



Course Descriptions

University Honors Program

Fall 2024

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Origins and Evolution of Modern Thought

The Good Life

Professor William Winstead

HONR 1015:MV - 4 Credits

CRN: 81260

MW 1:00PM - 2:15PM

Discussion Section: HONR 1015:M30, M 2:30PM – 3:20PM (CRN: 81605)

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HONR 1015:MV1 - 4 Credits

CRN: 81345

MW 6:10PM - 7:25PM

Discussion Section: HONR 1015:M31, W 2:30PM – 3:20PM (CRN: 81606)

Fulfills:

- UW 1020
- CCAS: Philosophy major/minor course PHIL 2111

Course Description: How may we flourish in a complex and ever-changing world? What constitutes a good life in the fullest sense? Does an authentic life depend principally upon virtue, reason, or happiness? What role should pleasure, desire, and love play in a life well lived? The question of “the good life” and its achievement is the principle theme of antiquity in both the Western and Eastern traditions. Philosophers, poets, historians, and political leaders contribute richly to the debate, often with sharply conflicting solutions to the perennial problem of realizing an authentic, meaningful existence. Our readings this semester will come from both Eastern and Western traditions, and include texts from the Greek (Sophocles, Thucydides, Plato), Chinese (Confucius, Lao-Tzu, Zhuangzi), and Indian (Buddha) traditions. Our discussions will be guided by fundamental questions: How ought I live? What is good (and, equally, what is bad or evil)? What is human nature? What is justice or a just community? What is knowledge or wisdom? Throughout the semester, our discussions will be collective, critical, and open-ended.

Well-Being

Professor Eyal Aviv

HONR 1015:MV2 - 4 Credits

CRN: 86337

TR 6:10PM - 7:25PM

Discussion Section: HONR 1015:M32, R 5:00PM – 5:50PM (CRN: 86510)

Fulfills:

- UW 1020
- CCAS: Philosophy major/minor course PHIL 2111

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Course Description: Ancient thinkers followed the command of the oracle of Delphi "know thyself!" They saw life as a path of self-discovery and believed that living right would result in a state of Eudaimonia (Well-Being). During this fall semester, we will explore the oracle's ancient call. We will reflect upon the different visions of Well-Being, on the conditions that create them, on a society that fosters such life and how one should contribute to such a society. We will do so through engaging with some of the most fascinating Western and non-Western thinkers and writers in ancient world history, from the Hellenistic, Daoist, Confucian, and Buddhist schools, among others.

Love

Professor Joseph Trullinger
HONR 1015:MV3 - 4 Credits
CRN: 87445
MW 10:00AM - 11:15AM
Discussion Section: HONR 1015:M33, M 8:30AM – 9:20AM (CRN: 84239)

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HONR 1015:MV4 - 4 Credits
CRN: 81346
MW 11:30AM - 12:45PM
Discussion Section: HONR 1015:M34, W 8:30AM – 9:20AM (CRN: 81607)

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HONR 1015:MV5 - 4 Credits
CRN 84815
TR 9:30AM - 10:45AM
Discussion Section: HONR 1015:M35, T 8:30AM – 9:20AM (CRN: 84814)

Fulfills:

- UW 1020
- CCAS: Philosophy major/minor course PHIL 2111

Course Description: Subcomandante Marcos once wrote, "love follows its own path and is always a transgressor of the law." Love in this sense seems fundamentally free, or at least wild and untamable; but if it is always beyond the law, then that would imply some law by which it *has to be* an outlaw. Love's paradoxical character—as both unruly and having its own rules, as both bitter and sweet, as both a universal force and yet directed at specific people—forms the theme we trace through philosophical and poetic classics of ancient China and Greece. We will ponder the nature of love as it pertains to family structures, interfamilial conflict, gender roles, queer longing, emotional vulnerability, and our place in nature.

