

Spring 2015

HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction to Ballroom Dancing*

Instructor: Samantha Bellomo (samanthabellomo@gmail.com)

Honors 201, Section 001, Mondays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

Location: TBD

CRN – 35444

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

The course is for students interested in exploring the world of ballroom dance. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of four popular ballroom dances and explore the distinct physical styles and attitudes for each dance. This course is designed to give the students the tools they need to dance confidently 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_8GKInScpgBV9gIR

This link will become LIVE at 10:00am, Monday, February 9th and will close when the waitlist fills.

Genetics in Popular Culture

Instructor: Ellen Giarelli (ellen.giarelli@drexel.edu)

Honors 201, Section 002, Wednesdays - 10:00AM - 12:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 35445

Students will examine: newspaper articles, YouTube videos, movies, museum exhibits, editorial cartoons, advertisements, and fine art; in order to evaluate the quantity, quality, accuracy, and adequacy of the scientific information available to the general public. Students will apply three approaches to critical review: argument analysis, iconography, and critical theory. Course modules are: human evolution; genetic testing and gene therapy; cloning and stem cell research; and genetic enhancement, eugenics, genetic engineering. Ethical, legal, and social implications will be identified and discussed. The larger lesson of the course will be to spur critical thinking about messages in popular culture allegedly based on factual information.

In Sickness and Wealth

Instructor: Jonathan Purtle (jpp46@drexel.edu)

Honors 201 Section 003, Thursdays – 5:00PM – 7:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 35446

Systematic and avoidable differences in the health of groups within a society—are persistent social problems. This course will systematically explore health inequity from the perspective of nine different disciplines: public health, sociology, psychology, anthropology, political science, biology, communication, history, and urban planning. The course focuses on the multidisciplinary nature of health inequity research and strategies to integrate diverse perspectives to produce a holistic understanding of a complex problem.

Writing Killer Fiction

Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle (Cordelia@CordeliaFrancesBiddle.com)

HNRS 301 Section 001, Mondays – 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 35447

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.

Shakespeare's History Plays: *The Henriad*

Instructor: Paula Marantz Cohen (cohenpm@drexel.edu)

HNRS 301, Section 002, Mondays & Wednesdays - 3:00PM – 4:20PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 35448

We will read four of Shakespeare's most important history plays—Richard II; Henry IV, Part I; Henry V; and Richard III--that constitute the major works in the 8-play sequence known as The Henriad. These plays offer insight into British history, political strategy, family dynamics, and psychological development. Two of the plays are riveting studies of the evolution of a leader-- from an irresponsible prince into a powerful king. We will connect the material covered in the plays to the political and social events of today.

The Pursuit of Meaning

Instructor: Fred Abbate (fja421@comcast.net)

Honors 301, Section 003, Tuesdays – 3:00PM – 5:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 35449

Existentialist thinkers were seriously engaged with the same issues that philosophers have struggled with from the discipline's beginning, often using novels and drama as approaches to these issues: the meaning of freedom, the nature of consciousness and personal identity, moral obligation, religious experience, the criteria for knowledge claims, and even the political and social consequences of our choices. This colloquium will connect with these issues solidly and analytically, getting students to understand their import while exploring why the literary, non-academic approach was so appropriate for dealing with them so often. It will work through the key arguments of the writings of major existentialist thinkers such as Sartre, Camus, de Beauvoir, Jaspers, Marcel, Merleau-Ponty, Heidegger, as well as the movement's precursors Nietzsche and Kierkegaard.

Food in the Arts: Film

Instructor: Edward Bottone (edward.d.bottone@drexel.edu)

Honors 301, Section 004, Tuesdays – 10:00am – 12:50pm, 3.0 credits

CRN – 35456

Movies you can eat. Five films; five great meals. In this course we screen a series of films (Chocolat, Tampopo, Babette's Feast, etc.) and examine and discuss, in depth, the crucial roles that food plays in filmmaking, the symbolic nature of food in film and by extrapolation — worldview. Students will have the opportunity, on alternating weeks, to recreate the dishes in each film and thereby deepen their understanding of the significance of food, and heighten their culinary skills as they explore the intricacies of related cuisines.

Global Inequality

Instructors: Kevin Egan (kde25@drexel.edu)

& Michael Glaser (michael.d.glaser@drexel.edu)

Honors 302, Section 001, Tuesdays – 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 35450

A recent report by Oxfam predicts that, by next year, the richest 1% will have more collective wealth than the rest of the world's population combined. We are entering a historical period of unprecedented inequality that is contributing to violence, disenfranchisement, disease, and marginalization worldwide. This course will focus on the "wicked problem" of inequality - exploring both its causes and consequences. Students will take an interdisciplinary and inquiry-based approach to understanding the problem of inequality by exploring texts, research reports, visual arts, and other media that grapple with issues related to the problem. Then, using design thinking techniques, students will seek to develop, collaboratively, a course of action to address the problem of inequality.

ONLINE COURSE:

Introducing Popular Culture Studies

Instructor: Joseph H. Hancock II (joseph.h.hancock@drexel.edu)

Honors 302, Section 940, 3.0 credits

CRN – 35451 (online)

Popular culture surrounds us. Its products are movies we watch, the music we listen to, electronic devices we use and fashions we wear. But what, is it? This course seeks to answer this question by exploring our desire for meaning and the ways popular culture embodies meaning for us. We will examine the social structure that has led to the emergence and spread of popular culture, showing how it validates our common experiences and offers a variety of perspectives on its many modes of delivery into our everyday lives. Each student will deconstruct their chosen area of popular culture in order to reveal how it has become so important in the global context of our existence.

Great Works Symposium Haunted Histories and Ghost Stories

Instructors:

Jonathan Seitz (jws66@drexel.edu)

Simchi Cohen (ssc74@drexel.edu)

UNIV 241*, Section **001, 002**

CRN – 31492, 31493 (please check the term master schedule for updated Days/Times)

3.0 credits

In this course we will survey historical and aesthetic representations of the ghost from the Early Modern era through today. Using the notion of “the text” as the mode of understanding and accessing notions of ghosts, ghostliness, and haunting, we will review the ways in which ghosts are represented and understood. We will examine various ghosts as they are portrayed in both primary and secondary sources: written, visual, and cultural. Throughout, we will consider how ghosts appear as both real and metaphoric, both cultural facts/artifacts and products of mythology or folklore. How societies tell ghost stories reveals as many elements about those societies as it does about ghosts; ghosts offer insight into the anxieties of the cultures that produce them.

Find this course on-line under “University-Wide Courses.”

For further information, contact Kevin Egan (kde25@drexel.edu)

**Honors students who complete this course with a grade B or higher will earn automatic Honors credit.*