

Spring Term 2016/17

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 201, T380 AND T480 courses **do not** satisfy the colloquium/colloquia graduation requirement but do count toward Honors credit.

3. UNIV 241 = automatic Honors credit with minimum course grade of a "B", but also **does not** satisfy colloquium/colloquia graduation requirement.

HONORS COLLOQUIA

HNRS 301-001, Learning from Jack: The Logic of Criminal Detection and the Jack the Ripper Case

CRN: 35326

3 credits

Instructor: Fred Abbate

Time: Tuesday, 11:00-1:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

The brutal Whitechapel murders in the East End of London in 1888 have fascinated novelists, historians, criminal investigators, film makers and others for decades. The identity of the killer is still a topic of impassioned debate, and candidates for the "Jack the Ripper" moniker get more numerous by the year.

This course will use the Ripper case to examine some broader logical and philosophical questions raised by the frantic quest to solve the murders, issues that are embedded in the very fabric and methods of all professional criminal investigation and forensics. Among the topics: the canons of inductive reasoning, the logic of hypothesis formation, competing theories of explanation, evaluating claims of criminal evidence, mental states and levels of responsibility, legal theories of insanity and the pragmatics of warranted probability claims. In addition to these issues, the course will also give students an opportunity to join the ranks of the millions of armchair detectives who have weighed in on the notorious case.

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HNRS 301-002, Shakespeare and Issues of Masculinity

CRN: 35205

3 credits

Instructor: Paula Marantz Cohen

Time: Monday/Wednesday 10:00-11:20

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

Very often the focus has been on women in Shakespeare. This course will shift the lens and look closely at the way male characters are portrayed in four important plays—*Richard II*, *As You Like It*, *Othello*, and *The Winter's Tale*. We will explore how these characters have been conditioned by the expectations of their society, and, in certain instances, have deviated or rebelled against that conditioning. Shakespeare was aware that “being a man,” in the prescribed sense, was not always easy or, for that matter, morally desirable. Note that though the focus will be on masculinity, our discussion will necessarily include the representation of “the Other” (women and minorities within the context of the culture), against which men in power were often expected to define themselves.

HNRS 301-011, Dramatic Masterpieces

CRN: 35206

3 credits

Instructor William diCanzio

Time: Thursday, 2:00-4:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

In this survey of drama in Europe and America, we'll discuss plays and movies that have come to be acknowledged as great works of art in our shared cultural tradition, from ancient Greek tragedy to recent achievements in film.

HNRS 301-012, Writing About Music: Creating “Turntable Matters”

CRN: 35207

3 credits

Instructor: Richard Abowitz

Time: Tuesday 6:00-8:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

Rock star Frank Zappa wrote in his autobiography: “Definition of rock journalism: People who can't write, doing interviews with people who can't think, in order to prepare articles for people who can't read.”

This course will explore the history, approaches and skills that have made music writing such a vital form that moved from the fringes in Zappa's time to now include a range of admired canonical work. In addition to studying the variety of ways popular music is covered by journalists and critics, we will ask how should we write about music now? What content is needed to create to an exciting and dynamic music site? Students will then have the opportunity to create this content through interviews

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with rock stars, reviewing/previewing concerts, curating playlists, or any other approach they can imagine.

The class is designed around creating a mission statement and proposed initial editorial content for a music site that will be considered for an actual launch.

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

CRN: 35287

3 credits

Instructor: Cordelia Biddle

Time: Tuesday, 2:00-4:50

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 301-940, Groundbreaking Women Writers in the Western Tradition

CRN: 35321

3 credits

Instructor: Craig Laird

This is an ONLINE course

Throughout the history of Western Literature, women have frequently revolutionized writing, astonishing their audiences and showing their colleagues (both male and female) the way forward. From Sappho to Adrienne Rich, women have brought a unique point of view to the humanities and have opened up vistas that other writers had not noticed. This course will explore the transformative power of women's writing between the 6th Century BCE to the present.

