

Winter Term 2018 Course Descriptions

Important notes to consider when registering for courses:

Honors Colloquia = Only HNRS 300 level courses satisfies the colloquium/colloquia graduation requirement.

**HNRS 301 SECTIONS 001-010 = HUMANITIES
HNRS 301 SECTIONS 011-020 = ART & CREATIVITY
HNRS 302 SECTIONS 001-010 = SOCIETY AND CULTURE
HNRS 302 SECTIONS 011-020 = SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY**

T480 courses do not satisfy the colloquium/colloquia graduation requirement but do count toward Honors credit.

HNRS 301-940 (Counts as Humanities course)

Cyber Cinema

Instructor: Melinda Lewis

Online

Whether it's Charlie Chaplin becoming one with the machinations of labor in *Modern Times*, *Blade Runner's* concern with a future where human and cyborgs are indecipherable, or *Robocop's* presentation of the artificial intelligence, film has been used as a means to better understand the human body, work through anxieties regarding the body's status in relation to more intrusive technology, and to (sometimes) celebrate the growing possibilities of a science and technology in the modern world. This course will address some of the issues and concerns raised above with specific focus on issues related to 1) cultural attitudes toward technology and the body 2) ideologies in film and 3) the representation of technology in film.

HNRS 301-011

Writing for Drexel Publication

Instructor: Alissa Falcone

Thursday 6:00-8:50

This course will feature University students learning to write for University publications, Drexel students, faculty, professional staff, alumni and community partners. In class, students will read and study different Drexel publications, as well as articles and publications offering general advice and information about writing in higher education communications, to learn about how stories are shaped for different readers at a university setting. They will then write and workshop these articles that could be published in three different Drexel publications — *DrexelNow*, *Drexel Magazine*, and *The Smart Set* — with three very different audiences with some degree of connection to the University. Students will also have the opportunity to meet and learn from industry professionals who are communicators at Drexel.

HNRS 301-012

Writing History: or Digging up the Dirt

Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle

Tuesday 2:00-4:50

How did it feel to live in Washington, DC when the British burned the city to the ground in 1814? What enabled the first Suffragists to cope with misogyny and prison? What was it like to stand beside Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama in March 1965? Who were the family members and/or colleagues supporting and encouraging global heroes, and what were their motives?

In this writing class, you'll discover how to drill deeply into the historical context of your chosen subjects and time periods. You'll also learn to include contemporaneous culture and commerce. Advertising, and tastes in art and literature speak volumes about societal desires, as do seemingly incidental events that bring narratives to life. Writing History encourages exploration and interpretation as students seek to understand and give meaning to life events. Weekly writing assignments will be supplemented by commenting upon other students' weekly submissions, and discussing assigned nonfiction works.

HNRS 302-001

Beyond the MCAT: The Practice of Medicine

Instructor: Marla Gold

Wednesday 3:00-5:50

What is it really like to become a physician and practice the art and science of medicine in today's healthcare environment? With advances in technology and sweeping changes in healthcare systems and service delivery, what does the practice of medicine look like today? How does the complex intersection between today's social problems and health affect the practice of medicine? What is the relationship between public health and medicine?

We will examine the health care system from the perspective of the patient as well as the health care provider. We will use readings, video, guest lecturers and personal and professional stories to offer some perspective on what it's really like to train, practice and live as a physician in our current health care environment.

HNRS 302-002

Pipelines, Refineries, and Pennsylvania Politics

Instructor: Kelly Joyce

Monday, 2:00-4:50

Pennsylvania has a long history of extracting, processing and exporting oil, coal and gas as part of its economy and its identity. This history and investment continues to shape debates about Pennsylvania's energy futures. Drawing on a variety of disciplines, this seminar investigates Pennsylvania's energy politics, highlighting the stakeholders who aim to expand our fossil fuel infrastructure as well as the communities and groups who resist these efforts. Beginning with an analysis of Pennsylvania's early relationship to fossil fuels, participants in the seminar will wrestle with the politics of and investment in fracking, and explore current attempts to expand pipelines across the state and into Philadelphia. Participants in this seminar will learn how to analyze energy as a socio-technical system, one in which politics, power, science, and technology are intertwined at every step of the way.

HNRS 302- 004

Poker in American Life

Instructor: Daniel Dougherty

Wednesday 6:00-8:50

In this course, we will use poker as a quintessential American pastime to explore American society, culture, history, and politics to see how poker reflects an American ethos. We will also examine tendencies on the individual level such as how we represent ourselves to others, risk tolerance or aversion, resource management, strategizing, and basic computational-driven decision making. Through a combination of readings, videos, films, poker playing, critical reflective writing, and group discussion, we will delve into a variety of tendencies of human nature across time and in various settings. This course is not about poker instruction, nor do you need to have experience playing poker to take the course.

