

Fall 2011
HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
(All courses are 3.0 credits)

The Jack the Ripper Case and the Logic of Criminal Detection

HNRS 201 Section 001 – CRN 11429

Thursdays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Dr. Fred Abbate

Email: fja421@comcast.net

This course will use the Jack the Ripper case to examine some broader logical and philosophical questions raised by the frantic quest to solve the London Whitechapel Murders in 1888. Among the topics: the canons of inductive reasoning, the logic of hypothesis formation, competing theories of explanation, evaluating claims of evidence, mental states and levels of responsibility, and the pragmatics of warranted probability claims. Students will also be required to work in teams to argue for a particular Ripper suspect as the most likely infamous serial killer.

Introduction to Ballroom Dancing

HNRS 201 Section 002 – CRN 11433

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.

The Making of Modern Science

HNRS 202 Section 001 – CRN 15534

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 1:00PM to 2:20PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Lydia Pyne

Email: lydia.pyne@gmail.com

The birth of modern science is generally situated in the intellectual changes that occurred in 16th and 17th-century Europe with thinkers, philosophers, and scientists such as Vesalius, Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Boyle, and Newton. This course focuses on the intellectual history, epistemological background, and cultural context associated with the history of modern sciences. The course is historically-oriented to the development and nature of

various scientific disciplines, including astronomy, physics, natural history, and biology and will emphasize specific people, experiments, and ideas as well as the historical, philosophical, religious, and institutional contexts for the discoveries.

Sex, Religion and Greed: Mark Twain

Honors 301 Section 001 – CRN 12868

Tuesdays and Thursdays – 9:30A to 10:50AM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Dr. Doreen Saar

Email: saarda@drexel.edu

Convinced that the opinions he expressed on a variety of topics from religion to sex to the contemporary social scene in his *Autobiography* and *Letters From the Earth* would not be acceptable to his contemporaries, Mark Twain delayed publication of these works until many years after his death. Interest in his writing has been reignited by the recent publication of his irreverent *Autobiography*. In this course, we will see how Twain's satiric views of the world in *Letters* resonate with his own period by looking at the scientific and economic theories of the period (Darwin, for example) and with our own by looking at contemporary satire (*The Colbert Show*). We will look at sections of the Twain autobiography in tandem with the PBS biography.

Mental Illness in Film (Center City Campus – Bellet 216)

Honors 301 Section 002 – CRN 12331

Tuesdays – 6:00PM – 8:50 PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Drs. Gloria Donnelly and Dave Jones

Email: gd27@drexel.edu and jonesdb@drexel.edu

Mental illness is the number one health problem in the US., i.e., 20% of the population has had formal contact with the mental health system. Yet, those diagnosed with mental illness often experience marginalization and stigma. Through film, this course will examine how mental illness is expressed, how it is differentiated from “normal,” how it affects others and how theories of psychopathology and approaches to treatment have changed over time. The course will cover a variety of themes and issues related to problems of mental health including cultural/societal definitions of normal/deviant behavior; the interplay of family and culture in shaping behavior, the role of life stress in precipitating mental illness, addictive processes, the relationship of creativity and madness, and critical issues in care and treatment approaches. Films and course material have been chosen to illuminate these issues and themes. The films will also be examined critically, both for cinematic quality and social accuracy.

The Personal Essay
HNRS 301 Section 003 – CRN 11814
Thursdays 6:00PM to 8:50PM
3.0 credits

Instructor: Jason Wilson
Email: jfw39@drexel.edu

Writing about one's experiences and ideas can be called many things: autobiography, memoir, creative nonfiction, narrative nonfiction. In this writing workshop, we will focus on a basic form, the essay, which the students will use to craft the material of their own life. We will work to improve your creative writing and also delve deeply into the responsibilities and pitfalls of writing about oneself.

Power, Politics and Picture Show: Understanding Political Thought through Film
Honors 301 Section 004 – CRN 11839
Tuesday 6:00 PM to 8:50PM
3.0 credits

Instructor: Kevin Egan
Email: egankd@gmail.com

This course is designed to explore the legacy of western political thought through the use of film. It will examine some of the concepts central to politics - including power, freedom, ethics, identity, and justice - and, in doing so; will engage such foundational thinkers as Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Marx, among others. Readings will be paired with films that help to draw out these central concepts; they will also serve to illustrate how political themes play out today and are relevant to our daily experiences

Reform and Resistance in China
Honors 302 Section 001 – CRN 15536
Tuesday 2:00 PM to 4:50PM
3.0 credits

Instructor: Rebecca Clothey
Email: rac52@drexel.edu

This course discusses many of the inherent contradictions and new social issues that have emerged as a result of China's rapidly changing economic environment. The course explores the modern historical factors that have contributed to these contemporary issues, and will look at the marginalization of particular pockets of society since the economic reforms have begun to take effect. It will also look at social movements and responses to these issues that have emerged among different groups, and discuss the contemporary challenges facing China's leadership as well as the possible consequences for China's future.

Reason, Passion and the Absurd (ONLINE COURSE)

Honors 302 Section 900 – CRN 15535

ONLINE COURSE

3.0 credits

Instructor: Craig Bach

Email: bachcn@drexel.edu

What does it mean to lead a good life? How can we best organize ourselves to understand the world, our role in it, and our relation to the people around us? How do we answer these questions when engaging a world that at times presents us with unexpected challenges and does not respond well to our efforts to understand it? The course takes up these questions by discussing the ways in which reason and passion support or stall our efforts, and how the occasional confrontation with the absurd can provide us with unexpected insights.

**UNIVERSITY COURSES – WILL COUNT TOWARDS
REQUIRED HONORS CREDIT**

Great Works Symposium

Clashing Views in Health and Society

UNIV 241 Sections 001, 002,003

CRN- 11755, 11801, 15612

Thursdays 6:00PM to 8:50PM

Instructors – Drs. Stephen Gambescia, Michael Howley, Saeed Hydaralli

Emails: sfg23@drexel.edu or michael.joseph.howley@drexel.edu

The course provides students with a unique and compelling format to explore and examine controversial issues in health, healthcare, and public health whether in the United States or globally. Taking the form of weekly in-class debates, a controversial topic in health and society will be debated by a panel of three to four students. Panels will present their analysis in the form of a debate similar to any Presidential debate with a moderator and audience/student participation. Drexel faculty will act as responders to students' work.

A second part of the course brings leading thinkers in the area of health and health care as invited guests to present their perspectives on these controversial topics. Healthcare is an important social resource in any society and plays a critical role in the lives of individuals. These dual functions often create tension and conflict.

The debates are intended to invite students to apply knowledge and concepts--both from this course and their respective majors--as a means of developing a better understanding of a current or enduring issue facing health care and public health. The course is organized around the principle that knowledge and understanding is a function of the work of analysis (which requires research and reflection) rather than simply a matter of having an opinion or listening to 'experts', whether from the media or academia.