

Winter 2011 HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Honors Seminar (FRESHMEN ONLY –You will only be registered if you did not take HNRS 200 during the Fall 2007 Term)

Instructor: Various Faculty/Staff

Honors 200, Multiple Times, 1.0 credits

CRN –Multiple

Offers intensive discussion of a subject of significant intellectual interest. Subjects vary from section to section and are meant to engage entering Honors students with one another under the guidance of Drexel's best faculty.

The United States Constitution

Instructor: Grant Keener (gwk23@drexel.edu)

HNRS 201, Section 001, Mondays and Wednesdays – 4:00PM to 5:20PM

CRN – 25605

Through study of the text of the United States Constitution, its amendments and significant court decisions interpreting Constitutional rights, students will understand the United States' tripartite system of checks and balances, Constitutional rights, and legal analysis and problem solving. The class will be discussion-intensive and feature the Socratic method of instruction. Students will be evaluated on class participation, written assignments, quizzes and a comprehensive final examination.

History of Evolutionary Thought

Instructor: Dr. Lloyd Ackert (lta24@drexel.edu)

HNRS 201, Section 501, Wednesdays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

CRN – 25502

Recent discussions of the current controversy over teaching evolution in the public classroom makes it clear that there is a "Darwinian" prejudice, held by the critics, supporters, and journalists participating in the debate. In this seminar we will learn that evolutionary thought has a history that is much broader in intellectual range, one that predates Darwin by 2000 years. We will survey the history of evolutionary thought from the ancient period to its modern developments. Drawing on both recent historical literature and writings of the scientists covered, students will engage a broad range of evolutionary ideas in their social, cultural and political contexts. Here we will not only encounter a number of evolutionary perspectives as presented by their authors, but will also practice a number of historical methods including biography, sociology of science, philosophy of science, and cultural history.

Intermediate Ballroom Dancing

Instructor: Samantha Bellomo (samanthabellomo@gmail.com)

Honors 201, Section 502, Mondays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 22145

Prerequisite --You must have successfully completed Introduction to Ballroom Dancing to register for this course.

Learn by DUing! This is an interactive dance class not a lecture.

To register for this course come to the Honors Lounge to sign-up. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. The class will fill on a first-come, first served basis.

Special Theory of Relativity

Instructor: Dr. Michael Vogeley (vogeley@physics.drexel.edu)

Honors 301, Section 001, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00AM - 12:20PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 25501

Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity is one of the greatest advances of modern science. This theory revolutionized our view of the physical world, unifying space and time, electricity and magnetism, energy and momentum. In this course we will explore and explain many of the sometimes counterintuitive but fundamental aspects of SR. At the end of the course, we will also introduce Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.

Relativity is sometimes thought of as "far out" science applicable only to extreme astrophysical circumstances. In fact, understanding of both Special and General Relativity is necessary for operation of several systems that we have come to rely on. Operation of satellites in orbit around the Earth requires that we compute the effects of both Special and General relativity. Systems like GPS would utterly fail without doing so (which means that most of our advanced weapons guidance systems would fail). I'll show you a "Handbook on Relativistic Time Transfer" that proves this point.

Topics that will be covered in this course include

- Spacetime metrics (unification of space and time)
- Physics in inertial frames of reference
- Transforming between inertial frames (Lorentz transformation)
- Length contraction and time dilation
- Relativity of simultaneity
- Time travel
- Causality
- Unification of momentum and energy
- Transformation of mass and energy
- Curved space: General Relativity

The most important goal of this course is that you further develop your ability to think clearly and quantitatively about the physical world. It is unlikely that your daily life and work will require you to instantly recall the equations that we will use. However, well-

developed physical insight will serve you well in whatever endeavor you choose. Einstein was fond of the "gedankenexperiment" - the thought experiment - as a means of gaining insight on a problem. I hope that this course will likewise stretch your imagination.

Art Then and Now

Instructor: Marilyn MacGregor (marilynmacgregor@gmail.com)

Honors 301, Section 002, Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00PM - 3:20PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 25588

Art opens the window to the whole fascinating spectrum of what it means to be human; the study of it is an adventure in time travel, intrigue, and excitement. Art Then and Now sets a new path for the study of Art History, focusing on ideas and themes that are used by people all over the world at all times and places. The emphasis is on finding the commonalities of human creation rather than on separate cultures. As we look at sculpture, painting and other forms of traditional and contemporary art, students will learn to read and understand artistic creations as original documents. They will come to understand political, religious, and social values and motivations of humanity, while also learning about the means and methods by which artistic expression takes form.

The American City in Film

Instructor: Daniel Dougherty (dd446@drexel.edu) and Dr. David Jones

Honors 301, Section 501, Wednesdays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 25503

This course examines the Twentieth Century American city through film. The course will cover a variety of themes related to the American city from the rise of the city in the American ethos to the evolving sense of the city in its postmodern and postindustrial transition. Films and course material are chosen to also consider a range of issues including urban planning and sustainability, crime, public health, social deviance, demographic change, economic development and community power. The films will also be examined critically, both for cinematic quality and social accuracy.

Travel Writing

Instructor: Jason Wilson (jason.f.wilson@drexel.edu)

Honors 301, Section 502, Thursdays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 25504

Join Jason Wilson, editor of The Best American Travel Writing (Houghton Mifflin) and The Smart Set, and author of Boozehound (Ten Speed Press) on a travel writing adventure. You will learn the craft of travel writing and practice real assignments to places you have visited or dream of visiting. This seminar/workshop will be a great preparation for students interested in studying or traveling abroad, for students with travel or multinational backgrounds or for anyone interested in exploring a new writing career from an expert practitioner.

Character as Catalyst

Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle (CordeliaFrancesBiddle@earthlink.net)

Honors 302, Section 502, Mondays, 6:00PM – 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 22144

All fictional narratives evolve through character interaction and conflict. A thorough understanding of the motivating forces within each person in a work of fiction is vital in order to create compelling stories.

In this course, by utilizing a combination of writing and acting techniques, as well as weekly written and reading assignments, students will learn to delve deep into the human psyche in order to build organic and unique writing.

CHARACTER AS CATALYST is offered as a continuation to WRITING KILLER FICTION, or as a separate course. It's not necessary to have completed the prior class. Freshmen are welcome.

Great Works Symposium

Topic:

Global Cities

Instructors – Dr. Michael Fortner, Dr. Scott Knowles, Dr. Mimi Sheller

UNIV 241, Section 501, 502 and 503, Wednesdays 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 22044, 22045, 22046

The fate of modern cities depends in great measure upon larger forces, especially global markets and global migratory processes. But some cities are also shapers of those global processes. From Athens to Shanghai, global cities have made their own contributions to broader social, economic, and political movements. They have shaped world history. Consequently, this course examines key features of global cities and explores how they have not only shaped the lives of individuals living within them but also influenced larger historical developments. It asks the following questions: How does the physical design of global cities shape the identities and ideologies that emerge from these local social contexts? How does the flow of individuals, goods, and services in and out of global cities reconfigure the local social, economic, and political landscape? How do the local dynamics of these cities, in turn, affect broader social, economic, and political transformations? The aim of this course, then, is to arrive at a general understanding of major global cities across time and space and their role in human history.

Find this course on-line under “University-Wide Courses.” For further information, contact Dr. Richardson Dilworth (rd43@drexel.edu) or Scott Knowles, sgk23@drexel.edu.