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Truth

Professor Michael McCourt
HONR 1015:MV6 - 4 Credits
CRN: 85611
TR 11:15AM - 12:30PM
Discussion Section: HONR 1015:M36, F 9:00AM – 9:50AM (CRN: 85610)

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HONR 1015:MV8 - 4 Credits
CRN: 82131
TR 1:00PM - 2:15PM
Discussion Section: HONR 1015:M38, F 10:00AM – 10:50AM (CRN: 82130)

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HONR 1015:MV9 - 4 Credits
CRN: 83159
TR 2:45PM - 4:00PM
Discussion Section: HONR 1015:M39, F 11:00AM – 11:50AM (CRN: 83193)

Fulfills:

- UW 1020
- CCAS: Philosophy major/minor course PHIL 2111

Course Description: We want to learn what is true about ourselves and our world and also to be truthful to others. Two can disagree, sometimes inviting talk of "his truth versus mine." However, believing truly seems to be a lower standard than believing truly for good reason, an observation that seems to be incompatible with a relativistic view on which there are as many truths as people. It remains to be said what makes a reason a good one, and what makes a person rational and wise. Certainty seems desirable. But, as many of our ancient authors observe, it is often difficult if not impossible to know for sure which of your beliefs are true, since your experiences could be misleading. And there may be truths that we cannot state or fully grasp. Truth and related notions like knowledge, wisdom, and understanding are the immediate focus of this class, but with the further aim of discussing the role of these phenomena in a happy human life. We will ask questions such as the following. What is truth? Where do our beliefs come from? What is knowledge? What is wisdom? Is it sometimes useful for you to believe something false? Is it sometimes best for a state to lie to its citizens? What do we know is true for sure? How is our ability to know what is true involved in a happy and virtuous human life? Can people and their societies be happy without knowledge of what is true? Is doubt compatible with (or maybe even necessary for) happiness? Our discussion of these questions will be guided by authors who wrote between roughly 2700 and 1900 years ago in Classical Chinese, Ancient Greek, Latin, Pali, and Sanskrit.

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Scientific Reasoning and Discovery

Life: A Journey Through Earth's Biodiversity

Professor Thiago Moreira
HONR 1033:MV - 4 Credits
CRN: 87446
MW 9:00AM - 10:50AM

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HONR 1033:MV1 - 4 Credits
CRN: 87447
MW 1:00PM - 2:50PM

Fulfills:

- GPAC Scientific Reasoning (natural/physical science with lab)
- CCAS: GPAC Local/Civic Engagement

Course Description: “A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children.” — John James Audubon

Are you alive? What is it to be alive? What are the limits of life? How diverse is life? Our planet is brimming with life. From the depths of the oceans to the tallest mountains, we find different life forms. Some beautiful, some scary, some intriguing, and some... weird. But all amazing. To understand better the lifeforms around us and how they connect to the planet is to understand ourselves better. In this course, we will explore life on our planet in a broad aspect. We will explore the major groups of living things and how they come to be. How different lifeforms are interconnected, and how they relate and interact with other. How life started and (almost) ended (several times!). We will use modern biological theory to get foundational knowledge about the sciences that explore biodiversity and its relations with the planet. We will study how we use science and its methodologies to recognize, describe and catalog the several different lifeforms on the planet and how to use this knowledge to ask meaningful, scientific questions about life. Once we have a solid basis, we can permit ourselves to ponder a bit about the most theoretical and philosophical aspects of life: when does life start? When does it end? Are we alone in the universe? How can we recognize alien life when (or if) we ever find some? By the end of our encounters, you will have a deeper understanding of life on Earth, its varieties, and the importance of preserving it for future generations.

