

# Honors Program Course Descriptions

## Summer 2018

### 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

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

## Honors Colloquia

**HNRS 301-01** – Dragons, Dragonslayers, and Dragonspawn

**CRN 42450**

**Instructor:** Donald Riggs

**Tuesday 2:00-4:50**

We will read narratives about Western Dragons from the medieval Fafnir and the anonymous Beowulf Dragon through Tolkien's Smaug and Chrysophylax, to a collection of more recent dragon tales by current authors of the fantastic. We will in addition consider anthropological theories about the possible inspirations for these ubiquitous but fictional creatures, and consider what the various tales reveal about their significance for humans. We will assess the role of the dragon in the Alchemical Tarot of Robert Place and Rosemary Guiley, where they are related to the element of fire. Students will view the 1982 film "Dragonslayer" and assess its dragon in the context we will have established before then, and students will also generate their own creations concerning dragons, using whatever arts or nonfictional genres they prefer.

**HNRS 301-02** – Noir

**CRN 42451**

**Instructor:** Jan Armon

**Wednesday 2:00-4:50**

During the summer sunshine let's probe the dark side of the psyche through noir fiction and film. Film noir originated when the United States entered the Second World War. Lighting had become a scarce resource and Los Angeles a convenient target for bombs. Although not entirely home-grown, the roots of noir lie largely in American pulp fiction – including crime and detective fiction. For added darkness, I'll include short stories from Ireland. You will study leading films noir from Hollywood, including adaptations of novels we'll be reading.

**HNRS 301-11** Adaptation and Repurposing History**CRN 42452****Instructors:** Melinda Lewis and Kevin Egan**Wednesday 6:00-8:50**

Historical adaptations are a mainstay for popular culture. From historical fictions to biographies, history is used to illustrate the past, inform those within the present, and help better prepare for the future. This course will use various adaptations to discuss the process, significance, and interest in historical adaptation. What does this work tell us about the past and present? How does new information help reframe our understanding of the past (and by extension, our present)? How do adaptations help fuel our imagination for the future? What happens when the adaptation supersedes the historical record? These questions will be further explored through readings, discussion, and interactive work.

**HNRS 301-12-** The Broadway Musical in American Culture**CRN 42486****Instructor:** Gail Rosen**Thursday 2:00-4:50**

This course will focus on the evolving relationship between the Broadway musical and American culture. We will examine the evolution and historical importance of the Broadway musical. This course will ask you to consider how the Broadway musical reflects and/or influences cultural values and aspirations. Moreover, how does the Broadway musical reflect or change the values and ideas in American culture? Finally, what do Broadway musicals teach us about changing views of historical events and values? We will discuss musicals such as *Hamilton*, *Rent*, *Into the Woods*, *West Side Story*, and others.

**HNRS 301-940 (online)-** Exploring Punk and Hip Hop**CRN 42453****Instructor:** Anne Cecil

Born out of disaffected youth in the 1970's, Punk and Hip Hop are the last 2 analog subcultures and both have become lifestyles. Both reject mainstream culture, move toward the new and react to the tenants of the time. Community minded creative and cultural producers build DIY infrastructures in the form of space, audience and institutions. Fashion, music and media are subculture specific, promoting members as the "other". In this course, we will use a modern art historic framework to compare and contrast these two subcultures that continue to thrive today.

**HNRS 302-010-** Mass Fashion on TV and in Cinema**Instructor:** Joseph H. Hancock**CRN 42454****Monday 2:00-4:50**

This course will provide a critical examination of the intersections between style, mass fashion, television, cinema and celebrity culture. The course will also bring together theoretical approaches to the symbolic force of television and cinema and fashion consumption on a global scale. Students will analyze a film or television show of their choosing to demonstrate how motion pictures and small screen media impacts mass fashion.

**HNRS 302-02-** American City in Film**Instructor:** Daniel Dougherty**CRN 42455****Thursday 6:00-8:50**

This course examines ten decades (1920s-2010s) of the American city through film. The course will cover a variety of themes related to problems of the American city from the rise of the city in the American ethos to the evolving sense of the city in its postmodern and postindustrial transition. Films

and course material have been chosen to also consider a range of issues including urban planning and sustainability, crime, public health, social deviance, demographic change, economic development and community power. The films will also be examined critically, both for cinematic quality and social accuracy.

**HNRS 302-03 - The Civic Spectrum: Engage. Lead. Empower**  
**CRN 42456**

**Instructors:** Cynthia Rickards and Jennifer Kebea

**Tuesday 5:00-7:50**

The course will be structured as a "Side-by-Side" course and will welcome a blended cohort of both Drexel and community students. Through the course, students will have the opportunity to consider concepts of citizenship in their community and spend time developing their own civic pathway. Students will also have the opportunity to engage with and learn from local civic leaders, who will serve as guest speakers each week.

