

Summer Term 2017

Honors Program 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 The Rediscovery of the Great Mother

CRN: 42595

Instructor: Donald Riggs

Tuesday/Thursday, 10-11:20am

5051A MacAlister Hall

Starting in the 19th century, some scholars claimed that there had once been a Mother Goddess who was worshipped, often by matriarchal societies, and was then ousted by Sky-God worshipping patriarchal cultures. This position was buttressed by archeological findings and new interpretations of ancient myths, until in the late 20th century several influential books were published as well as novels that spread the Matriarchal Gospel to nonacademic readers. We will study Marija Gimbutas' 1989 study *The Language of the Goddess* and Marion Zimmer Bradley's 1982 novel *The Mists of Avalon* as well as a number of scholarly articles to explore and assess the debate over the existence of this complex. Students will undertake individual projects and extend their research to other specific theoretical or fictional works on the theme.

HNRS 302-001 Pop Gender

CRN: 42597

Instructor: Melinda Lewis

Tuesday, 6-8:50pm

5051A MacAlister Hall

Feminism and popular culture have a complicated relationship. Laws defining art and commerce, industries vying for audience's attention, and cultural products' representational practices make popular culture inherently political. Within this class, we will be approaching texts that represent, are an embodiment of, and/or seek to correct this tension. Looking at film, television, literature, and journalism, we will be unpacking issues of representation, content creation, and culture.

HNRS 301-011 - Noir

Instructor: Jan Armon

Under a cheerful summer sky, let us probe the darker emotions -- through a genre in which fiction and film influence each other. Noir fiction includes hard-boiled and crime fiction, while film noir initially relied on dark cinematography to set the mood. We will study fiction out of the United States, Great Britain and Ireland, from the 1930s to the present, along with American films noir and their roots in German expressionism.

HNRS 301-002 Love and Romance During WWII

CRN: 42596

Instructor: Gregory Cooke

Thursday, 3-5:50pm

5051A MacAlister Hall

We will examine and discuss five films and how they portray love and romance, set against the backdrop of World War II. The course will discuss film structure, character, theme, and plot, and how they combine to create, in some cases, all-time classic movies. The films, individually and collectively, raise a variety of moral and social issues including: are the peacetime "rules" of fidelity and love changed because of war; what are the consequences when peacetime mores are violated during war; and how are the movie endings indicative of the uncertainty of life and death during war.

HNRS 302- Science and Art of New Products

CRN: 42599

Instructor: Louis Padulo

Tuesday, 2-4:50pm

5051A MacAlister Hall

If you have ideas for a new product, or new features for a product you already own, how would you make those ideas a reality? If you don't have such ideas, how would you go about getting some? In this project-based, highly experiential course, student teams explore the relationship of representation to reality by researching a new product idea, generating product concepts, developing a product prototype, and participating in a product Design Fair at the end of the term. Emphasis is placed on conceptual thinking, creativity, risk management, and aesthetics. We are particularly interested in the front end of the design process where we frame the questions: "What should we create?" How

can we identify the desirable, check for the feasible, and develop the valuable?
Ultimately, is what we develop worth doing and is it sustainable?

The course presents the basic steps that are necessary for moving from a “cool idea” to a product sufficiently mature to launch an entrepreneurial start-up. Students will be exposed to a number of tools and ideas necessary for creating and managing product development processes. This includes cases, lectures, and exercises on topics such as identifying customer needs and developing a product concept as well as effective prototyping strategies. Key principles will be learned via team and individual assignments. Several in-class interactive exercises will also be used to vividly demonstrate these principles.

HNRS 302-002 Fashion and Style in Popular Culture

CRN: 42598

Instructor: Joseph Hancock

Thursdays, 6-8:50pm

5051A MacAlister Hall

In this course students will gain an understanding of the social, cultural, physical and other factors influencing fashion, apparel and style in the contemporary world. Taking a pop culturalist and anthropological approach, we will investigate and discuss aspects that influence fashion such as sex, gender, age, technology, religion, and work.

HNRS 302-003 Introduction to Digital Cultural Heritage

CRN: 42606

Instructor: Glen Muschio

Wednesdays, 9-11:50am

5051A MacAlister Hall

Digital Cultural Heritage, sometimes known as Virtual Heritage is an exciting transdisciplinary endeavor using the latest digital technologies to make World Heritage living cultural centers as well as archeological sites and reversed artifacts available to diverse audiences in ways never imagined before.

Through readings, viewings, class discussions and 2 field trips we will examine and explore the way producers around the world are using digital media technologies to preserve cultural icons and communicate their meaning and significance to world audiences. We will also look at student projects exploring Digital Cultural Heritage topics and investigate avenues for further student involvement in local projects. Field trips will be made to the Archeology Lab at Independence National Historical Park and to an active PennDOT archeology site located along the expansion route of I-95, which cuts through old Philadelphia neighborhoods and early industrial areas. Based on the class readings, discussions and field trips will propose an design an original digital cultural heritage project.

HNRS 301-012 - Public Space and Play
Debra Ruben

Public spaces play an integral role in communities and cities. What is that role, and what makes a public space successful? 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, and to discover what makes a place great. While examples will be drawn from an international perspective, there will be a specific focus on public space in Philadelphia. Students will use the psychological, physiological, social and cultural concepts of environmental behavior to analyze public space and will communicate their ideas and recommendations through a variety of means such as writing, speaking and multimedia.

HNRS 301-940 Superheroes in America
CRN: 42605
Instructor: Scott Stein
Online

Superheroes in America explores the American superhero, such as Superman and Spider-Man of comic book and movie fame, and examines such topics as the superhero and society; superheroes and the law; the psychology and motivations of superhero characters; the comic book industry; the Comics Code Authority and censorship; superhero parody and homage; superhero fans and real-life superheroes; and the themes and changing nature of the superhero story.

Special Topics and Great Works

HNRS T480-001 The Art of the LP
CRN: 42600
Instructor: William Radichel
Tuesdays, 5-5:50pm
5051A MacAlister Hall

This course will examine the return of collecting vinyl records in a digital age of music. We will explore the importance of certain albums that have had cultural impacts musically and why they are still held in high regard today.

HNRS T480-002 The Handmaid's Tale

CRN: 42607

Instructor: Daniel Dougherty

Wednesdays, 6-6:50pm

In this course we will read and analyze Margaret Atwood's novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*. The novel is set in a not too distant dystopian future and deals with themes that will likely lead to interesting and lively discussions.

HNRS T480-003 Philadelphia City Hall

Instructor: Alina Macneal

Built over a 30 year period, in the midst of sweeping social and technological change, Philadelphia City Hall is a lens on the city's history and ambitions. At its completion in 1901 it was the largest city hall in America and the tallest building in the world. But City Hall's solid masonry construction and Second Empire style were already hopelessly out of date. The building escaped repeated calls to tear it down only because of the exorbitant costs involved. Called a "monument to Philadelphia's insecurity" by historian Allen Guelzo, it is an artifact of its time and place: conflicted, magnificent and monstrous.

In this course we will explore City Hall as a symbol of Philadelphia. We will study the building's location, architecture and sculpture, examine the historical context in which it was designed and built, and discuss how it functions as a building and symbol in modern Philadelphia. This class will include a group tour of City Hall.