Spring 2014 HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

University Honors Spring 2014

(for University Honors students; dept/college honors track students may take HON classes taught by faculty in their major/minor disciplines, space permitting)

Freshmen Seminars

HON 1515-101 Metamorphoses in Life: TR 9:30-10:45 AH 187 M. Dale Love & Death (20)

The stories we sit up late to hear are love stories. It seems that we cannot know enough about this riddle of our lives. We go back to the same scenes, the same words, trying to scrape out the meaning. Nothing could be more familiar than love. Nothing eludes us so completely. **Jeanette Winterson**, <u>The PowerBook</u> Q: What does love feel like? A: It's not a feeling; it's a relationship, a way of life. **Martha Nussbaum**, philosopher, in an interview, <u>The Guardian</u>, October 2007 True, death itself is nothing; but the thought of it is like a mirror. A mirror, too, is empty, without content, yet it reflects us back to ourself in a reverse image. To try to contemplate the meaning of my death is in fact to reveal to myself the meaning of my life. **Herbert Fingarette**, <u>Death: Philosophical Soundings</u>

The comfort that we can gain from the hard cruel truth of death is that life itself is wonderful, full of love and full of transcendental moments – that's what really matters. **Jim Crace**, novelist,

Love and death are oftentimes experienced as seismic upheavals in our lives; we are changed in puzzling, perhaps even mysterious ways by these two forces, sometimes delightfully and sometimes terrifyingly or painfully. In love, suddenly someone or something that perhaps we did not even know existed comes into our life and now is seen and felt as a presence we cannot imagine living without. In death, as the poet Gerald Manley Hopkins puts it, "I wake and feel the fell of dark, not day." How should we see and understand the experiences and transformations wrought by love and death? The question is especially important in a society that frequently trivializes love, and at times and in some circumstances, makes a death a spectacle of entertainment.

Possible Books: Arundhati Roy, <u>The God of Small Things;</u> J.M. Ledgard, <u>Submergence;</u> J.M. Coetzee, <u>Age of Iron;</u> Muriel Barbery, <u>The Elegance of the Hedgehog;</u> Annie Dillard, <u>For The Time Being;</u> Anne Michaels, <u>Fugitive</u> <u>Pieces;</u> Additional essays, short stories and poems

Sophomore Seminars

HON 2515-101 Darwin (20)TR 3:30-4:45AH 162J. WatersTwo of the greatest influences on modern society were born on February 12, 1809 - Abraham Lincoln and CharlesDarwin. As President, Lincoln led the country through a very bloody, but short, civil war and set the tone for howwe view equality in this country to this day. Lincoln is generally revered for his actions. Charles Darwin was ageologist and biologist who gave us a scientific theory that unites humans with all other species on the planet andprovided a roadmap for the workings and history of nature. Darwin is viewed as an intellectual giant by scientists,but remains a flashpoint in ongoing struggles between science and religion.

HON 2515-102 Animal Planet	TR 9:30-10:45	AH 161	J. Dubino
(Cross list with GLS cours	e for 10 seats)		

This course explores the ways globalization is altering the nature of human-animal encounters. We will examine many kinds of encounters, including those resulting from travel (e.g., safaris), companionship (pets), science (animals in the lab), food and consumption (livestock), fashion (fur), hunting, artistic and visual representations (shows like Animal Planet and its spin-offs), and more. We will look at a range of media from around the world that address how globalization affects and informs human-animal encounters: travel literature, fiction and non-fiction, TV series, movies, cartoons, stuffed animals, and more. We will consider the interchanges between the local and the global; that is, some of the ways that local cultural attitudes toward animals are being affected by globalization, and how globalization is affecting localized beliefs and practices.

HON 2515-103 Art and the Brain (20) TR 9:30-10:45 AH 162 M. Zrull We can sculpt and paint, compose and make music, choreograph and dance. Brain processes bring about these things. We see and appreciate collages and watercolors, hear and "are moved by" concertos and rock-and-roll, watch and appreciate ballet or modern. Brain processes produce these experiences. So, we will ask about the process of making "art" as well as learn about and discuss brain processes that let people do art. We'll also consider the process of perceiving and appreciating art as well as investigate and talk about neural processes that let people have those experiences. In the style of a seminar, I hope we can gain and assess first hand information about doing and experiencing some of the arts as well as make a serious effort to investigate and discuss some of the related brain structures and neural processes.

