

SUMMER 2015

HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

One Myth to Fuse Them All

(ONLINE COURSE)

Instructor: Don Riggs

Honors 201, Section 940, *online*, 3.0 credits

CRN – 42820

Joseph Campbell's Monomyth is a plot structure characterizing quest myths the world over. In this course, we will analyze science fiction movies from the late twentieth century that show the extent to which they exploit and at times transform this structure. Films studied include: Star Wars, Star Trek, The Matrix, Dune, Back to the Future, and more.

Making Apps

Instructor: Samuel Bever

Honors 202, Section 001, Tuesdays 6:30PM - 9:20PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 42821

This course introduces students to web-based and mobile development technologies, integrating mobile platforms such as Android with web-based mashups of social networking, shopping, and real-time data services on the web. Mobile devices such as smartphones have become ubiquitous, with some people carrying more computing power in their pockets than were available on their desktops just a few years ago. We will aim to harness that technology to develop applications that utilize mobile platforms as their vehicle to integrate existing web-based services and technologies into applications that are 'greater than the sum of their parts. This is not simply a technologies and development course; rather, we will take a seminar-like structure in which innovation can cultivate in a group-learning environment.

The Study of the Self

Instructor: Stacey Ake

Honors 202, Section 002, Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00PM - 3:20PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 42822

This course will introduce students to the history of the self—an idea that seems so obvious to us today. As the dictum at the Temple of Apollo at Delphi declares, “Know Thyself,” and this is considered one of the greatest of philosophical endeavors. Thus, the course will examine the history of the idea of a self in the Western tradition, look at how the self is created through narrative, and encourage the growth of the selves of the individual students.

Tyrannies, People, Artists

Instructor: Zhenya Kiperman

Honors 301, Section 001, Mondays, 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 42823

The course studies personal struggles with tyrannies of various kinds – political, social, existential, and psychological – as expressed in works of film and literature. Some of the discussed works were created under oppressive regimes and conditions that inevitably affected the lives of the artists and their creations. All films will be screened in class and followed by discussions.

Writing About Rock Music

Instructor: Richard Abowitz

Honors 301, Section 002, Thursdays, 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 42824

Among much else, for more than sixty years rock music has been synonymous with pop culture, youth and rebellion. As a result this music is the subject of countless magazines, websites and a library of books. Yet, for the same reasons, writing about rock, like the music it documented and championed, has often been dismissed. Even Frank Zappa famously said: “Most rock journalism is people who can’t write interviewing people who can’t talk for people who can’t read.” Another quote, often (probably falsely) attributed to Elvis Costello, sums things up: “Writing about music is like dancing about architecture.”

This course will look at the different strategies generations of music writers have adopted to do this impossible task often in response to the ways the music at the heart of the project morphed from oldies to classic rock into hip-hop and EDM. Students will study some landmark works of criticism from the rock era, hear from guests involved in making and writing about music, and attempt their own contributions to the genre.

The Detective in Fiction, Film, and Fact

Instructor: Jan Armon

Honors 301, Section 003, Thursdays, 10:00AM - 12:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 42833

This course approaches detection as multiple connotations rather than a path to a solution. Clues offer misreadings that can layer a text. Equal attention will be given to detective novels and stories, to detective films, and to the investigative journalism of the Watergate scandal.

Youth Culture in Film: Fashion, Style & Appearance

Instructor: Joseph Hancock, II

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

CRN – 42825

This course is designed to illustrate the role of dress/fashion/style as an influence in the creation of films depicting youth culture from 1950-Present. Through fashion, style and appearance the class will participate in ongoing discussions about the enculturation, a particular bravura and the role of fashion/style and the depiction of youth appearance in cinema as a major vehicle for class and social development in the United States. Discussions regarding the dissemination of fashion from film into mainstream apparel street styles and how stereotypes of youth culture were developed will also be revealed, analyzed and discussed.

(STUDENTS MUST BE INTERVIEWED FOR THIS COURSE)

Popular Science

Instructor: Daniel Dougherty, Kevin Egan, Elaine O’Loughlin

Honors 201, Section 001, Wednesdays, 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 2.0 credits

Designed for students interested in creating and implementing a new series of talks with Drexel faculty to make science accessible and understandable to the general University public through highlighting significant discoveries within a broad thematic topic. The course will have three parts: part one will be the research and selection of a popular science series theme including identifying faculty collaborators; part two will be learning about and becoming comfortable with interview techniques leading to inviting faculty to take part in the series; and part three consists of the planning of the series from logistical needs to advertising the series. The schedule will combine group work and discussion, facilitated discussion, and guest speakers.

Great Works Symposium – UNIV 241 Wonder Shows: Magic and Science as Performance

Instructors – Lloyd Ackert

UNIV 241, Section 001, Wednesdays 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 42832

The fourth course in the Great Works Symposium on the Supernatural, we continue to examine its relationship to the natural. Here we will explore the changing relationship between magic and science extending from Medieval alchemy, to Modern mentalism, to Post-Modern pseudo-psychic phenomena (telepathy, precognition). Performance (conjuring, misdirection, illusion) unifies this evolution and will be the central perspective of the lectures, guest appearances, and assignments.

Find this course on-line under “University-Wide Courses.” For further information, contact Kevin Egan (kde25@drexel.edu)