

Fall 2010
HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
(All courses are 3.0 credits)

The Future of the University

HNRS 201 Section 001 – CRN 11663

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 1:00PM to 2:50PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Dr. Paula Marantz Cohen and Dr. Peter Herczfeld

Email(s): cohenpm@drexel.edu and peter.r.herczfeld@drexel.edu

The course will explore the history, current state, and future of the American university. We will try to understand what the function of the university has traditionally been in this country, where the institution has deviated from its highest ideals, what pressures have caused it to change, and where it seems to be heading. You will have the chance to examine and critique the current state of the university in general and of your own university experience in particular. You will develop a final project in which you explore various avenues for improving the university in the 21st century.

Introduction to Ballroom Dancing

HNRS 201 Section 501 – CRN 11669

Mondays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Samantha Bellomo

Email: samanthabellomo@gmail.com

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 serve basis.

Arts and Culture Writing

HNRS 202 Section 501 – CRN 15508

Thursdays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Jason Wilson and Jesse Smith

Email: jason.f.wilson@drexel.edu and jbs52@drexel.edu

In our age of media overload, the role of cultural reporter or critic has become crucial. Contextualizing and explaining, for a wide audience, what's happening in the realm of visual arts, theater, music, dance, as well as the institutions that interpret history and nature is a challenging and important skill. This course is a writing workshop taught by the editors and writers of Drexel's award-winning arts & culture journal, The Smart Set. As a significant part of this course, students will participate, as writers and editors, in the creation of an exciting

new website linked to Drexel's Cultural Passport, which will cover the arts and culture in Philadelphia for a student audience.

Nanotechnology: Environmental and Health Implications

Honors 301 Section 002 – CRN 13589

Mondays 1:00PM – 1:50PM AND Wednesdays 1:00PM – 2:50PM, 3.0 credits

3.0 credits

Instructor: Mira Olson

Email: mso28@drexel.edu

This interdisciplinary Honors Colloquium introduces students to the health and environmental impacts of nanotechnology using an integrated teaching and research platform. *Nanotechnology: Environmental and Health Implications* will combine weekly lectures with alternating lab sessions, tours and seminars to introduce students to the health and environmental impacts of nanotechnology. The goals of the course are to develop a nanomaterials risk assessment framework by following nanomaterials through their product life cycle, and to train students to predict the potential impacts of engineered nanomaterials on the environment and human health in order to minimize the unintended consequences of nanomaterials to humans and ecosystems.

******* Prerequisite: 1 year of math, sophomore status or above (or permission by instructor) *******

Writing Killer Suspense Stories

Honors 301 Section 501 – CRN 12106

Mondays – 6:00PM – 8:50 PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle

Email: CordeliaFrancesBiddle@earthlink.net

Tales of mystery and suspense place characters in situations of heightened conflict and danger; protagonists and antagonists possess clear and opposing moral codes; and narrative arcs permit justice to triumph. A fictional character's traditional journey of self-discovery becomes a public as well as a private search for truth. Mystery stories are among the earliest creations of humankind; they are survival lessons and morality plays rolled into one. Using a combination of techniques such as speed-sketching, "ghosts" and sense-memory exercises, students will be encouraged to enter fully into their protagonists and antagonists' problematic inner lives, to build suspense and narrative organically, and to fashion written works that are both visceral and visual. Personal voice and choice will be stressed, as will the ability to make quick and potent decisions concerning defining moments, compelling settings, and fictional characters' emotional and physical struggles. The difference between specific subgenres in the mystery field (True Crime, Historical, Traditional and Thriller) and the varying intersections of character and plot will be examined.

Philosophy, Science and Religion
HNRS 301 Section 502 – CRN 12134
Tuesdays 6:00PM to 8:50PM
3.0 credits
Instructor: Fred Abbate

This course will explore current and long-standing disputes between those who claim that religious belief is compatible with scientific views of the world—or actually reinforced by such views—and those who argue that such claims are absurd. In pursuing this analytical exploration, the class will discuss the characteristics of scientific explanation, the nature of religious experience, classical and contemporary arguments for God's existence, theories about moral and physical evil in the world, debates about the possibility of life after death, and assertions that religious belief leads to the destruction of human purpose and social value.

Advanced Fiction Writing Workshop
Honors 301 Section 503 – CRN 12735
TBA day and time
3.0 credits
Instructor: Cheryl Pearl Sucher
Email: cpsucher@aol.com

This hybrid course will be taught partially online and partially in person as the instructor lives between New Zealand and New York. She will try to bring her experience of both worlds to this intensive ten-week study of writing short fiction, which will culminate with each student writing one short story between 2000-6000 words as well as its complete revision. Understanding the essential narrative elements of VOICE, SETTING, CREATING ACTION THROUGH DIALOGUE, STRUCTURE, POINT OF VIEW, METAPHOR, CHARACTER, and THEME will be the subjects of early assignments and exercises. Each week, students should be prepared to complete the assignment in advance and be prepared to discuss the week's assigned stories by masters of the form. The class will remain small so voices won't be lost in the chatter. The instructor will appear in person towards the end of November and will meet 'live' with the class in McAlister Hall. This is not a class in genre fiction though the instructor will consider the writing of graphic novels.

UNIVERSITY COURSES – WILL COUNT TOWARDS REQUIRED HONORS CREDIT

Great Works Symposium

Vital Systems of Cities
UNIV 241 Sections 501, 502, 503
CRN- 12036, 12083, 12082
Tuesdays 6:00PM to 8:50PM
Instructors – Drs. Richardson Dilworth, Robert Stokes, Patrick Gurian
**Emails: richardson.dilworth@drexel.edu, robert.j.stokes@drexel.edu,
patrick.l.gurian@drexel.edu**

This course provides an introduction to the city as a political, economic, and social system; and as a set of physical systems (e.g. energy, building, water, sewerage, and solid waste). The course thus combines urban economics, politics, and planning, with a very basic introduction to civil engineering as applied to urban systems. Guest speakers will include city officials, industry personnel, and academics.

This team-taught course features a different guest speaker every week, and a weekly discussion section.

Find this course on-line under “University-wide Courses.” For further information, contact Scott Knowles, sgk23@drexel.edu.