

Fall 2012
HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
(All courses are 3.0 credits)

Contemporary U.S. Theater: Community, Class, and Xenophobia

HNRS 201 Section 001 – CRN 11250

Thursdays – 3:00PM to 5:50PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: William diCanzio

Email: wdicanzio@aol.com

Students will read and discuss outstanding American plays, ranging from modern classics to recent hits and Pulitzer Prize winners, focusing on what they show us about the social structures of community and family; about race and class; and about the *xenos*, the “stranger,” whom we may hate or fear.

Introduction to Ballroom Dancing

HNRS 201 Section 002 – CRN 11254

Mondays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Samantha Bellomo

Email: samanthabellomo@gmail.com

Learn by DUing! This is an interactive dance class not a lecture.

To register for this course come to the Honors lounge to sign-up.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. The class will fill on a first-come, first serve basis.

The Logic of Life: An Historical Survey of Evolutionary Thought (ONLINE COURSE)

HNRS 201 Section 940 – CRN 15577

ONLINE COURSE

3.0 credits

Instructor: Dr. Lloyd Ackert

Email: lta24@drexel.edu

This course will survey the history of evolutionary thought from the ancient period to its modern developments. Drawing on both recent historical literature and writings of the scientists covered, students will engage a broad range of evolutionary ideas in their social, cultural and political contexts. Recent discussions of the current controversy 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. Evolutionary thought has a history that is much broader in intellectual range, one that predates Darwin by 2000 years. Students will not only encounter a number of evolutionary perspectives as presented by their authors, but will also practice a number of historical methods including biography, sociology of science, philosophy of science, and cultural history.

The Beat Inevitable: Poetry of American Civil Rights

Honors 301 Section 001 – CRN 12076

Wednesdays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Michael Haeflinger

Email: mikehaef@gmail.com

Critic Paul Fussell states, “The rhythm of a poem is the expression of the rhythm of a culture and a period.” This course will look at the Civil Rights movement from its poets’ perspectives. Beginning with predecessors of the mid-twentieth century movement and ending with the Black Arts and Black Power movements of the 1970’s; we will look beyond the historical and journalistic documentation for a deeper understanding of the everyday person’s perspective.

Children’s Literature: The History of Delight

Honors 301 Section 002 – CRN 11603

Mondays – 6:00PM – 8:50 PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Marilyn MacGregor

Email: marilynmacgregor@gmail.com

Aesop, Harry Potter, The Hunger Games: Books written for children provide a lively, fascinating guide to human thought and values. This course, an in-depth overview and history of this exciting literature, includes classics, illustrations, modern favorites, and contemporary trends.

The American City in Film

HNRS 301 Section 003 – CRN 11625

Thursdays 6:30PM to 9:20PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Drs. Dan Dougherty and Dave Jones

Email: dd446@drexel.edu

This course examines ten decades (1920’s – 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.

Philosophy, Science and Religion: Historical and Contemporary Controversies

Honors 301 Section 004 – CRN 15574

Tuesday 3:00 PM to 5:50PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Fred Abbate

Email: fja421@drexel.edu

This course will explore current and long-standing disputes between those who claim that religious belief is compatible with scientific views of the universe—or actually reinforced by such views—and those who argue that such claims are absurd. In pursuing this analytical inquiry, the class will discuss the characteristics of scientific explanation, the nature of religious experience, classical and contemporary arguments for God’s existence, theories about moral and physical evil in the world, debates about the possibility of life after death, and assertions that religious belief leads to the destruction of human purpose and social value.

Reading, Writing, Looking: How to Think and Write about Art

Honors 302 Section 001 – CRN 14020

Wednesdays 2:00 PM to 4:50PM

3.0 credits

Instructor: Morgan Meis

Email: morganmeis@gmail.com

Using the rich museum resources of Philadelphia, we will spend some time looking closely at specific works of art. Then we will read an essay by a noted critic about the work of art we've looked at, pulling the essay apart paragraph by paragraph. Then we will write our own essays using all the tools we've acquired for looking at, reading about, and thinking about art.

UNIVERSITY COURSES **WILL COUNT TOWARDS REQUIRED HONORS CREDIT**

Great Works Symposium

The Search for Extraterrestrial Life

UNIV 241 Sections 001, 002,003

CRN- 11550, 11591, 14082

Thursdays 6:30PM to 9:20PM

Instructors: Drs. Lloyd Ackert, Shivanthi Anandan, and Lydia Pyne

Emails: lta24@drexel.edu, anandans@drexel.edu, lpv34@drexel.edu

Are we alone in the universe? Answering this question and the search for extraterrestrial life (ET) has and continues to inspire a wide range of scientific research and philosophical discussions. This course, the first of four in this year's topic "Frontiers in Science," discusses ET science ranging from exotic microorganisms, exobiology, and space exploration. A wide range of philosophical examinations provide the context for this work, including on the origin of life, the meaning of intelligence (human and alien). Sitting at the boundary of science and science fiction, this topic necessarily engages revolutionary and controversial theories and programs including Lovelock's Gaia Theory, Margulis's Symbiogenesis, and the CETI (Communication with Extraterrestrial Intelligence) program. Through the writings, films, and presentations of experts working actively on these topics, we will explore the search for alien life. Course discussions and projects will guide us in understanding how this search both reflects and changes how we perceive ourselves as individuals, a species, and planet. That is, they help us answer 'who are we'?