

Power and Internet Fame in Hank Green's *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing*

IDH2930: 29302 – Honors (un)common reads

Thursday, 5:10-6:00 (Period 10) | Fall 2024

Location: Little 117

Contact information

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Peer Instructor Ana Ferreira, anaferreira1@ufl.edu

Student hours Fridays, 11:45am - 12:35pm, MAT 220B

Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for signing up for this class! Please call us Melina and Ana.

Throughout the course, we'll be reading and discussing Hank Green's *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing* (AART). We will be discussing ideas of internet fame, polarization, and power. We will have small in-class projects like drawing scenes from the book and making memes based on the characters' experiences. As we go through the course, we encourage you to push yourself and your peers to think deeply about the topics we encounter and to push your creativity. Achievement of the learning outcomes will be assessed through discussion board posts and responses, class discussions, and the final group project.

If you are struggling with this course, with your other courses, or with life outside of the university, I (Melina) invite you to talk to me or someone that you trust. Whether this is your first, last, or somewhere in-between year at UF, college life can be challenging and sometimes overwhelming. Just talking about those feelings can help. If just talking with your family, your friends, or your instructors isn't enough, there is a list of campus resources on the last page of this syllabus to help you. We are happy to help you understand how these can be helpful for you.

You never owe Melina nor Ana personal information about your mental or physical health. However, you are always welcome to talk to us about whatever you're going through. If you tell us that you're having trouble, we're not going to judge you or think less of you. If you need extra help or if you need to miss a class or need more time with an assignment, please ask. We will work with you to make sure you have the opportunity to engage with the material you may miss because of an illness or other life issues.

Course Goals

In this course, students will

- read, identify, describe, and explain the ideas of fame, influence, and power in the context of the Internet
- identify and analyze the costs and benefits of fame, influence, and power via the internet
- articulate their thoughts, reflect their personal feelings, and communicate with others about their responses to the required text

Required Texts

An Absolutely Remarkable Thing by Hank Green. It is [available](#) in hardcover, paperback, Kindle, and audiobook. All other materials will be provided on Canvas.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Evaluation of Grades

Assignments		Points
In-class discussions and small projects	13 meetings	20 points each = 260
Introduction discussion posts and replies	1 post	10 points
Theme discussion posts and replies	1 post	50 points
Final Group Project	1 project	80 points
Total		400 points total

Attendance and Class Expectations

Each week, you will read a couple of chapters of the book and refer to the guiding questions for the discussion and in-class projects each week on a discussion page. Attendance and participation are required for class on Tuesdays, since this is a discussion-based class. A typical class consists of the discussion and small project, a short 150-250 word summary with the project posted on the week's discussion page, and a full class discussion for the last 15 minutes or so. You are expected to contribute in your small group discussions and projects, but we recognize that full class discussions are more intimidating. Therefore, the participation grade is based more on the small group discussions and projects than the larger discussions. However, you are encouraged to participate fully in both.

To encourage deeper thinking about the themes in the book and about your own writing, we will be pushing you to make connections, ask deep questions, give constructive feedback, and perhaps disagree because of your interpretations or experiences. A simple, "I agree! Your response is great" won't be enough. We also ask for respectful discussions, especially since we're asking you to share your experiences and disagreements. We believe thoughtful discussions will lead to better understandings of the texts and each other.

Online Discussion Posts and Replies

You will have 2 online discussions posts throughout the semester with responses to your peers: an introduction and an analysis of themes. For the latter, you will be reviewing the themes discussed throughout the semester and analyzing one or two themes, with evidence from the book and connections with IRL events.

Final Group Project

You will be creating a PowerPoint presentation in groups of 2-3 students to be presented during the last meeting of the class, with the formality of a "PowerPoint Party." You will embody a theme from *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing* and present a short presentation (2 minutes per person) with accompanying slides supporting your main point(s). The presentation should be fun and lighthearted, but ultimately represent a deeper understanding of the themes, events, and characters found in the story. Additionally, the small projects and in-class discussions that we have worked on throughout the semester should inform your project.

Make-Up Policy

If you miss or do not complete an online discussion or assignment, Melina or Ana will send you a gentle reminder to make sure that you are doing ok. We prefer late engagement to no engagement at all. But timely engagement is the best! The final project has a stricter deadline because it will be our last assignment. But as with everything else, if you are struggling with that assignment, please talk to us.

