

Summer 2010 HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The World's Fair in History

Instructor: Dr. Scott Knowles

Email: sgk23@drexel.edu

Honors 202, Section 502, Tuesdays, 6:00PM – 8:50 PM

3.0 credits

CRN – 42412

World's fairs have focused the fascination of people for over a century and half, since the first one held in London in 1851. World's fairs have provided windows into the future for millions of people, offering up glimpses of new technologies, cultural explorations, and experiments in urbanism that both reinforce existing assumptions about the world, while opening up new avenues for expression and imagination.

This colloquium offers students a look at the history of world's fairs, including London (1851), Paris (1889), Chicago (1893), New York (1939 and 1964), and the fair that never happened in Philadelphia (1976). What have nations and cities done to host fairs, what new plateaus in technology and design have they fostered, what futuristic images have they put forward? These questions give rise to a deeper level of analysis of international competition in the realms of technology and design, culture and politics, in the modern world.

The next chapter in this history will be written in China. From May to October 2010, Shanghai will host a world's fair, built around the theme "Better City, Better Life." Students will examine the unfolding construction, promotions, political contexts, and actual experience of the fair throughout the course, in part through an innovative partnership with Jiao Tong University in Shanghai. Learn more about the fair in Shanghai here: <http://www.expo2010.cn/expo/expoenglish/oe/es/index.html>

Students will read broadly in history, sociology, anthropology, political science and international relations, as well as urban planning and architecture in this course. Students will produce an original research project, as well as short writing and discussion assignments.

Tyrannies, People, Artists

Instructor: Zhenya Kiperman

Email: zhenya1@optonline.net

Honors 301, Section 001, Wednesdays 12:00PM – 2:50PM

3.0 credits

CRN – 42415

The course studies personal struggles with tyrannies of various kinds – political, social, existential, and psychological – as expressed in works of film and literature. Some of the discussed works were created under oppressive regimes and conditions that inevitably affected the lives of the artists and their creations. All films will be screened in class and followed by discussions.

The Art of Time Travel

Instructor: Dr. Don Riggs

Email: riggsda@drexel.edu

HNRS 301, Section 002, Tuesdays 2:00PM – 4:50PM

3.0 credits

CRN - 42416

In The Art of Time Travel we will read science fictional time travel narratives, watch films using the same motifs, and discuss both the “real-world” theories concerning this possible kind of exploration as well as literary and cinematic techniques exploited by authors and film makers. Students will write both analytical essays and creative fiction exploring these various methods, but each student will choose to specialize either in the essay format or the creative track. We will also practice various techniques for moving in time, but these will not be graded.

Children Literature: The History of Delight

Instructor: Marilyn MacGregor

Email: marilynmacgregor@gmail.com

HNRS 301, Section 003, Wednesdays 2:00PM – 4:50PM

3.0 credits

CRN – 42417

Children's Books are a magic carpet ride into the history of human thought. From Aesop to Harry Potter, fundamental ideas, values, and beliefs have been passed from one generation to the next through the use of lively, colorful stories and pictures. This course provides an in-depth overview of this exciting literature, including classics, illustrations, modern favorites, and contemporary trends.

World War II Comedy

Instructor: Ian Abrams

Email: ian.n.abrams@drexel.edu

HNRS 301, Section 501, Mondays 6:00PM – 8:50PM

3.0 credits

CRN - 42413

Hollywood has always reflected what America was thinking, and between the late 30's and the mid-40's, America was thinking about global war.

Much of the American attitude towards the war was shaped by key American films, a surprising number of which were comedies. This course will examine the elements of the war that were used to make audiences laugh-- not just feature films, but shorts and cartoons, plus novels and even popular songs. Included will be Abbott & Costello, Bob Hope, Ernst Lubitsch, Charlie Chaplin, Max Shulman, Spike Jones, Preston Sturges, Cary Grant, Tex Avery, Chuck Jones, Edward G. Robinson and Humphrey Bogart: all this and World War II.

Travel Writing

Instructor: Jason Wilson

Email: jfw39@drexel.edu

HNRS 301, Section 502, Thursdays 6:00PM – 8:50PM

3.0 credits

CRN 42414

Join Jason Wilson, editor of both Houghton Mifflin's *The Best American Travel Writing* and Pennoni Honors College's, *The Smart Set*, 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.

UNIVERSITY COURSES – WILL COUNT TOWARDS REQUIRED HONORS CREDIT

Great Works Symposium – Blood and Oil: Energy and Conflict

Instructors – Dr. Scott Knowles and Dr. Amy Slaton

Email: sgk23@drexel.edu

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

3.0 credits

CRN – 42418 or 42419

We all use energy in our jobs, homes and transportation choices. Few of us know where or how it gets to us when we flip the switch, even fewer understand the conflicts surrounding energy. In respect to energy, this course will attempt to define what a conflict is and when it begins. What are the power structures, or continuities and

discontinuities that persist over time? Is conflict immersed within the cradle to grave supply chain of energy? What is sustainable energy and does it exist today? Can it be sustainable if we have conflicts surrounding the control of resources and labor disputes? Finally, where is the balance between our need for economic development and national security and our goals to protect the environment which endows us with all of our raw materials for energy?

This course, co-taught by Amy Slaton, Scott Knowles, and Dan Moscovici, will take up these questions--guest speakers will be featured, and small group meetings will facilitate critical thinking and research on the topic.

Find this course online under "University-wide Courses." For further information, contact Scott Knowles, sgk23@drexel.edu