

Spring 2015 HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

University Honors Spring 2015

(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, The PowerBook 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, The Guardian, 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, Death: Philosophical Soundings *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, The God of Small Things; J.M. Ledgard, Submergence; J.M. Coetzee, Age of Iron; Muriel Barbery, The Elegance of the Hedgehog; Annie Dillard, For The Time Being; Anne Michaels, Fugitive Pieces; Additional essays, short stories and poems

Sophomore Seminars

HON 2515-101 Graphic Novel MW 3:30-4:45 AH 162 C. Fischer

Over the last ten years, interest in comics and graphic novels has exploded—yet few know about the aesthetic form and rich history of the comics medium. This class is for those who want to understand comics in deeper, richer ways: it's for students tired of the fannish "I like this / I don't like this" commentary about comics that dominates print and on-line discussions.

We'll begin by discussing in detail the form of comics, focusing on such issues as realistic vs. iconic representation, "the clear line," and the comic book page as graphic map. Our central text here will be Scott McCloud's Understanding Comics, though we'll concurrently read articles that challenge and problematize McCloud's theories.

We'll then survey the histories of comic books and comic strips in the United States and other countries: creators we'll study include Charles Addams, David B., Lynda Barry, Alison Bechdel, Eddie Campbell, Milton Caniff, Daniel Clowes, Robert Crumb, Kim Deitch, Steve Ditko, Debbie Drechsler, Will Eisner, Justin Green, Matt Groening, Gilbert Hernandez, Jaime Hernandez, George Herriman, Kevin Huizenga, Jack Kirby, Bernard Krigstein, Harvey Kurtzman, Stan Lee, Bill Maudlin, David Mazzucchelli, Winsor McCay, Moebius, Alan Moore, Gary Panter, Harvey Pekar, Charles Schulz, Art Spiegelman, Jiro Taniguchi, Jacques Tardi, Osamu Tezuka, Yoshiharu Tsuge, Carol Tyler, Naoki Urasawa, Bill Watterson, Jim Woodring and many others.

The class will conclude with each student creating his/her own mini-comic.

HON 2515-102 Uncaped Crusaders TR 2-3:15 AH 187 A. Mead

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator to be endowed with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” These words are part of the foundation of the United States, yet over two hundred years later, we still aren’t there. Not all men and women are treated as equal. In this course, we’ll explore in a collaborative manner the ways in which some groups have unequal access to resources. Issues to be discussed may include but are not limited to: civil rights, education (K-12 and higher education), medical and psychological care, affordable housing, criminal justice, environmental protections, and other social justice issues. This course will require extensive reading, writing and class discussions, and will draw upon current events in the news to serve as a lens to focus our discussion on social justice issues in America and the world today.

HON 2515-103 Art and the Brain (20) MW 2-3:15 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 2515-104 Food Fights: TR 12:30-1:45 AH 187 GA McDowell
Cannibalizing Culture

Everyone knows the saying, “you are what you eat.” This course will question the current reality of this phrase by examining the relationship between food and culture. We will explore how culture is being altered in the modern, global context. This will include an analysis of all aspects of subsistence (how we feed ourselves) including food production, preparation, and consumption. Recent economic and environmental trends have led to increasing dependence on the global food system, and, in reaction, alternative food movements. In this class we will consider both sides of such food fights and the impact to culture/s including aspects of taste, health, family structures, economics, migration, religion, identity, sustainability, etc. Readings will span the disciplines of anthropology, literature, and investigative journalism, and will include political activism, philosophy, ethnography, an eco-fable, a novel, and a memoir.

HON 2515-105 Darwin (20) TR 12:30-1:45 AH 163 J. Waters

Two of the greatest influences on modern society were born on February 12, 1809 - Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin. As President, Lincoln led the country through a very bloody, but short, civil war and set the tone for how we view equality in this country to this day. Lincoln is generally revered for his actions. Charles Darwin was a geologist and biologist who gave us a scientific theory that unites humans with all other species on the planet and provided 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 2515-106 East Asian Cultures TR 2-3:15 AH 162 X. Tu
and Societies

Need reasons to take a class about Asia? Here are a few. The Asian economy is fast growing and Asian cultures are fun. Just a hundred years ago, Asia was the poorest continent on earth, now it has both the second and third largest economies in the world (China and Japan). In addition, the so-called four dragons (South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore) are important regional and global economic powerhouses. In an increasingly-globalized job market, knowledge about Asia could add to your credentials and qualifications. Are you curious about the ancient wisdom of Buddhism, Taoism, and Shinto? Are you interested in Kungfu, anime, and other forms of Asian popular culture? This is a chance for you to learn about them.