HON 2515-105 Narratives in the Caring TR 11-12:15 AH 187 C. Osmond Professions (20)

Being a professional in the 21st century means being "scientific": seriously data-driven, and all about outcomes. But our most serious profession – medicine – has begun to realize that science leaves a lot of what matters most out, and that paying attention to stories has as much to do with being a great doctor as all the double-blind studies in the world. This course will explore the important insights that "narrative medicine" offers to both those preparing to work in a caring profession (e.g., physicians, teachers, nurses, social workers) and to anyone who is interested in bringing who they are to what they do. We'll read theory and research, as well as fiction, poems, and patient narratives about the experience of giving and receiving care; you'll leave with knowledge, skills and attitudes that will help you sustain yourself and those you work with, whatever field you end up working in.

HON 2515-101 Vienna (20)May- 2014Vienna J.Toub/V. Mansure/A. Hellenbrand(this is a summer travel course that requires application through the professors; 18 seats)

Junior Seminars

HON 3515-101 Music & Politics TR 12:30-1:45 AH 162 N. Love (Cross-list with PS 3530-410 for 10 seats)

How does music "move" people to engage in politics? Campaign themes and protest songs, military marches and national anthems, folk songs and hip-hop – many types of music have a role in politics. This course explores the various ways music – its lyrics, melodies, and rhythms –mobilizes citizens as political actors. Through music and the arts, more generally, people have resisted symbolic domination, recognized cultural differences, mobilized political supporters, and pluralized public discourse. In doing so, they have created pathways between their individual lives and collective struggles for social justice. The musicians and movements we study span the political spectrum and all actively participate in local-to-global politics. Students will examine interdisciplinary readings on music and politics from multiple perspectives – socio-political, neuro-psychological, techno-aesthetic, and geo-cultural. They will then apply those perspectives to case studies of musical activists and political movements. Students in the course will write and present research papers on an activist musician from a movement of their choice.

HON 3515-102 Zombie Masters (16) TR 9:30-10:45 AH 186 L.S. Jones Parasites to Politics

There is an obsession in contemporary US culture with the concept of the zombie, one definition being that it is "a dead person who is able to move because of magic..." While there are no documented cases of the reanimated dead, it is also used to describe someone who is hypnotized and under another's control. This is also somewhat fantastic, but comes closer to reality for humans. But in nature there are many examples of one organism "taking over" the body (not quite corpse?) of another and making it move as the controller wishes. Many of these "zombie masters" are documented in a dedicated issue of the Journal of Experimental Biology and this course will start with an examination of many of those examples of parasitic neuromodulation from insects to mammals. The course will then veer into the realm of memes as behavioral parasites and how they are delivered in various forms of media and used

to control society. Readings will range from Machiavelli to zombie novels and some movies to try to understand the reasons for our cultural fascination with – and fear of – the zombie masters. There will be extensive reading, discussion, and writing; it is not for the faint-hearted.

HON 3515-103 We Are Water MW 3:30-445 LLR 321 K. Cockerill (Cross-listed with IDS 3010 for 10 seats)

Water is a focal point for study in disciplines ranging from art to zoology. This interdisciplinary course will look at water policy relevant to how we manage water resources; who gets water, for what purpose; and the impacts of these decisions on the resource. It will discuss the ways we use water, abuse it, revere it, ignore it, and fight over it. In the US, our quality of life is entirely dependent on cheap, plentiful, clean water. We use it in vast amounts to produce power, grow food, and protect our health. The class will cover the intersections among our scientific understanding of water flows, our technological developments, and our cultural attitudes and subsequent behavior toward this elemental resource.

HON 3515-104 Tycoons, Titans, MW 2-3:15 RH 3019 L. Dunston Blaggards (Cross-list with FIN 3545-410, 10 seats)

This course is anchored in the idea that the well-informed person should be familiar with the broad business history of America. The format for the course is to utilize select portions of the biographies of the most impactful persons in American business history. Through those lives and stories the student will learn the principles and history of business as it evolved in America and tangentially in the world from 1770 through 2008. This will be a broad overview focusing on the exploits, successes and failures of persons such as Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Jay Gould, Diamond Jim Brady J.P. Morgan, Henry Ford, Franklin Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, Paul Volcker, Alan Greenspan, Warren Buffett ,Sandy Weill, Bill Gates, Jack Welch, and Steve Jobs in an effort to provide a broad contextual framework within which to begin to know understand and appreciate the history of the most dynamic business environment in the history of the world.

HON 3515-105 Emerging Technologies TR 11-12:15 RH 2017 S. McGann (Cross-list with CIS 3710 for 10 seats each)

In the current information age, we are exposed daily to the profound impact of information technology (IT). In this course we will spend the semester on the "bleeding edge" of IT, exploring the hottest IT trends such as cloud computing, wireless & mobile devices, big data and biometrics. We will analyze modern IT's impact on business strategies, societal norms and our day-to-day lives, while daring to predict its future impact. Through lively discussion and interactive activities, our goal is to increase awareness of the transformative nature of IT and recognize the opportunities and challenges it presents to us as future leaders and global citizens.