**HNRS 302-04- The Wire: Power, Collaboration, and the American Dream**  
**CRN 42487**

**Instructor:** Daniel Driscoll

**Monday 11:00-1:50**

David Simon, creator of *The Wire*, a television series that features urban life at the start of the new millennium, has described the show as "a Greek tragedy in which the postmodern institutions are the Olympian forces. It's the police department, or the drug economy, or the political structures, or the school administration, or the macroeconomic forces that are throwing the lightning bolts and hitting people in the ass for no decent reason." In this class, we'll consider—and question—issues of power, collaboration, and the American Dream, first examining and tracing them through this novelistic series, and then also considering how they appear in our own lives.

**HNRS 302-11- Science and Art of Coming Up With New Products**  
**CRN 42457**

**Instructor:** Louis Padulo

**Monday 6:00-8:50**

If you have ideas for a new product, or new features for a product you already own, how would you actually 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.

# Great Works Courses

**HNRS T480-001** Great Works: Shakespeare's King Lear

**CRN 42458**

**Instructor:** Paula Marantz Cohen

**Wednesday 10:00-10:50**

We will look closely at one of Shakespeare's most important and powerful tragedies and consider what it says about the human condition, in particular: parenting, aging, and mortality. We will connect it to our own sense of family dynamics, life choices, and difficulty of dealing with disappointment and failure.

**HNRS T480-002** Great Works: Pasteur's Swan Neck Flask Experiment

**CRN 42459**

**Instructor:** Lloyd Ackert

**Tuesday 5:00-5:50**

From 1859-1864, the French microbiologist Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) conducted his famous swan neck flask experiments. Considered by many to be the conclusive and definitive challenge to the idea of spontaneous generation—that life can arise from non-living matter—they were in fact one part in a long debate and controversy. Over the quarter, we will study this experiment in several dimensions of its historical context. These include Pasteur's life and career, the ideas of his main contestant Felix Pouchet and others, the nature of scientific knowledge and the experimental process, the laboratory revolution during the late-19<sup>th</sup> century, the religious-philosophical implications of the debate, elitist science and the European Aristocracy, European politics, and the long influence of this debate for 20<sup>th</sup> century science.

**HNRS T480-003** Great Works: Sufjan Stevens

**CRN 42460**

**Instructor:** Eric Kennedy

**Wednesday 5:00-5:50**

American singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Sufjan Stevens has released eight studio albums and thirteen extended plays over the last twenty years. His musical style has varied greatly and has been classified as indie rock, lo-fi folk, electronica, alternative rock, indie folk, and baroque pop. He has contributed to symphonies, ballets, and conceptual art projects. Sufjan has gained increased notoriety after receiving an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Song for "Mystery of Love" from the film Call Me by Your Name.

This course explores the relationship between artist and audience, focusing on one album each week as we traverse the Sufjan Stevens discography from 1999 to today. We will discuss the complicated and often conflicting themes in Sufjan's music, including his understated Christian faith, literary allegory, meditations on geographic regions, and ambiguous sexuality. We will cover the marketability of his sound and aesthetic as well as the praise and criticisms of his artistic output over the years. We will consider, individually and as a class, how music provides a means for self-reflection and personal growth.

**HNRS T480-004** Great Works: Cult Film Classics

**CRN 42461**

**Instructor:** William Radichel

**Thursday 5:00-5:50**

This course will explore several cult film classics in Hollywood history. It will examine the time period when the films were released, their box office profits, and how they became fan favorites over the years. Genres that will be explored include comedy, horror, drama, and science fiction.

**HNRS T480-005** Great Works: Innumeracy

**Instructor:** Dimitri Papadopoulos

**Tuesday 1:00-1:50**

In this Great Works course we are going to read, dissect, and discuss John Allen Paulos's *Innumeracy*. According to Paulos, too many of our knowledgeable, educated citizens struggle with innumeracy – mathematical illiteracy – to varying degrees, and he argues that this comes at great cost to society. Not only are we constantly confronted with quantitative information in the news, school, and work, but we often have to make decisions based on that information. In this witty little book, Paulos explores the causes and consequences of innumeracy in a variety of contexts, including stock scams, sports statistics, decision-making, pseudoscience, elections, and more. As we read through *Innumeracy*, we'll look at the ways in which we can improve our intuition and critical thinking in matters of quantity, probability, and logic.