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Energy

Professor Bethany Cobb Kung

HONR 1033:MV4 - 4 Credits

CRN: 81343

TR 9:00AM - 10:50 AM

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HONR 1033:MV7 - 4 Credits

CRN: 81975

TR 11:00AM - 12:50PM

Fulfills:

- GPAC Scientific Reasoning (natural/physical science with lab)
- CCAS: GPAC Local/Civic Engagement

Course Description: Our lives are a complex web of energy, yet we never give energy much thought. Only when energy resources (e.g. oil, solar, nuclear) become big news do people start paying attention. But how can we be savvy consumers of energy rhetoric without a basic understanding of the fundamental physics of energy? This course will serve as an introduction to the physics of energy, from the basics, e.g. kinetic vs. potential energy, to more complex issues such as energy production, storage and transportation. We will explore alternative energy sources such as solar and nuclear energy. Topics to be covered will include:

* The physics of energy: work, power, heat, electromagnetic radiation, electricity

* Energy storage and transportation: fuels, batteries, the electrical grid

* Nuclear physics: atoms, quantum mechanics, fission and fusion

* Energy resources: coal, wind, alternative fuels, solar, nuclear

Throughout the course, students will also tackle the fundamentals of science including the scientific method, experimentation, and error measurement. Quantitative analysis will be emphasized to help build problem solving abilities and mathematical intuition (mathematics will be confined to algebra and geometry). This course is designed to increase student scientific curiosity and science literacy. Students will be expected to take an active role in the classroom, where we will explore these topics through lecture, discussion, debate, writing, experimentation, group projects and mathematical exercises.

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Introductory and Special

Enlightenment East and West

Professor Eyal Aviv
HONR 2016:10 - 4 Credits
CRN: 83826
T 1:30PM - 4:00PM

Fulfills:

- CCAS: Philosophy major/minor course PHIL 2111

****This course is limited to students who have been admitted to the Honors Program as rising sophomores****

Course Description: Throughout history, philosophers, poets, and religious leaders have argued that there is more to life than meets the eye. To help us, ancient and modern thinkers chart paths to see reality more clearly. In Ancient Athens, for example, Plato encouraged us to use wisdom to climb out of the cave of ignorance and see the light of truth. In India, sages and philosophers asked us to lift the veil of ignorance to see things as they are. In this seminar, we will follow some of these ancient and more modern paths.

We will focus on two relevant key terms as our guiding themes, Enlightenment and Liberation, and cover thinkers seeking liberation from, among others, epistemological, political, racial, and gender bondages. We will examine similarities and differences between various seminal responses to the problems of human wisdom, truth, suffering, injustice, and liberation. Together, we will ask what prevents us from seeing reality more clearly and, if we agree that it is needed, what we can do to ensure personal and collective liberation.

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Self & Society

Ancient Skies: Our Journey to Understand the Cosmos

Professor Shanil Virani
HONR 2047:12 - 3 Credits
CRN: 85826
M 6:10PM - 8:40PM

Fulfills:

- GPAC Critical Thinking in the Social Sciences

Course Description: The Great Pyramids of Egypt. Newgrange in Ireland. Stonehenge in England. Angkor Wat in Cambodia. Chaco Canyon in the American southwest. Chichen Itza in Mexico. Macchu Pichu in Peru. These are just a few of the elaborate structures that our ancestors built that indicate they deciphered the pattern of the motion of the Sun over the course of the year. They understood that the Sun did not rise due East every day and did not set due west every day. They understood there was a season of cold, of warmth, of growth and renewal, and a time when nights grew long. Even the ancient Wayfinders of Polynesia figured out how to use the stars to navigate some of the most treacherous waters on Earth to discover many of the islands in the South Pacific. Join astronomer and host of the Our Island Universe podcast, Shanil Virani, as we journey through space and time to view the ancient skies of our ancestors to learn how they decoded its patterns and what that says about us as a species. Following in the path of our ancestors, semester-long observing of the day and night sky will allow you to make sense of the regular patterns they decoded.

Bio: Professor Virani is the host of Our Island Universe, a weekly podcast that looks at all things space. Professor Virani's research has focused on supermassive black holes at the center of galaxies.