If you need to miss class, please email Melina (mpjimenez@ufl.edu) or message her on Canvas and be prepared to post your discussion responses for the week on the discussion page.

Materials and Supplies Fees

None

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Percentage	94 - 100	90 - 93	88 - 89	84 - 87	80 - 83	78 - 79	74 - 77	70 - 73	68 - 69	64 - 67	60 - 63	59 - 0

Honors Grading Requirement

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Completion credit. If you have questions about this, please consult the Honors Program information under Campus Resources.

University Student Honor Code

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors in this class.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> . Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> . Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

Course Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. [Click here to read the In-Class Recording policy](#).

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Semester Schedule

Wk	Date	Weekly readings and topics for discussion
–	8.19-8.25	Thurs: First day of other UF classes no AART class, yet
1	8.26-9.1	Tues: First class meeting: Introductions and syllabus Discussion post 1: Intro discussion post on Canvas – Due by Fri, Aug 30, responses due by Sun
2	9.2-9.8	Reading: Chapters 1-2 In-class discussion: Who are the characters? Cast a live-action adaptation or draw them.
3	9.9-9.15	Reading: Chapters 3-4 In-class discussion: What is power? Discussion.
4	9.16-9.22	Reading: Chapters 5-6 In-class discussion: What is branding? Brand yourself in response to world event.
5	9.23-9.29	Reading: Chapters 7-8 In-class discussion: What is April's responsibility? Speculation with <i>pardes</i> .
6	9.30-10.6	Reading: Chapters 9-11 In-class discussion: What is fame? Propose people that fit the tiers.
7	10.7-10.13	Reading: Chapter 12 - until April 24 tweet In-class discussion: What is reality and the social internet? Discussion.
8	10.14-10.20	Reading: Finish Chapter 12 In-class discussion: What is going on? Discussion.
9	10.21-10.27	Reading: Chapters 13-15 In-class discussion: Who is Carl and what is passionate belief? Speculation with <i>florilegia</i> .
10	10.28-11.3	Reading: Chapters 16-17 In-class discussion: What is going on? Draw a scene. Discussion post 2: Analysis of themes, PPT proposal
11	11.4-11.10	Reading: Chapters 18-20 In-class discussion: How is this going to end? Create Spotify playlist.
12	11.11-11.17	Reading: Chapters 21-end In-class discussion: What happened and what will happen in ABFE (the 2nd book)? Discuss.
13	11.18-11.24	Reading: Review text, discussion summaries, and supplementary material In-class discussion: Work on PowerPoint in small groups
14	11.25-12.1	Thanksgiving week - no class
15	12.2-12.4	Discussion post 3: PowerPoint Party! Last day of this class
F	–	Final Exams (but not for this class!)

Note: This schedule is subject to change

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

Disability Resource Center (DRC): Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. Located at *Reid Hall, (352) 392-8565*, Email: DRC@ufsa.ufl.edu

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: The CWC provides short-term counseling, group, and couples' therapy as well as consultation, crisis services, outreach, referrals, self-care, and more. *Peabody Hall 4th floor or 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575*

UF Student Health Care Center: The SHCC provides a variety of health care services. Located at *2140 Stadium Rd, (352) 392 - 1161*

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at *1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608*

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

University Police Department: 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies)

Campus Connections

GatorConnect: UF has over 900 student organizations that you can join

Academic Resources

UF Honors Program: Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu; Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>; Located at *201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519*

UF Computing Help Desk: The UF Computing Help Desk provides phone, email, and walk-in direct consulting including for E-learning (Canvas) technical support 352-392-4357 or e-mail to helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: The C3 team helps students gain career experience, write resumes, find clothing for interviews and more. *Reitz Union First floor, 352- 392-1601*

Library Support: The UF libraries provide various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. They love questions!

Academic Resources: The Teaching Center provides free tutoring services for courses within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. They also offer supplementary instruction and general study strategy workshops. *Online, 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420*

Writing Studio: The Writing Studio provides free one-on-one consultations with specific papers or writing generally. *302 Tigert Hall, 352- 846-1138*

Complaints

Student Complaints On-Campus