



500 Wilcox Street
Joliet, IL 60435
www.stfrancis.edu

Course: ACAF-120D: F2: "Clean Up Your Room": Investigating the "Jordan Peterson" Phenomenon (CRN 20909)

Semester: Spring 2020
Time &
Location: MWF 10:10-11:00, Library L-217

Materials: Jordan B. Peterson, *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos*. New York: Random House, 2018.
Other secondary texts will be made available on Canvas.

Professor: **Dr. Kevin Andrew Spicer**
Associate Professor
Chair, Dept of English and Foreign Languages
Office: Tower Hall, S-306
Office Hours: MWF 8:15-10:00, 11-1:00, TR 8-2, F 11-2
Phone: 815.740.3852
Email: kspicer@stfrancis.edu

USF Mission Statement:

As a Catholic university rooted in the liberal arts, we are a welcoming community of learners challenged by Franciscan values and charism, engaged in a continuous pursuit of knowledge, faith, wisdom, and justice, and ever mindful of a tradition that emphasizes reverence for creation, compassion, and peacemaking. We strive for academic excellence in all programs, preparing women and men to contribute to the world through service and leadership.

College Mission Statement:

Embracing excellence in its diverse disciplines of study, the College of Arts and Sciences serves as the home, shepherd, and guardian of Franciscan liberal arts values for the University. It serves to inspire in its students a love of learning through continual investigation, nurturing of curiosity, exploration, discovery, and sharing that leads to the passionate life as a servant leader. The College provides a rich environment of inspiration, learning, and service to prepare its students to build their future through programs and opportunities that represent the values of our Catholic/Franciscan University mission.

Course Description:

Foundations II is the second course in the First Year Experience. The course is designed to be an inquiry-driven seminar that actively engages the students in developing the basic academic skills required of USF students: reading, writing and evidence-based and thesis-driven research and thinking. The course is disciplined based and focused on interesting question within the discipline.

Whereas the first course (Foundations I) focuses on seeing oneself within the large frame spanning from the beginning to the end of the universe, this second course focuses on a much smaller piece of that larger framework, while still utilizing the same organizational structure of “thresholds” and “increasing complexity.” This course builds on the academic skills introduced in the first course (academic reading, research and argumentation) by de-mystifying academic writing and utilizing a book-length text written by scholars as a model. This course also actively involves students in applying these skills to explore real-world problems.

Philosophical Perspective & Inquiry:

Clinical psychologist and University of Toronto professor Jordan Peterson came to fame in 2016 not as an author, scholar, and scientist, but as a “YouTube star” who posted a series of videos wherein he criticized the rise of “political correctness” in Canada and elsewhere. Since then he has fashioned a kind of “cult following” of individuals who describe him as everything from a standard “traditionalist” to a member of the so-called “Intellectual Dark Web.” In this section of F2 we will delve into Peterson’s rise to stardom by looking very closely and carefully at his second major book, *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos*, a text that Peterson claims can help people to navigate the contemporary world and, ideally, help them to develop a strong sense of autonomy and personal responsibility. We will also roam quite freely into a couple of other areas that are of interest to Peterson: postmodern, identity politics, questions of gender and sexuality, and many others. Our goal will be to thoroughly focus not only on the kinds of arguments Peterson makes about these areas, but also how he utilizes science and the ideology of science in order to make his pronouncements about how best to navigate life in the 21st century.

Course Objectives/Outcomes:

By the end of this course the student will be able to:

1. Recontextualize the framework of Foundations I through the texts associated with this seminar topic (Inquiry & Analysis, Critical and Creative Thinking)
2. Demonstrate development in reading skills through gathering and ordering information, identifying the writer’s position, and identifying and analyzing arguments of a variety of texts including scholarly articles, nonfiction and fiction texts, films, etc. (Inquiry & Analysis, Critical and Creative Thinking, Foundations & Skills for Life Long Learning)
3. Compose thesis-driven arguments that successfully integrate and analyze relevant scholarly evidence from a variety of sources. (Written Communication; Information Literacy; Problem Solving; Inquiry & Analysis, Critical and Creative Thinking)
4. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of USF’s academic standards and a sense of responsibility and ownership for one’s work. (Foundations & Skills for Life Long Learning)
5. Demonstrate the manner in which areas of research and issues of the day reflect the Catholic Franciscan perspective and how that perspective might inform such studies. (Critical and Creative Thinking, Catholic and Franciscan Charism)

Course Requirements:

Students will be expected to:

1. **Daily “Close” Reading & Annotations:** Students must *read* the texts assigned—and “read” does not mean skim or merely “pass one’s eyes from left to right across the page.” We will begin practicing precisely what this means on the very first day of class. (Pop reading quizzes may be given.)
2. **Class Participation** (see “Attendance Policy” *infra*):
3. **Writing Assignments:** See Canvas for full information on these five writing assignments.
 - a. Paper #1: Summary Paper
 - b. Paper #2: Analysis Paper
 - c. Paper #3: Synthesis Paper
 - d. Paper #4: Paper Proposal & Annotated Bibliography

e. Paper #5: Final Research Paper

Course Schedule/Outline:

Course schedule is available at the end of this syllabus.