Politics and Culture

Professor Harvey Feigenbaum
HONR 2047:13 - 3 Credits
CRN: 86511
T 1:00PM - 3:30PM

Fulfills:

- GPAC Critical Thinking in the Social Sciences

Course Description: This is a course that examines a number of the ways that issues of culture and politics intersect. While the subject is vast, and could hardly be exhausted by a single course, the purpose of this seminar is to give the student an idea as to some of the ways in which culture affects politics and in which politics affects culture. As always in a proseminar, there will be no lectures. Rather, we will discuss the readings assigned each week. Topics will include the political and cultural dimensions of the film industry, nationalism, fascism and foreign policy...among others topics.

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Bio: Dr. Feigenbaum is a Professor of Political Science and International Affairs. He is an expert on the political economy of Western Europe and is currently writing a book on the political economy of the entertainment industry, focusing on the United States, France, and Britain.

Identity and Politics in Africa

Professor Matthew Kirwin
HONR 2047:14 - 3 Credits
CRN: 86512
M 5:10PM - 7:00PM

Fulfills:

- GPAC Critical Thinking in the Social Sciences

Course Description: The class will focus on African identities and how they both shape and are shaped by political behavior. It will commence with an examination of the origin stories of several key ethnic groups and how these narratives shape claims to legitimacy in modern polities. The class will also investigate how westerners have regarded Africa and how these largely pejorative perceptions affected western engagement with the continent and how these views continue to resonate today. It will attempt to answer the question of how identity affects political access and resource distribution on the continent. The class will conclude with a discussion of how outsiders, foreign governments and militaries as well as global extremist organizations seek to influence the continent while also considering how African publics interpret these efforts. The class will take a multimedia approach, relying on academic articles, films, novels and music to examine how African identities are formed and shaped.

Bio: Dr. Kirwin is a Division Chief in the Office of Opinion Research at the US Department of State who has over 20 years of work and research experience on development, and security in Africa. He once served in the Peace Corps in Niger and was awarded GW's Morton A. Bender Teaching Award in 2021.

Providing Reading Materials for Underprivileged Children

Professor Leo Chalupa
HONR 2047:15 - 3 Credits
CRN: 86513
TR 2:20PM - 3:35PM

Fulfills:

- GPAC Critical Thinking in the Social Sciences

Course Description: Since the early 1950s a vast literature from the neurosciences has established the paramount importance of experience on the developing brain. The preschool years have been shown to play a determining factor in subsequent successful performance in school, and indeed, in life in general. In this context, it is alarming that children raised in disadvantaged socioeconomic families often have little or no experience with age-appropriate books. The main objective of the class is to devise a children's book drive at GWU and to distribute these books to economically disadvantaged families. The course will be comprised of the following: (i) a selective review of the relevant neuroscientific and educational literature documenting the important of exposure to books from infancy through

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preschool; (ii) designing a workable plan for obtaining children's book donations from the GWU community (and possibly related groups); the sorting and storage of these books, as well as the distribution of these books utilizing appropriate channels within the District of Columbia.

A term paper based on the course experience will be required.

Bio: Dr. Chalupa is a Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology in GW's School of Medicine and Health Sciences whose research focuses on the developmental neurobiology of visual systems. He served for nearly a decade as GW's first Vice President for Research, growing GW's research profile significantly during his tenure.

Cross-listed Honors courses

NOTE: Students must be registered in the HONR section in order to receive UHP credit. For courses that are cross-listed with another department, the UHP can add "credit" for a course to the student's DegreeMAP within the major and/or minor's requirements block. Students must have officially declared the major or minor with their respective school, and it must be reflected on their DegreeMAP at the time of the request. Students may also petition their school/major to accept HONR courses they find are relevant to their curriculum requirements. For any questions, please see a UHP Program Manager.

A cross-listed course is a course that is shared with another department, please pay careful attention to the GPAC attributes associated with each cross-listed course.