HNRS 302-001, Urban Spaces Between

CRN: 35322

3 credits

Instructor: Blaise Tobia

Time: Monday/Wednesday, 3:00-4:20

Location: 5051A MacAlister Hall

Urban spaces are meant to be experienced. They can convey grandeur or intimacy, efficient function in passing, or an invitation to linger and be entertained. They can bring elements green and natural into the midst of gray and hard surfaced expanses. They can affirm community or feed isolation and

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alienation.

In this course, we will study cities and urban spaces from architectural, urban planning and hybrid design viewpoints, and also through the insights and projects of fine and media artists. Students will be assigned to visit a variety of spaces around Philadelphia to judge them experientially and to represent them in a variety of media: visual, aural, written, and various combinations.

HNRS 302-002, The Rise of ISIS

CRN: 35323

3 credits

Instructor: Eric Zillmer

Time: Wednesday 12:00-2:50

Location: TBA, Daskalakis Athletic Center

This class examines the evolution of terrorism through the lens of human behavior and historical events. Working from psychological data, personal experience, biographical information, and historical accounts, several assumptions are proposed on how and under what circumstance humans are more likely to be recruited for and engage in terrorism. The class is based on several different theaters of terrorism including the Nazi genocide, the Baader Meinhof gang, the war in Bosnia, Palestinian suicide bombers, al Qaeda, the politics of kidnapping and hostage taking, and the rise of ISIS. Specific concepts of human behavior are examined including the threshold for terrorist participation and if there may be a predisposition towards terrorism. Finally, the psychological and social mechanisms of loyalty, sacrifice, indoctrination, and disillusionment are examined as they may play a role in the recruitment of terrorists.

HNRS 302-003, Public Space and Play

CRN: 35342

3 credits

Instructor: Debra Rubin

Time: Thursday, 11:00-1:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

Public spaces are an integral piece of communities and cities. But what is it that makes a place great? Where do we want to sit, play or interact with others and why? How do the concepts of community, memory, identity and freedom of expression impact our experience of place?

The aim of this course is to examine the relationship between people and the built environment through a series of readings, field trips and observational studies of public space, in order to gain a better understanding how people perceive, interact with, and are affected by their surroundings. Students will use the psychological, physiological, social and cultural concepts of environmental behavior to analyze public space.

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HNRS 302-011, Prove It!: Proof, Justification, and Argumentation

CRN: 35209

3 credits

Instructor: Dimitri Papadopoulos

Time: Thursday 6:00-8:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

What does it take for you to be convinced of a particular claim?

In this course we will examine and compare the forms that proof, justification, and argumentation take in a variety of contexts, including mathematics, the sciences, the social sciences, law, and others. The goal of this comparative exploration is to broaden our understanding of these mechanisms and improve our ability to assess and construct arguments in our respective fields of study and interest.

HNRS 302-012, Ocean to Table: The Science of Sustainable Seaweeds and Ocean Biodiversity

CRN: 35325

3 Credits

Instructor: Richard McCourt

Time: Wednesday 6:00-8:50

Location: PISB 204

The oceans cover most of the earth but until recently were harvested through hunting and gathering rather than any large-scale farming of the sea. Plants of the sea play a major role in ocean ecosystems and range from tiny one-celled plankton to seagrasses and mangroves, to giant, tree-sized fast-growing kelps and other seaweeds. Always popular in Asia, seaweeds are starting to appear in the human diet in the USA and other countries. This course will explore the science and sustainability of seaweeds, seagrasses, and other primary producers in the sea. We will study the underlying biology, ecology, and evolution of seaweeds and their role in the natural ecosystem, their potential as carbon sinks, and future threats to marine ecosystems from ocean acidification to sea level rise and overfishing.

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SPECIAL TOPICS AND GREAT WORKS

HNRS 201-001, Foundations Ballroom Dancing

CRN: 35204

3 Credits

Instructor: Samantha Bellomo

Time: Monday 6:00-8:50

Location: Van R Ballroom

This course is for students interested in exploring the world of ballroom dance. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of ballroom dance. This course is designed to give the students the tools they need to feel more comfortable dancing at parties, weddings and other formal events.