Methods of Evaluation:

- 1.) Class Participation
- 2.) Writing Assignments mentioned in “Course Requirements” above.

Grading Scale

Standard USF Grading Scale.

Course Evaluations/IDEA Surveys

USF has elected to participate in the AQIP Program which requires a focus on continuous quality improvement as part of our Higher Learning Commission accreditation. The information learned during the IDEA Course Evaluations is an important part of maintaining quality and continuous improvement in courses, and it is the University’s expectation that students will thoughtfully participate in this evaluation process.

The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus and class schedule as circumstances may warrant during the semester.

Students are expected to follow all policies in the USF Catalog and Student Handbook, both of which can be found in the student portal.

Policies not covered in this document will be handled in accordance with the USF Catalog and/or Student Handbook.

Institutional Policies:

The student should use the USF portal as the first resource for guidance and support on items such as student complaints, safety, security and transportation questions, contact information for various USF departments, student support services such as counseling and academic resources. Information on these resources can be found in the “For Students” section of the USF portal.

A complete listing of university policies and procedures can be found in the University of St. Francis Course Catalog and Student Handbook. For the most current version of the catalog, please visit <http://stfrancis.edu/academics/university-catalog>

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Collaboration is only acceptable when it is explicitly acknowledged. Ethical conduct is the obligation of every member of the University community, and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses. Since a lack of integrity hinders the student’s academic development, it cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. Violations include but are not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. See the USF Catalog for further clarification and information on grievance procedures.

Services and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (Americans with Disabilities Act):

The University strives to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA). A student who requires special accommodations or arrangements due to a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services. This contact preferably should

occur no later than the first week of classes. Early contact before the semester starts is encouraged to allow sufficient time to provide accommodations. Extra time is needed for some types of accommodations such as sign language interpreters or special text formatting. Should a need arrive after the start of a semester; the student is encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible. Note that accommodations are not retroactive. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

USF is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs, regardless of the course format. If you have a documented disability and need a reasonable accommodation to participate in a course, complete course requirements, or benefit from the University's programs or services, please contact the Office of Disability Services at [815-740-3631](tel:815-740-3631) or ODS@stfrancis.edu. The Office of Disability Services is in the Academic Resource Center (ARC) and is located on the second floor of the LaVerne and Dorothy Brown Library in room L214. Consultations are welcome, please contact the Office of Disability Services for an appointment.

Academic Support Services:

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) located in Room L214 in the Library (815-740-5060) offers various types of academic services. Online and distance learning students can contact ARC for appropriate resources. ARC serves students who need tutoring in many areas of study including writing and math. Library services include a number of online services and full text databases. Call the Library at 815-740-5041 for additional information. If you need academic-related resources or assistance, please contact the Academic Resource Center.

Course Reading Schedule

WEEK 1—Introductory Week ... Getting Our Bearings, etc.—will jump into *12 Rules for Life* and read “Rule 1.”

WEEK 2—“Rule 2”

WEEK 3—“Rule 3”—Summary Assignment Due.

WEEK 4—“Rule 4”

WEEK 5—“Rule 5”

WEEK 6—“Rule 6”—Analysis Paper Due.

WEEK 7—“Rule 7”

WEEK 8—“Rule 8”

WEEK 9—“Rule 9”

WEEK 10—“Rule 10”—Synthesis Paper Due.

WEEK 11—“Rule 11”

WEEK 12—“Rule 12”

WEEK 13—LIBRARY RESEARCH WEEK—Research Proposal & Annotated Bib Due.

WEEK 14—WRITING WEEK

WEEK 15—WRITING WEEK

WEEK 16—WRITING WEEK

WEEK 17—FINAL EXAM WEEK—Final Paper Due.

Notice of Copyright

This course may contain copyrighted materials that are intended to support the learning experiences of students currently enrolled in the course. No student may retain or further disseminate any copyrighted materials, in their entirety or any portion thereof, under penalty of law.

Technology Support

1. The Department of Academic Technology (DAT) administers the learning management system Canvas. If you are experiencing any difficulty using Canvas or need technical assistance, you have several options to receive support, including:
 - a. 24x7 Live Canvas Support. If you experience technical difficulties or have a question about Canvas, you can receive support 24 hours a day 7 days a week through the Canvas help menu. From the help menu, select **Chat with Canvas Support** for a “live” text-based click-to-chat session,
 - b. select **Report a Problem** to send an email support request, or speak to someone directly by using the toll-free number listed under the Canvas Support Hotline.

NOTE: Responses to Canvas’ email-based Report a Problem request system will go to your USF stfrancis.edu email account, NOT your personal email.

2. Online Self-Service Help Resources. A student user guide and other resources for solving issues related to Canvas can be found at <http://learnitnow.stfrancis.edu>
3. Telephone Support from DAT. You can also phone the Department of Academic Technology for personal help at (815) 740-5080 or (866) 337-1497 (toll-free) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

For any technical support issues that are not related to Canvas, please contact the USF Technology Support Center (TSC). You can reach them via:

- Phone: 1-815-768-TECH (8324)
- Email: techsupport@stfrancis.edu
- Web: <http://techsupport.stfrancis.edu>
- Or visit them on the first floor of Marian Hall