Holocaust Memory

Professor Walter Reich
HONR 2047:81 - 3 Credits
CRN: 85612
W 3:30PM - 6:00PM

Fulfills:

- This course has no GPAC designations
- CCAS: Upper-level History European Regional requirement
- ESIA: Comparative, Political, Economic, and Social Systems, Conflict Resolution, Contemporary Cultures and Societies, Europe and Eurasia, International Politics, Security Policy concentrations

Note that UHP students will only receive Self & Society credit if they are enrolled in the HONR 2047 section (CRN: 85612)

Course cross-listed with IAFF 3205.80 (CRN: 87499) and JSTD 2002.87 (CRN: 87579)

Course Description: The sources, construction, development, nature, uses and misuses of the memory, or public consciousness, of the Holocaust. How different publics in different countries, cultures and societies know, or think they know, about the Holocaust from diaries, memoirs, testimonies, fiction, documentaries, television, commercial films, memorials, museums, the Internet, educational programs and the statements of world leaders—some of them

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historically accurate and some of them highly distorted. The challenge of representing the Holocaust with fidelity and memorializing its victims with dignity and authenticity. The impact of Holocaust memory on contemporary responses to other genocides and to crimes against humanity. The increasing efforts to hijack, misuse, minimize, deny or attack the Holocaust for political, strategic, ideological, anti-Semitic or other purposes. The effectiveness—or lack of effectiveness—of Holocaust memory in teaching the Holocaust’s contemporary “lessons,” especially “Never again!” The roles of Holocaust memory, and of Holocaust denial or minimization, in international affairs, including in the Middle East in general and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in particular.

Bio: Dr. Reich is the Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Professor of International Affairs, Ethics and Human Behavior and Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He formerly served as a Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Justice and the Legal System I

Professor Jill Kasle
HONR 2047:82 - 3 Credits
CRN: 88040
T 3:30PM - 6:00PM

Fulfills:

- This course has no GPAC designations

Note that UHP students will only receive Self & Society credit if they are enrolled in the HONR 2047 section (CRN: 88040)

Course cross-listed with PPPA 2000.12 (CRN: 84395)

Course Description: Justice and the Legal System is a law school course in constitutional law that has been modified (but not dumbed down) for undergraduates. The course approaches the Constitution as both the blueprint of government (the Articles) and a list of rights (the Amendments). The readings in the course are Supreme Court opinions; for Fall 2024, some of the Supreme Court opinions may involve issues arising from the upcoming Fall 2024 presidential election. Students will have the opportunity to develop their ability to write in a brief and clear style. Law school teaching methods are used. The best description of the course was written a few years ago by a student in the course: "This course is the law school you go to before you go to law school."

Bio: Prof. Kasle is both a lawyer and Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration. She has extensive experience in telecommunication policy, has served on the Board of Advisors for GW's Undergraduate Law Review Journal, and was GW's university marshal for over two decades!

Musical Cultures of African Americans

Professor Shana Mashego
HONR 2047:83 - 3 Credits
CRN: 88098
MW 11:10AM - 12:25PM

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Fulfills:

- This course has no GPAC designations

Note that UHP students will only receive Self & Society credit if they are enrolled in the HONR 2047 section (CRN: 88098)

Course cross-listed with CMUS 2123.10 (CRN: 85537)

Course Description: In our course, Musical Cultures of American Americans, we will follow the narrative of American Popular Music through the soundtrack of African American music makers while studying the musicians they influenced and also those who influenced and informed their musical output. We will analyze a prescribed music soundtrack by seeking to understand the historical and sociocultural context that shaped the music maker as we listen to the artistic output of each musician with their societal narrative in mind.

We will study a wide variety of music makers including, but not limited to, the lives and music of Big Mama Thorton, Florence Price, Ludwig van Beethoven, Billie Holiday, Chuck Berry, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Prince, Beyoncé and Kendrick Lamar while keeping our fingers on the pulse of the motivations, connections, life experiences and historical narrative context of each musician

Bio: Dr. Mashego is a Visiting Assistant Professor of African American Music in the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design. Her work probes into the origin story of African Americans, as well as their contributions, struggles, triumphs, and disparities while living inside of the United States of America. Dr. Mashego is also a leading advocate for the preservation and performance practice of the Negro Spiritual.