HNRS 302-011**Socio-ecological Systems****Instructor: Julia Colwell****Thursday 2:00-4:50**

The problems facing our world are complex and multi-dimensional. This course introduces students to the socio-ecological systems framework, a marriage of both social and natural science approaches to understanding problems. Using this framework, we will dive into complex natural systems, such as Indian marine fisheries and probe the sustainability of the popular K-cup coffee to understand driving factors that inhibit (or enable) successful resource management. These factors may include the culture and history of resource users alongside the relevant ecosystem interactions. Students should expect to conduct their own research through the application of learned research methods on systems of their interest.

HNRS 302-012**Music and Mathematics****Instructor: Dimitrios Papadopoulos****Monday 6:00-8:50**

We often hear people talk about the similarities and connections between music and math, but how exactly are they connected? In this course, we will explore these connections, starting with the foundations of Western music in the Pythagorean major scale and ending in the modern age of digitized music. Along with these explorations of the ways in which math can provide a language for describing music and the tools for creating and transmitting it, we will discuss the benefits and shortcomings of taking a mathematical approach to music (and art more generally). We will also examine what neuroscience has to say about our experience of music and look at how those findings correspond with our actual experiences. Looking to the not-so-distant future, we will grapple with the notion of AI writing symphonies and what that says about our relationship to the creative process. And, hopefully, we will emerge with a deeper appreciation for both music and mathematics. This is a class for everyone, regardless of musical and/or mathematical background.

Great Works Courses

HNRS T480-001**Wednesday 2:00-2:50****Instructor: Paula Marantz Cohen****William James's "The Laws of Habit"**

The course will examine the seminal work on habit by the great philosopher and psychologist William James (1842-1910). We will what constitutes both a bad habit and a good one. Part of our time will involve identifying a habit we want to change and one that we want to form—charting the progress toward both ends. We will also read and discuss selected works that deal with obsession, addiction, and routine--offshoots or variations on the idea of habit.

HNRS T480-002**Rate of Change****Instructor: Joanne Darken****Wednesday 10:00-10:50**

Things change. For many centuries people have thought, in various contexts and various ways, about how and why. A few hundred years ago in Europe tools were developed to quantify and analyze change in natural phenomena, the better to understand them, and to predict and sometimes to control future events. Thus was calculus born. In this course students will work with problems and

situations that promote intuition about the idea of rate of change, in basic cases and also those (often very important ones) in which the rate of change changes. These ideas underlie and motivate calculus.

HNRS T480 – 003

King Kong as History

Instructor: Richardson Dilworth

Monday 1:00-1:50

King Kong is a giant gorilla who first appeared in a 1933 film, in which he lived on a mysterious island also inhabited by dinosaurs and a primitive tribe that made periodic offerings of young women to Kong. This same storyline was repeated in remakes of the film in 1976 and 2005. This course explores how the 1933, 1976, and 2005 films represent history and the passage of time while simultaneously being themselves artifacts and reflections of the time periods in which they were made.

The Symposium

HNRS 302-003

Unpacking the “Flourishing” Community

Instructors: Julia Colwell and Chapin Cimino

Wednesday 2:00-4:50, Dornsife Center – “Side-by-Side course”

What makes a community flourish and what enables community mobilization? We seek to answer these questions in three ways, in a side by side classroom with the expertise of local Powelton Village and Mantua community members. Within natural resources governance, there have been well researched community characteristics that make certain groups of people more likely to successfully mobilize to govern resources that are shared by all. We will start by unpacking three influential models that have been developed to predict the likelihood of individuals banding together for a common good: The Tragedy of the Commons, The Prisoner’s Dilemma game and the Logic of Collective Action. We’ll then explore a framework for understanding the community and resource characteristics that make successful resource governance likely, but in the process, we will study the community not as a manager of natural resources, but instead as a resource for its citizens—specifically, as a resource for obtaining services that its citizens need to flourish.

Second, we will examine an ancient recipe for flourishing communities: that of Aristotle’s *Politics*. In *The Politics*, Aristotle imagined what the ideal community would look like, and he made very specific recommendations for achieving those ideals. Today we are likely to think about justice in terms of *rights*, but in order to allocate rights, we have to have a theory of who has a right to what public goods. Thus we will first consider Aristotle’s theory of justice. Aristotle’s theory of justice is based on the philosophical concept of *telos*: everything in nature, including human beings, has an essential nature or purpose. Further, the key to justice, to flourishing, lies in discovering and respecting that *telos*. Once we understand that, we will more closely examine Aristotle’s ideals for the practice of politics—the political community, citizen self-governance, and the role of the state—and compare them with our own.

Third, we will learn from community leaders about what has made them successful and what the major hurdles they’ve faced have been in mobilizing their own communities. Are academic theories of resource sharing and flourishing communities useful on the ground? Are Aristotle’s recommendations still relevant? How can we bridge these three areas of expertise to develop applicable tools for communities? We will explore these questions in this course.