

Spring Term 2018

Honors Course Descriptions

Important notes to consider when registering for courses:

1. 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

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

HONORS COLLOQUIA

HNRS 301-001, Holocaust and Philosophy

CRN: 35098

3 credits

Instructor: Adam Knowles

Time: Wednesday, 6:00-8:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

How can philosophy respond to the Holocaust, the annihilation of six million Jews by Nazi Germany? How do we account for or come to terms with the mass destruction of human lives on such a grand scale? Or does moral theory fall short in the face of such an overwhelming act of genocide? This course will explore these and other questions through a study of the philosophical responses to the Holocaust. Topics covered will include collective guilt, the nature of evil, the responsibility of artists, the mechanized destruction of human life in concentration camps, as well as ethical issues involved in the study, representation and memorialization of the Holocaust.

HNRS 301-011 -Pulp Fiction and Pop Culture

CRN: 35099

3 credits

Instructor: Matthew Kaufhold

Time: Tuesday, 3:30-6:20

Location: UCross 026

An exploration of classic Pulp Fiction in America in the early half of the 20th Century, from the movement's 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 tracing literary antecedents, contemporaneous entertainment sources (such as film serials), and how these pulps inform the entertainment industry today.

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HNRS 301-012 Apocalypse & Post-Apocalypse: Images of Nuclear War in Film and Fiction **CRN: 35100**

3 credits

Instructor: Ian Abrams

Time: Thursday, 6:30-9:20

Location: UCross 028

This course will examine how the prospects of nuclear war and nuclear aftermath were reflected in the popular films and literature of the 1940's and beyond. We will look at numerous fictional works dealing with the fighting, surviving and long-term repercussions of thermonuclear holocaust, and talk about what these fictional creations say about the zeitgeist in which they were conceived. We will also be interested in students' reactions to this material—how they think potential megadeath affected the psyches of two generations of Americans, and how it affects their own imaginations today. Films will include documentary, "straight" drama, science fiction/fantasy, and even satire/nostalgia. Books on the syllabus will be pulled from the best seller lists of their day, to reflect the popular tastes of the times.

* Because of the violent nature of the material in this course students must contact Professor Abrams, abrams@drexel.edu, to speak with him about the course before being registered for it.

HNRS 301-013, Writing Killer Fiction: A Writing Workshop

CRN: 35110

3 credits

Instructor: Cordelia Biddle

Time: Monday 1:00-3:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

Tales of mystery and suspense place characters in situations of heightened conflict and danger; protagonists and antagonists possess clear and opposing moral codes; narrative arcs permit justice to triumph. A fictional character's journey of self-discovery becomes a public as well as a private search for truth. In this course, by reading and examining specific subgenres in the mystery field (True Crime, Historical, Traditional and Thriller), and by class exercises and assigned writing you will learn the craft of creating "killer fiction". By course's end, you will have completed a full-length short story.

HNRS 301, 014, US Theater and Film: Midcentury Legacy

CRN: 35110

3 credits

Instructor: William diCanzio

Time: Wednesday 2:00-4:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

This course will survey the achievements, on stage and screen, of a very rich time in our nation's cultural history. We begin in the 1930s, in a world still traumatized by the Great War, careening toward World War II, and impoverished by the Great Depression; we conclude in the 1970s, at the zenith of decades of prosperity on the one hand and of struggle for social justice on the other. How do our artists mirror, interpret and question life in the United States?

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HNRS 301-940, Shakespeare's Villains (ONLINE)

CRN: 35101

3 credits

Instructor: Craig Laird

This course will focus on the villains in five of Shakespeare's plays, Richard III, The Merchant of Venice, Othello, Macbeth, and The Tempest. Courses in Shakespeare typically focus on plot, character, and theme, as seen from the perspective of a member of the audience; this course will focus on character development and events as seen from the perspective of the villains. It will explore the motivations of the characters as well as the nature of evil--both from the perspective of a person living in the Early Modern Period, and from that of a person living today.

HNRS 302-001, The University: An Institution in Crisis? A Course for Intellectual Entrepreneurs

CRN: 35102

3 credit

Instructor: Mark Greenberg

Time: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-4:20

Location: Honors Seminar rom, 5051A MacAlister Hall

Universities have been operating since the eleventh century, based on a model of teaching developed during classical times. This makes universities the second oldest institution in human history, following only religion. Higher education is central to a nation's development in the 21st-Century, and a college degree is often seen as the ticket to meaningful employment and successful careers. Is there an institution more important—or more in the news? What are some ideas of the university that have shaped this enduring institution? What are its uses? What are the challenges—the crises, some say—that currently beset it? And what might its future look like in light of global social change, evolving learning styles, and technological progress? These are the principal ideas our seminar will discuss. We'll read several classic essays on the university's mission. Students will explore briefly the university's history and discuss how its various stakeholders help shape the institution. Small study groups will report on an important aspect of the university. And we'll be joined by experts on higher education, university leadership, and the future of technologically-enhanced learning. Finally, each student will choose an area of the university ripe for improvement and, in presentations shared by the class, present her or his recommendations for making the experience of higher education better.