Refugee & Migrant Crisis

Professor Shana Mashego
HONR 2047:84 - 3 Credits
CRN: 88104
R 5:10PM - 7:00PM

Fulfills:

- This course has no GPAC designations

Note that UHP students will only receive Self & Society credit if they are enrolled in the HONR 2047 section (CRN: 88104)

Course cross-listed with IAFF 3190.80 (CRN: 83109)

Course Description: Currently, there are over 100.0 million people around the world in displacement. We will examine various categories of displaced populations, such as migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and stateless people, from a definitional, global, humanitarian, and a legal perspective, and study the related laws. Additionally, in light of the recent public health pandemic, we will examine the impact of COVID-19 on displaced and migrant populations. This course examines questions such as: Where do these people come from (causes of displacement)? Who assigns labels (and the implications of those labels)? Who is responsible for care and protection? How do international organizations respond to the crisis of displacement? What is the role of humanitarian organizations and private actors?

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What are the ethics of sovereignty and borders? What are the challenges and ethical dilemmas of state actors, and the rights and responsibilities of the displaced populations? What is the perspective of the affected populations, including feelings of victimization or empowerment? What is the role of host communities? Based on the semester-long learning, students will be expected to explore solutions/policy reform to address the current refugee and migrant crisis. Time permitting, students may engage in an online simulation exercise, with role playing as refugees, members of host communities, policymakers or IDPs. Simulation is intended to enhance students' sensitivity to concerns and limitations faced by different stakeholders.

Bio: Dr. Rajput is a Professorial Lecturer in the Elliott School of International Affairs. Prior to pursuing her PhD, she worked for many years at the World Bank headquarters in DC. Her recently published book "Internal Displacement and Conflict: The Kashmiri Pandits in Comparative Perspective" compares displaced Kashmiri families with those displaced in Azerbaijan, Georgia/Russia, Serbia, and Sudan (Darfur).

Race, American Medicine, & Public Health: African American Experiences

Professor Vanessa Gamble
HONR 2047W: 81 - 3 Credits
CRN: 84289
MW 12:45PM – 2:00PM

Fulfills:

- WID requirement
- This course has no GPAC designations

Note that UHP students will only receive Self & Society credit if they are enrolled in the HONR 2047 section (CRN: 84289)

Course cross listed with AMST 4702W.80 (CRN: 87661) and HIST 3001W.81 (CRN: 87441)

Course Description: This course examines the history of African Americans and medicine and public health from slavery to today. It will emphasize the importance of understanding the historical roots of contemporary dilemmas such as racial health inequities and the dearth of Black health professionals. The course will challenge you to synthesize materials from several disciplines to gain a broad understanding of the relationship between race, medicine, and public health in the United States. It will also provide a forum to discuss systemic racism in medicine and public health.

Among the questions that will be addressed are: How have race and racism influenced, and continue to influence, American medicine and public health? What is race and how has this concept evolved? What have been some of the historical vulnerabilities of African Americans within the medical system? How have medical thought and practices contributed to systemic racism? What are racial inequities in health and health care and what are their history? How have lay communities, medical and public health professionals, and governmental agencies addressed health inequities? What have been the experiences of African Americans as patients and health care providers?

Bio: Prof. Gamble is University Professor of Medical Humanities and Professor of American Studies. A physician, scholar, and activist, Dr. Gamble is an internationally recognized expert on the history of American medicine, racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care, public health ethics, and bioethics. She chaired the committee that took the

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lead role in the successful campaign to obtain an apology in 1997 from President Clinton for the United States Public Health Syphilis Study at Tuskegee.

Equality & The Law: Introduction to Legal Research and Writing

Professor Zachary Wolfe
HONR 2047W: 82 - 3 Credits
CRN: 88086
MW 4:45PM – 6:00PM

Fulfills:

- WID requirement
- This course has no GPAC designations

Note that UHP students will only receive Self & Society credit if they are enrolled in the HONR 2047 section (CRN: 88086)

Course cross listed with UW 2031.80 (CRN: 83666)

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to how lawyers and legal scholars research and write about specific disputes that arise in the context of complex social issues. It is one of the required courses for the minor in law and society and satisfies a WID requirement.

