final Project due Friday, 16 December 2022 by 11:59PM

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.