Special instructions to register: Sign up for this course at the following link, beginning at 10am on Monday, February 13th: https://drexel.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_bwj1uLv42MJkyKF

HNRS T380-001, Once Upon a Lifetime (So Far....)

CRN: 35318

3 Credits

Instructor: Cassandra Hirsch

Time: Thursday 12:30 – 3:30

Location: This is an Inside-Out course and will take place in a Philadelphia correctional facility.

In this memoir-writing course, blending Drexel (“Outside”) students with incarcerated (“Inside”) students in a Philadelphia Prison System correctional facility, these two groups of students will put aside their preconceptions of the “other” as, together, they read selected works of memoir, engage in discourse about these works, and together learn the craft of writing memoir in order that they might learn about themselves and their peers. The focus of this course will be to stimulate conversation, writing, and the cultivation and exchange of both among the Drexel students and the incarcerated individuals. All students will have a course packet of readings that acts as inspiration; as a companion and teaching tool to their writing. They will engage in writing as a process in the classroom and independently between class meetings.

HNRS T480-001, The Baseball Card

CRN: 35210

1 Credit

Instructor: Kevin Egan

Time: Thursday 10:00-10:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

The T206 Honus Wagner baseball card is perhaps the most iconic of all time. Baseball cards occupy a unique place in American culture – linking the fan to the players and stars of the game. Using the

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Wagner card as a point of departure, this class will examine themes regarding the collection, valuation, and historical and cultural significance of baseball cards. These themes will include the concept of fetishizing objects, the curation of collections, the role of baseball in American culture, and the growth of statistics/sabermetrics in baseball.

HNRS T480-002, Rebel Without a Cause

CRN: 35211

1 Credit

Instructor: Joseph Hancock,

Time: Tuesday, 5:00-5:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

This course is a comprehensive analysis of the meanings found in the film *Rebel Without a Cause*. This class will examine the cultural impacts of the film including areas such as social norms, youth culture, fashion and James Dean as a icon in consumer global culture.

HNRS T480-003, Beer: The Stories Behind the Beverage

CRN: 35212

1 Credit

Instructor: Benjamin Rayder

Time: Wednesday 6:00-6:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

Beer is more than just a drink. Beer is a 5,000 year old witness to the times that we are living in. As the times change, so does the beer that we drink. From Trappist brews to mass-produced, industrial beverages, every beer has a unique story behind it. This class will examine some of those beers and the context in which they were developed. By the end of the course, students will gain a deeper knowledge of the cultural, historical and political influences behind the world's most popular malt beverage. The course will include limited tastings.

Special Instructions to register: Participants must be 21 years of age to enroll in the course.

HNRS T480-004, The Searchers

CRN: 35213

1 Credit

Instructor: DB Jones

Time: Tuesday 10:00-10:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

This course will take a close look at what many critics regard as the best Western film ever made, and even, by a few, the best film ever.

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HNRS T480-005, Platonic Dialogues

CRN: 35214

1 Credit

Instructor: Paul Dry

Time: Thursday 5:00-5:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

This course will examine four Platonic dialogues: *Meno*, *Phaedrus*, *Symposium*, and *Phaedo*.

HNRS T480-006, The Graduate

CRN: 35288

1 Credit

Instructor: Gregory Cooke

Time: Friday, 12:00-12:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

The course will watch, analyze, and discuss the 1967 coming of age film, *The Graduate*.

HNRS T480-007, The Lysistrata

CRN: 35324

1 credit

Instructor - Daniel Dougherty

Time: Monday 5:00-5:50

Location: Honors Seminar room, 5051A MacAlister Hall

In this course, we will read and discuss, at a leisurely pace, the classic comedy by Aristophanes written over 2,400 years ago dealing with issues from social relations and sex, to war and peace.