HON 2515-101 Ireland (16) May- 2014 Ireland Vienna C. Claassen

This is a summer course requiring application.

Junior Seminars

HON 3515-101 Music & Politics MW 2-3:15 AB 13 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 MWF 9-9:50 LLR 221 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, & TR 11-12:15 PH 3011 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 Global Information Technologies TR 12:30-1:45 PH 1010 Mitchell, A.

This course presents students with the concepts and issues inherent in global information technology. The course examines the issues associated with using technology in a global environment, how global systems are developed, how culture, language, etc. impact systems and their development, outsourcing, strategies for global systems development and use, and issues facing Far East, European, Latin America, and Third World countries.

HON 3515-106 King Arthur (16) TR 9:30-10:45 *AH 163 & U.K. Hellenbrand, A.

Come on a journey to explore the stories of King Arthur and the places that have shaped those stories! The story was originally part of the heroic “history” of Britain (Geoffrey of Monmouth). Since the Middle Ages, the figure of King Arthur has fascinated audiences across time, across genres (film, art, music, literature) and across national boundaries. We will explore the figure and legend of King Arthur in both familiar and unfamiliar texts, comparing medieval and modern versions, and considering the relevance of the legend for modern audiences. As King Arthur has become rather a global phenomenon, his story has also remained locally shaped by the geography of Great Britain. For the first time, this HON 3515 will offer a course-embedded international experience in which students will visit Arthurian sites in England over spring break: Stonehenge, Tintagel, Caerleon, Glastonbury, Winchester Castle and the Round Table. Students will be expected, if they participate in this trip, to have a course-related project for which they will do on-site research while participating in the trip. **Students will be expected to participate in this trip and to have a course-related project for which they will do on-site research while participating in the trip. Course has a REQUIRED spring break trip to Britain.**

Students will be expected, if they participate in this trip, to have a course-related project for which they will do on-site research while participating in the trip.

- *** Course has a REQUIRED spring break trip to Britain.**

HON 3515-107 Unlearning Racism: R 3:30-6 RCoE Wilson, B.

Racial Literacy for Responsible Citizenship (X-list COE 3515-410 12 seats for HON)

Racial literacy offers a dynamic framework for understanding the ways in which race and racism implicitly and explicitly manifest and function in American society. It entails critically examining and continually questioning how race and racism, power, and supremacy inform our individual and cultural beliefs, practices, and our institutions. This course stands on the belief that in order to change the way racism and supremacy manifest, race has to be directly addressed rather than ignored. Consequently, this course requires a commitment to break the taboos of talking about race by grappling with and appreciating diverse and unfamiliar experiences and recognizing that there is much to learn.

HON 3515-108 HON 3515-105 Bringing the World Home (16) TR 12:30-1:45 AH 161 Dubino, J.

(restricted first to seniors needing it for Honors graduation)

This course is for Honors students who, for one reason or another, cannot complete their international education requirement abroad. It is designed to create an international experience at home, here in the US. One of the time-honored ways of “reaching the world” is by reading travelogues. In the first part of this course we will read some of the latest contemporary travel literature, and read essays from *The Best American Travel Writing* (ed. Paul Theroux, 2014) and *Best Women's Travel Writing: True Stories from Around the World* (ed. Lavinia Spalding, Book 10). We will also consider how the world outside the US sees us, and read Gary Younge's *No Place Like Home: A Black Briton's Journey Through the American South*. Finally, we will discuss the impact of global travel on the world, and our guide here will be Elizabeth Becker's *Overbook: The Exploding Business of Travel and Tourism*.

For the final part of the class, you will write about your own travel experiences, and through your writing you will have the chance to understand the multi-disciplinary quality of travelogues. One of the great advantages of travel books is that they allow you to look at a country through an array of lenses: literary, historical, ethnographic, scientific, and more. For the second part of this class, we will focus on your own areas of interest. You will each have the opportunity to develop your research skills, especially those related to your discipline, in a global context. You will design a portfolio that will give you the opportunity to think more globally about your major.

HON 3515-101 Ireland (16) May- 2014 Ireland Vienna C. Claassen
 This is a summer course requiring application.

Special Topics Courses

HON 3530-101 Selected Topics: F 2-3 AH 186 L.S. Jones

Scientific 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 an international, online journal for undergraduates to publish their neuroscience research. The review team comprises undergraduates from around the world with the Editor-in-Chief at the University of South Carolina and other faculty-led review teams at ASU, Middlebury, and Vanderbilt. The website is hosted at APP, and an Associate Editor and Publicity Editor are part of the APP@IMPULSE team. For more information email jonesls@appstate.edu.

HON 3531-101 Int'l Internship (2 s.h.) TBA TBA L.S. Jones
 NOTE: application was required and deadline has passed.