

# FALL 2015

## Honors Course Descriptions

*Honors Colloquia = HNRS 300 level courses, satisfies Colloquium requirement*

*Honors Special Topics = HNRS 200 and 400 level courses, does not satisfy Colloquium requirement*

*UNIV 241 = automatic Honors credit, with eligible course grade, does not satisfy Colloquium requirement*

---

### **Colloquium:**

#### **Writing Creative Biography**

**Instructor:** Cordelia Biddle

**Day/Time:** Mondays 6:00pm-8:50pm

**HNRS 301 002, CRN: 16391**

**Description:** A successful biography is both an objective and subjective work. The writer must appreciate and understand the motivating factors that shaped personal choices, recognizing the mores and habits of historical eras, accepted gender roles and biases, public policies and popular culture. In order to craft a biography, the writer must enter into the same time period. Archival data and detail are vital to the process.

In this course, students will learn to craft compelling biographies – either of historical figures or family members. Students will also utilize primary and secondary research tools. Trustworthy websites such as the Library of Congress' that provide an array of historical newspapers are encouraged. Any footnoted material will be presented according to guidelines in The Chicago Manual of Style. Weekly writing assignments will be supplemented by commenting upon other students' weekly submissions, and discussing assigned non-fiction works. Grading will be based upon satisfactory completion of all three components of the weekly assignments. By the course's conclusion each student will have completed a biography consisting of 8,000 - 10,000 words. The final assignment will count for 50% of the course grade.

### **Colloquium:**

#### **The Mind of Sherlock Holmes: Philosophy, Logical Theory and Scientific Reasoning**

**Instructor:** Fred Abbate

**Day/Time:** Tuesdays, 3:00pm-5:50pm

**HNRS 301 003, CRN: 16392**

**Description:** This is a course that will introduce and examine the key concepts of the philosophy of logic, language and scientific method using the stories about the fictional crime-solving genius created by Arthur Conan Doyle.

### **Colloquium:**

#### **World War II Comedy**

**Instructor:** Ian Abrams

**Day/Time:** Wednesdays, 6:00pm-8:50pm

**HNRS 301 004, CRN: 16393**

**Description:** What Abbott & Costello, Jack Benny and the Three Stooges Can Teach Us About the Most Destructive War in Human History. The American entertainment industry has always reflected what Americans were thinking and, simultaneously, helped shape it. Between the late 30's and the mid 40's, what was on American minds was global war, the fight against fascism, our boys over there, life here on the home front. The movies rose to

the occasion. We got our share of stirring war dramas, but it may have been in comedy that Hollywood outdid itself. A good comedy reflects the real world in a funhouse mirror-- the best and funniest films of the period not only make us laugh today, but let us see what life was like and what people needed to believe during the war years. This course will look at ten feature comedies, plus newsreels, cartoons (both print and animated) and popular music of the period. Readings will be provided electronically for anyone interested in further study.

### **Colloquium:**

## **The Logic of Life: An Historical Survey of Evolutionary Thought**

**Instructor: Lloyd Ackert**

**Day/Time: Wednesdays, 3:00pm-5:50pm**

**HNRS 301 005, CRN: 16394**

**Description:** This course will survey the history of evolutionary thought from the Early Modern period to recent developments. Through readings of both historical and scientific writings, students will engage a broad range of evolutionary ideas as they occurred in their social, cultural, and political contexts. For example, the ongoing controversies over teaching evolution in the public classroom makes it clear that there is a “Darwinian” prejudice, held by the critics, supporters, and journalists participating in the debate. Students will see that the 'history of evolution' has a broad intellectual history that long predates Darwin’s own contributions. This course will offer students lessons in 1) how to decipher a variety of scientific perspectives of evolution (botanical, genetic, and geological) as well as 2) how to interpret these using different historical methods (biography, sociology of scientific knowledge, philosophy of science, and cultural history, and 3) determine the influence of national contexts (English, French, Russian, North American).

### **Colloquium (Online):**

## **Shakespeare’s Villains**

**Instructor: Craig Laird**

**HNRS 301 940, CRN: 14419**

**Description:** This online seminar 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.

### **Colloquium:**

## **Suburbia**

**Instructor: Daniel Dougherty**

**Day/Time: Wednesdays, 6:00pm-8:50pm**

**HNRS 302 001, CRN: 12516**

**Description:** In the past century of United States’ history, suburban development has increased significantly and has produced new American lifestyles, modes of transportation, patterns of development, and challenges to the natural environment, among other phenomena. In this course on the topic of suburbia we will cover several topics related to American suburbanization through a multidisciplinary lens from the mid-nineteenth century to this most recent stage of the American story in the twenty-first century.

