

Fall 2007 Honors Seminars

HONR 300L111
Honors Ethics
MW 3:30-4:45 G. Ulary

Description: In this course, students will reflect upon and critically evaluate a number of fundamental moral questions as they are broached in some of the major ethical theories (utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, rights-ethics, care-ethics, etc.). Besides Honors, this seminar satisfies the College's CORE Ethics requirement.

HONR 310L111
Versions of the Self:
Altered States
TR 11:00-12:15

D. Anderson

Description: Going back at least to the writers of Ancient Greece and Rome, there has been an artistic fascination with human transformations. Some of it was clearly grounded in religious practice as well as attempts to understand perceived "peculiarities" of the natural world and of human behavior. This course will explore works from the Renaissance until the present - beginning with A Midsummer Night's Dream and examining writers such as Lewis Carroll, Franz Kafka, Kurt Vonnegut, Ken Kesey and others. Students will also be investigating other forms of expression such as art, music, and film to broaden the search to come to some conclusions about why we are drawn to human transformations- ranging from the inept and clueless to the rebel and the superhero. Besides Honors, this course satisfies the CORE requirement in Literature and may serve as elective credit for the English major and minor.

HONR 310L112
Versions of the Self:
Performing the Nation
TR 11:00-12:15 E. Curley

Description: This course will explore how national identity has been performed in the US since the 18th century. We will look at the different ways in which the performance of a national identity interacts with personal and group identities. We will examine both traditional performances, such as those by turn-of-the-century immigrants who perform versions of themselves in Vaudeville acts, and everyday performances, such as those by participants in thanksgiving parades. Course materials will be wide-ranging and will include plays, historical and theoretical documents, and performance footage. Besides Honors, this course satisfies the CORE requirement in Literature and serves as elective credit for the English major and minor.

HONR311L111
Versions of the Self:
Culture and Psychology
TF 9:30-10:45 P. Del Rosario

Description: This course examines the theories and research regarding the ways that culture influences human thoughts, feelings, and social behaviors. The course recasts "knowledge" and "truth" in psychology by incorporating culture and context as important frameworks in understanding human behavior in an ever-broadening global community. Besides Honors, this seminar satisfies the CORE Social Science requirement and may serve as elective credit for the Psychology major and minor.

HONR 320L111**Art of Culture:****The Literature, Film, and Culture of Hispanics in the US****MW 5:00-6:15****I. Casey**

Description: This course will provide a basic appreciation and understanding of the culture of Hispanics in the US. We read the writings of Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and Dominicans in the US and see film by and about them. Although the experiences of these groups may be different, their creations give a vision of their lives and what binds them together in the US. Besides Honors, this course satisfies the CORE requirement in Literature, the ethnic/national literature requirement for the English major, elective credit for the English minor, and the Cultural Diversity requirement.

HONR321L111**Art of Culture:****Everyday Life and Media Arts****W 2:00-4:45****B. Phares**

Description: From Walter Benjamin's writing on the significance of trash, or the group Mass-Observation and their attempt to plot "weather maps of public felling," this course will follow theory from Simmel, Benjamin, Merleau-Ponty, Freud, and Paolo Virno through movements such as Dada, Surrealism, Mass Observation, and the Situationists as ways to locate poetry and the fantastic in the hidden and ignored. Besides Honors, this course satisfies the CORE Fine Arts requirement and serves as elective credit for the COMM major.

HONR 321L112**Art of Culture:****Music that Built America****MR 2:00-3:15****A. Himmelberger**

Description: Besides Honors, this course will satisfy the Core requirement in Fine Arts.

HONR 330L111**Hudson River Valley Studies****MW 3:30-4:45 J. Johnson**

Description: The course examines the history, biography, culture, architecture, literature, art, politics, and economy of the Hudson River Valley from pre-Columbian times to the present. Besides Honors, the seminar satisfies the CORE requirement in History and serves as elective credit for the History major and minor.

HONR 340L111**Global Engagement:****Writers in Exile****MW 3:30-4:45****M. Franklin**

Description: The course explores the way individuals confront a position of exile and the cultural, ethical, economic, and political frameworks that exist in countries outside the US. Besides Honors, this seminar satisfies the CORE requirement in English and the Cultural Diversity Requirement. This seminar may also serve as elective credit for the English major or minor or satisfy the comparative, ethnic, or national (non-Anglo-American) requirement in the English major.

HONR 341L111

Global Engagement:

The US and the World: Conflict and Cooperation in a Multicultural World

MR 9:30-10:45

L. Zuccarello

Description: This course will explore selected current issues that confront the US in its dealings with other nations and regions of the world. Students will consider three approaches: political, economic, and cultural. The class will explore issues involving Iraq and North Korea, outsourcing, and immigration policy and study the international policies on human rights as they relate to gender equality and freedom of religion. Besides Honors, this seminar satisfies the CORE Social Science requirement and may serve as elective credit for the Political Science major and minor.

HONR 351L111

Science, Technology, and Society:

Sociobiology

MW 5:00-6:15

V. Ingalls

Description: A biological view of social behavior, this course will examine how natural selection has helped shape the social behavior of all animals, including the evolution of behavioral tendencies in humans. Besides Honors, this course satisfies the CORE Natural Science requirement, and it may serve as elective credit for Biology majors.