HNRS 302-003, American Political Thought: Defining America

CRN: 35104

3 credits

Instructor: Meredith Wooten

Time: Monday 6:00-8:50

Location: Honors Seminar rom, 5051A MacAlister Hall

This course will provide an introduction to the role of political ideas in the history of U.S. politics, with a focus on the shifting and fluid boundaries of American political culture and identity. We will

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follow the development of American political thought over time to examine the debates and ideas that have shaped the political process, the historical context in which they emerged, and their impact on politics then and continuing to today. We will pay particular attention to shifting conceptions of “America” and “Americans” from the founding through today and political factors contributing complex and sometimes contradictory dimensions to the meaning of America. Readings are drawn mainly from primary sources, including writings of politicians, activists, poets, and theorists. We will consider how these materials reveal important aspects of American political thought: from religious thought surrounding colonization to justifications of independence and governing arrangements in the new republic, through questions of slavery, race, and national authority during the nineteenth century, to contemporary debates over political culture and America’s role in the world.

HNRS 302, 004 - Research in the Community

CRN: 35111

3 credits

Instructor: Kristine Mulhorn

Time: Tuesday 12:00-2:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

Students will learn various strategies for conducting research in the community. Guest speakers will present research they have done at the community level. Students will engage community members in a research project based on priorities of community members.

HNRS 302-011, Psychology of Music

CRN: 35105

3 credits

Instructor: Eric Zillmer

Time: 12:00-2:50

Location: DAC 217

Music! A window to your soul or a by-product of your brain? The most interesting intellectual questions are often asked when considering two very different disciplines. The art of music and the science of the brain is a great example. An entire species of humans play and/or listen to music. Half of all Nobel Prize winners report playing an instrument. Yet, there is no specific music center in the brain. Many scientists in fact argue that music is merely a byproduct of the brain. Others feel music is essential to experiencing human life. And some suggest that music may be the key to mathematics, order, symmetry and perhaps your own personal success. Why do some patients with neurological disorders only respond to music therapeutically? How is it possible that we can hum along to unfamiliar music? What do humans perceive as beautiful and what sounds atonal? And why is there music? The class Psychology of Music challenges students to understand music and its processes as a complex metaphor for culture and creative achievement.

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GREAT WORKS

HNRS T480-001, Great Books: *Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took On New York's Master Builder and Transformed the American City.*

CRN: 35107

Instructor: John Fry and Daniel Dougherty

Time: Thursday, 2:00-2:50

Location: President's Conference Room, Main Building

HNRS T480-002, Great Books: *The Mists of Avalon*

CRN: 35108

1 Credit

Instructor: Sheila Sandapen

Time: Monday 4:00-4:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

The Mists of Avalon (1983) by Marion Zimmer Bradley is a groundbreaking book that reconstructs the familiar tales of King Arthur through the female gaze. We will read and engage with this book that brings a fresh take to an old story and helped open up the fantasy genre. In addition, we will consider how the book sparked conversations about religion and sexual autonomy, themes that are especially relevant in light of the ongoing current debate(s) of how men and women can co-exist.

HNRS T480-003, Great Books: *The Plague*

CRN: 35109

1 Credit

Instructor: Lynn Levin

Time: Thursday 11:00-11:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

Together we will explore one of the most important novels of all time *The Plague* by Albert Camus, the masterwork by this twentieth-century French writer and philosopher. Published in 1947, this novel of action and ideas is, in part, about an outbreak of bubonic plague in the then-French colonial town of Oran, Algeria; and, in part, an allegory of France under German occupation during World War II. To fight evil, to love one's dear ones, to achieve personal peace, to seek to understand the ways of humankind—these are among the major themes that Camus grapples with in *The Plague*. A formative influence on many of its readers, the novel and its cast of characters will linger in your imagination for years to come.

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The Symposium

HNRS 302-002, The Promise and Challenge of University and Community Relations

CRN: 35103

3 credits

Instructors: Julia Colwell & Daniel Dougherty

Time: Thursday 6:00-8:50

Location: TBD

In this course, we will explore the role of universities and their multiple impacts within their broader communities. Viewing the university as a place-based institution, an academic and research enterprise, an extension agent, an employer, a land owner, and a sanctuary (among many other functions) we will explore the ways universities support or disrupt communities. Using examples from campuses around the US, we will investigate how campuses have created a sense of place for their students, impacted the foundational space for local communities, and helped change entire cities and regions.