## **Colloquium:**

### **US Theater: Midcentury Masterpieces**

**Instructor: William DiCanzio**

**Day/Time: Thursdays, 3:00pm-5:50pm**

**HNRS 301 006, CRN: 16435**

**Description:** In this course, we will study plays from an extraordinarily rich period in our nation's theater. Beginning in the 1930s, in a world still traumatized by the Great War and in the midst of the Great Depression, we will see how masterful American playwrights mirror, chronicle, interpret, and question twentieth-century life in the United States.

The course will deal with great American plays of the mid-Twentieth Century, including *Our Town*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *Death of a Salesman*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *A Delicate Balance*, and others.

## Honors Special Topics Courses

### **IMPORTANT: CHANGE TO BALLROOM DANCING BEGINNING FALL 2015**

Beginning in the Fall Term, both **Introduction to Ballroom Dancing/Foundations of Ballroom Dancing & Intermediate Ballroom Dancing** will be considered Honors Special Topics courses and **will no longer be considered Honors Colloquia**. This means that while you will still receive Honors credit for taking one/both of these courses **they will no longer satisfy the Colloquium requirement** in your Honors Plan of Study.

\*\*\*IF you have already taken Intro/Intermediate Ballroom Dancing prior to Fall 2015 they **will count as Honors Colloquia**.

### **Special Topics:**

#### **Foundations of Ballroom Dancing**

**Instructor: Samantha Bellomo**

**Day/Time: Mondays, 6:00PM - 8:50PM**

**HNRS 201 002, CRN: 10935**

**Description:** 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.

*If you are interested in enrolling in this course, please follow the link below to learn about the process and add your name to the list electronically. Signing Up does NOT guarantee enrollment in the course. Students will be registered by Honors Staff, based on the time-stamp submission of this form, and eligibility to register.*

[http://drexel.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_4lxvqMuly0WWsn3](http://drexel.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4lxvqMuly0WWsn3)

*This link will become LIVE at 10:00am, Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> and will close when the waitlist fills.*

## Special Topics:

### **ST: Prison Reading Project**

**Instructors:** Paula Marantz Cohen & Raymond Brebach

**Day/Time:** Wednesdays, 1:00pm-2:50pm

**HNRS 480 001, CRN: 16395**

**Credits:** 2.0 credits

**Description:** This course will develop a regimen of 15-minute-a-day readings for inmates in SCI Fayette, a 2000-bed Maximum-Security prison in Pennsylvania. Each student will choose one or two appropriate readings, edit the readings for proper length, and write an introduction and set of questions for discussion. Students will also read background material on prison education, learn about the difficulties involved in implementing this project, and discuss ways in which prison education can be improved.

Students will be chosen for this course through interviews with the instructors.

Students must contact the instructors (Paula Marantz Cohen – [cohenpm@drexel.edu](mailto:cohenpm@drexel.edu), Raymond Brebach – [brebach@drexel.edu](mailto:brebach@drexel.edu)) and schedule an interview before registering for this class. Students accepted into the class after an interview will be automatically registered.

## **Great Works Symposium – UNIV 241 Topic: Standup Comedy**

(Auto Honors credit, but is not an Honors colloquium)

### **Standup Comedy**

**Instructors –** Lloyd Ackert, Scott Knowles, and Melinda Lewis

**UNIV 241, Section 001, 002, and 003**

**CRNs –** 11171, 11205, 16364

**Tuesdays, 6:30PM – 9:20PM**

**Credits:** 3.0 credits

**Description:** Standup comedy is one of the most recognizable and popular forms of comedy performance. With comedians telling jokes on our televisions, computer screens, and in films, standup has become a regular form of entertainment and expression. This course is aimed toward studying standup as a craft, practice/performance, and as a form of expression/cultural critique. The course will include studying the work of comedians like Richard Pryor, George Carlin, Dave Chappelle, and Jen Kirkman (to name but a few). Instructors and guest speakers will offer opportunities for students to analyze the relationship between jokes, performance, and the contexts in which they are told – cultural, industrial, regional. Throughout the course, students will be expected to engage in discussions regarding jokes and meaning, and by the quarter's end, will have opportunities to workshop their own jokes and develop their comedy performance.

**Find this course on the Term Master Schedule under “University-Wide Courses.” For further information, contact Kevin Egan ([kde25@drexel.edu](mailto:kde25@drexel.edu))**