Spring 2012
HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Honors Seminar (FRESHMEN ONLY – You will only be registered if you did not take OR successfully complete HNRS 200 during the fall 2011 or winter 2012 terms)
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.

Introduction to Ballroom Dancing
Instructor: Samantha Bellomo
Email: samanthabellomo@gmail.com
Honors 201, Section 001, Mondays 6:00 PM - 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits
CRN - 34613

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.

Producing Public Science: The Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University
Instructor: Dr. Amy Slaton and Jesse Smith
Email: slatonae@drexel.edu and jesse.b.smith@drexel.edu
Honors 201, Section 002, Wednesdays 2:00 PM – 4:50 PM, 3.0 credits
CRN - 34616

Students will have the unique opportunity to simultaneously learn and apply critical science-studies skills that will serve them far beyond this class. The field of science studies combines methods of history, sociology, anthropology, art history and other disciplines to probe the social origins and impacts of scientific practices, turning its attention to cases of scientific discovery, exploration, education and display. We believe students in this class would be unlikely to ever again enter a "place of science" — whether museum, laboratory, classroom, cable channel documentary, or industrial board room — without applying a rich set of critical questions to that site and its work. The course will be directed at students in all majors, from the science, humanities, education and media fields. With an emphasis on how the sciences, arts and other fields have seen the role of natural science knowledge in our culture, the class will include reflection on disciplinary features of each student's major and the distinctions and overlaps among those.
**Pulp Fiction**
Instructor: Matthew Kaufhold
Email: kaufhold@drexel.edu
HNRS 301, Section 900, **ONLINE COURSE**, 3.0 credits
CRN - 34631

A 10-week exploration of classic Pulp Fiction in America in the 30s & 40s, from its origins in Penny Dreadfuls, Dime Novels, and cheap wood pulp paper, to the modern descendants of the pulps: comic books, television, and even the internet. We will read and analyze primary source material in major pulp genres of mystery, science fiction, adventure, horror, and romance, tracing literary antecedents, contemporaneous entertainment sources (such as film serials), and how these pulps inform the entertainment industry today.

**The Wire: HBO's Television Novel of the Inner City**
Instructor: Dan Driscoll and Robert Watts
Email: dwd27@drexel.edu and wattsra@drexel.edu
Honors 301, Section 002, Wednesdays 6:00PM – 8:50AM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 34614

This course will focus on the first three seasons of HBO’s acclaimed television series, *The Wire*. Students will examine the series’ depiction of a struggling American city and a stunning range of characters, both depicted with depth and complexity rarely seen in television or film. Students will explore the theme of failing American institutions and the world of inner-city Americans as represented in *The Wire*, along with the accompanying issues of race, class, and culpability.

Students will gain an appreciation for *The Wire* as narrative art and explore connections between its formal qualities, the issues and characters and settings it centers on, and questions that arise from the series.

**Apocalypse/Post-Apocalypse: Images of Nuclear War in Film and Fiction**
Instructor: Ian Abrams
Email: Abrams@drexel.edu
HNRS 301, Section 003, Mondays 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits
CRN - 34615

I've been teaching this course on and off since 2000, and every time it seems to resonate more with current events. In the class, we look at movies and stories (and newsreels and propaganda films and, weirdly, music) about nuclear holocaust, dating from the 1940's up to today-- the class is about how various treatments of this fictional idea have changed according to what was going on in the world.

Because the subject matter is so unnerving, I like to briefly meet with all prospective students before they join the class-- for this reason, **THE COURSE IS BY PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR ONLY. PLEASE CONTACT PROF. IAN ABRAMS (ian.n.abrams@drexel.edu) TO DISCUSS ENROLLING IN THE COURSE.**
**Truth, Value and the Meaning of Mind: The Genius of American Pragmatism**
Instructor: Fred Abbate  
Email: fja421@comcast.net  
Honors 301, Section 004, Tuesdays 6:00PM- 8:50PM, 3.0 credits  
CRN – 34617

An exploration of the key ideas of major American philosophers in the pragmatist camp, especially C.S. Peirce, William James and John Dewey. The course will emphasize theories of knowledge and the logic of science, concepts of morality and art, legal reasoning and some of the philosophical implications of these issues for political, cultural and social questions at the heart of American policy and practice.

**Improvitude**
Instructor: Elaine O’Loughlin  
Email: oложlin@drexel.edu  
Honors 301, Section 005, Thursdays, 6:00PM – 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits  
CRN – 34618

Explore the emerging emphasis on right-brain thinking through the art of improvisational acting. The curriculum incorporates an understanding of the right-brain/left-brain dualism, and will demonstrate how the knowledge and skills acquired through improv can foster creative, intuitive and aesthetic thinking.

**Hearing the Movies: Sound in Film**
Instructor: John Avarese  
Email: avarese@aol.com  
Honors 301, Section 006, Tuesdays, 3:30PM – 5:20 PM, 3.0 credits  
CRN – 34641

This course develops critical listening and viewing skills that makes us aware of how we are being manipulated by the elements of the soundtrack: dialog, music, and effects. Class periods will include some instructor lectures, but will also be active on the student’s part, ranging from discussions of outside readings to in-class analysis of viewed scenes that are a part of the course. There will be extensive screenings of a variety of scenes, edited from feature films.

**Character as Catalyst**
Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle  
Email: (CordeliaFrancesBiddle@earthlink.net)  
Honors 302, Section 001, Mondays, 6:00PM – 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits  
CRN – 34619

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 –
The City and the Senses**

**Instructors –** Drs. Saeed Hydaralli, David Flood, Frank deSantis
Email: sh675@drexel.edu; df37@drexel.edu; frank.desantis@drexel.edu

UNIV 241, Section 001, 002, or 003 Tuesdays 6:30PM – 9:20PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 31936, 31937, 31938

This course examines the ways in which the physical and urban environment impacts our health through the fundamental and indispensible means by which we experience living in the city – our senses. We will explore how the physical environment of the city, as it correlates to each of the human senses, is seen to pose a threat to the health of the urban population. From noise pollution as an assault on our auditory senses to the food environment (particularly convenience foods such a fast food) as a contributing factor to obesity, this course investigates the relationship among the urban environment, the human senses, and health/well-being.

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