

Winter 2012 HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Honors Seminar (FRESHMEN ONLY –You will only be registered if you did not take HNRS 200 during the Fall 2011 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.

Bad People/Good Books

Instructor: Jessa Crispin (jessamyc@gmail.com)

HNRS 201, Section 001, Tuesdays – 10:00AM to 12:50PM

CRN – 24153

This class will examine the interplay between artistic genius and personal behavior. Not simply going after the bad boys (with which the literary world is densely populated), we'll read the books of murderers, rapists, Nazis and more, to determine whether the acts of the artist do (or should) affect the way we appreciate the work.

History of Evolutionary Thought

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

HNRS 201, Section 002, Tuesdays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

CRN – 24065

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 003, Mondays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits
Van Rensselaer Residence Hall - Ballroom
CRN – 21864

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.

History of Medicine

Instructor: Dr. Lydia Pyne (Lydia.Virginia.Pyne@drexel.edu)
Honors 202, Section 001, Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00PM – 4:20PM, 3.0 credits
CRN - 25338

This course considers the development of Western medicine as a theoretical, practical, scientific, and social pursuit. Three major themes provide an organizing framework: the rise of scientific study of the human body; changing interpretations of the nature, causes, and treatments of disease; and emerging institutionalization and specialization of medical practice. How these three themes have combined into a coherent art and science of medicine provides the focus for the course. The course will explore health and disease from antiquity to today.

Writing Killer Suspense Stories

Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle (CordeliaFrancesBiddle@earthlink.net)
Honors 301 Section 001, Mondays – 6:00PM – 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits
CRN 24064

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.

In this course, by reading and examining subgenres in the mystery field (True Crime, Historical, Traditional and Thriller), and by class exercises and assigned writing you will learn and apply the craft of creating suspense stories. After successful completion of the course, you will have written a narrative that can be expanded into a full-length novel or a screenplay.

Art Then and Now

Instructor: Marilyn MacGregor (marilynmacgregor@gmail.com)
Honors 301, Section 002, Wednesdays, 2:00PM – 4:50PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 24148

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.

Travel Writing

Instructor: Jason Wilson (jason.f.wilson@drexel.edu)
Honors 301, Section 003, Thursdays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 24066

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.

Turncoats Turn Patriots (ONLINE COURSE)

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Egan (kde25@drexel.edu)
Honors 302, Section 900, 3.0 credits
CRN – 21863

We often think of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams as true American patriots. Yet, during their time, these individuals were involved in acts of treason and rebellion against the British government punishable by death. Often the actions of “patriots” are not deemed as such until the arc of history judges them; what at one time seems seditious and revolutionary is viewed as loyal and nationalistic at another. Similarly, one can find an analogous debate taking place when one explores the dichotomy between freedom fighter and terrorist; the tactics and intentions employed often pale when history passes judgment on the winners and losers of battles over ideology, occupation, and imbalances of power. Finally, when it comes to art, literature, and film/music, what was once seen as subversive is now a classic of popular culture. These conflicting dynamics beg the question throughout history as to what constitutes an act of patriotism and what constitutes an act of rebellion. They also beg the question as to

how arguments, acts, and works of art both influence and become co-opted by mainstream thought.

Great Works Symposium
Topic: Social Determinants of Health

Instructors – Dr. Yvonne Michael, Dr. Alisa Clyne, Dr. Stephen Gambescia
UNIV 241, Section 001, 002 and 003, Thursdays 6:30PM – 9:20PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 21782, 21783, 21784

As part of the Great Works Symposium’s yearlong theme on “Health and Society,” this course will take an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the health of a people as it is influenced by social factors. Instead of approaching health from a strict medical model, the course will explore the many social determinants of health such as economic means, social status, the built environment, power, political engagement, and the existence of social capital. Students will have weekly access to external experts, as well as Drexel faculty, and will work toward a culminating research project examining the nexus of health and social factors.

Find this course on-line under “University-Wide Courses.” For further information, contact Dr. Kevin Egan (kde25@drexel.edu)