HON 3515-106 Japanese Lit & Identity	MW 3:30-4:45	LLR Rm 421	Wentworth, J.
(Cross-list with IDS 2205 fo	r 10 seats)		

This course is an introduction to Japanese literature and to the theme of identity. We will read acknowledged masterpieces from some of Japan's greatest writers and view exceptional films that relate to literature. We will read Paul Varley's broad, very good introduction to Japanese culture, that places art and literature in some historical context. See the book list below. // As a model, I will lead a discussion of <u>Tales of Genji (Part I)</u>; then the course will become a seminar in which the initial discussion of each book will be led by a pair or trio of students. When possible, student pairs will combine a person more experienced in things Japanese with a person less experienced. Each pair will take on one novel, and will prepare a formal presentation and lead the discussion. In addition, each person will write a short (ca. five pages) paper on a topic or topics from the book for which he/she led the discussion. Each person will also write a final analytic/research paper (ca.10-12 pp) on a topic/theme of her/his choice that deals with the literature and films (if desired) and identity. I will discuss this with you in class and will meet with each of you individually. // Obviously, this course will be a challenge since there is <u>a lot of reading</u> and three products:

presentation, short paper, and long paper. I hope you will be willing to read what you don't always understand and won't be tested on. We will discuss vigorously, but open-mindedly, materials that may be quite unlike what you have seen before. This is challenging and exciting as well as mind-bending just based on cultural similarities and differences. However, it will be as fun as it is challenging because the material is so fine. // This course is interdisciplinary in at least three important ways: first, we will discuss social, economic, political, literary, psychological, religious, and historical ideas in comparative ways across cultures; second, we will compare film and literature in several ways; and third, you will integrate what you have learned by preparing for and participating in discussion (a primary interdisciplinary method), by synthesizing ideas about Japanese identity, and by developing a theme that applies to several of the works we'll encounter. // **Books:** Varley, Paul. Japanese Culture (throughout); Lady Murasaki, Tale of Gengi, Part One (1006?); Basho, Matsuo (1644?-1694); Narrow Road to the Deep North (1694); Soseki, Natsume (1867-1916); Kokoro (1914); Mishima, Yukio (1925-1970) Confessions of a Mask (1949); Enchi, Fumiko (1905-1986) Masks (1958); Oe, Kenzuboro (1946-present) The Silent Cry (1967); Murakami, Haruki (1949-present) Wind-Up Bird Chronicle (1997); Tanizaki, Junichiro (1886-1965), Some Prefer Nettles (1929); Kawabata, Yasunari (1899-1972), Thousand Cranes (1952)// Films (usually Sunday evenings beginning at 7 or 8): KwaidanMishima: A Life in Four Chapters and Patriotism; Chushingura Double Suicide; Ping Pong; Woman in the Dunes; Black Rain

HON 3515-107 Cartoons to Colbert: TR 12:30-1:45 AH 163 DeHart, J. Political Humor Explorations (16)

In the midst of smiling and laughing at political cartoons, television shows, movies, speeches that use humor, comedy routines, email jokes, and other forms of political humor, students investigate the impact that political humor has on public discourse and interpretation of meaning. We trace the history of political humor in society, analyze techniques used in humor, and discuss controversial examples of humor.

HON 3515-xxx Vienna (20)May- 2014J.Toub/V. Mansure/A. Hellenbrand(this is a summer travel course that requires application through the professors; 18 seats)

HON 3515-xxx PolandMay 2014PolandM. Meznar & J. Cazier(this is a summer travel course that requires application through the professors; 5 seats)M. Meznar & J. Cazier

HON 3515-xxx Brazil & SustainabilityMay 2014BrazilA. Harris & S. Vannoy(this is a summer travel course that requires application through the professors; 5 seats)A. Harris & S. Vannoy

Special Topics Courses

HON 3530-101 Selected Topics:F 2-3AH 186L.S. JonesScientific Publishing (Neuroscience)NOTE: permission of instructor only (10)This is a required course for any students who wish to join the IMPULSE review team. IMPULSE is aninternational, online journal for undergraduates to publish their neuroscience research. The review teamcomprises undergraduates from around the world with the Editor-in-Chief at the University of SouthCarolina and other faculty-led review teams at ASU, Middlebury, and Vanderbilt. The website is hostedat APP, and an Associate Editor and Publicity Editor are part of the APP@IMPULSE team. For moreinformation email jonesls@appstate.edu.

 HON 3531-101 Int'l Internship (2 s.h.)
 TBA
 TBA
 L.S. Jones

 NOTE: application required; more info at: http://honors.appstate.edu/academics/international-education/international-experiences