Legal writing, like all forms of scholarly writing, is best understood in context and in practice. In this course, we have the opportunity to explore an ongoing challenge to our society in general and the legal system in particular: the promise of equality, and how government relates to it. We do so by examining judicial decisions, statutes, regulations, and law review articles concerning matters related to race, sexual orientation and gender, disability, and others issues that continue to advance major challenges to the system's ability to realize legal and civil equality. That examination requires an understanding of legal audience expectations as well as the ability to use specialized research techniques and craft written analysis in particular forms, so students will learn about the nuances of argument in the interdisciplinary field of law and the unique requirements of legal research and writing.

Bio: Professor Wolfe teaches writing courses themed around law and social movements and an advanced Writing in the Disciplines course in legal writing. After obtaining his *Juris Doctorate* from The George Washington University Law School, he practiced public interest law for several years and eventually began teaching part-time. Although he's been a full-time professor for a number of years, he continues to practice law to a limited extent, mostly by consulting on cases and filing an occasional amicus brief. He is an active legal writer, including as the author of the fourth edition and quarterly updates to the seminal *Farnsworth on Contracts* and of annual editions of *Hate Crimes Law*. More info (and Supreme Court tips!) are on profzwolfe.com.

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Arts & Humanities

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: A History

Professor Christopher Brick
HONR 2053:10 - 3 Credits
CRN: 84251
TR 12:45PM - 2:00PM

Fulfills:

- GPAC Critical Thinking in the Humanities

Course Description: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is one of the world's most recognizable documents, "the foundation of international human rights law," according to the United Nations, and one of the most widely-reprinted texts in human history. While its framers theorized the UDHR as a "Magna Carta for all," opponents and detractors have routinely cast it instead as an empty vessel, at best, and at worst a dangerous tool of oppression. Is it either of these things, neither, or something else entirely? This course will invite students to consider these questions anew as it examines the Declaration's conceptual origins in the ancient past, the historical context that led the UN General Assembly to formalize and promulgate a human rights coda in 1948, and the UDHR's colorful evolution into a flashpoint of controversy for activists, policymakers, intellectuals, and the international community writ large. Please note that in researching their term projects for this course, students will be required to draw upon resources from the permanent collection of the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project, a research center of the GW History Department and archive of UDHR materials that UNESCO has designated "vital to global heritage and personhood."

Bio: Dr. Brick is an editor and principle investigator of the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers project at GW and one of the hosts of the Organization of American Historians' podcast Intervals.

Autobiography and History

Professor Christopher Brick
HONR 2053:11 - 3 Credits
CRN: 87691
TR 2:20PM - 3:35PM

Fulfills:

- GPAC Critical Thinking in the Humanities

Course Description: This is a course about American autobiography, the way it has shaped our knowledge of US history, and the key figures, texts, and events that interconnect both kinds of non-fiction across time and space. Through reference to the personal memoirs that loom largest in retellings of the American past, students will encounter works by the likes of Benjamin Franklin, Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Ulysses Grant, Malcolm X, and other historically consequential memoirists and autobiographers. We will examine the context that gave rise to the publication of their life stories, the reception their work received, the nature of the audience they were creating, and the manifold ways their work imprinted American politics, culture, society, and law. As part of the coursework for this class, students will also participate in the forensic reconstruction of unpublished autobiographical materials recovered and managed as part

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of the The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project's permanent collection, a special-access archive that lives here on the GWU campus and is open/unrestricted to students enrolled in Honors 2053:11.

Bio: [Dr. Brick](#) is an editor and principle investigator of the [Eleanor Roosevelt Papers project](#) at GW and one of the hosts of the Organization of American Historians' podcast [Intervals](#).

[The History of Coups d'état in the Twentieth Century: A Comparative Examination of the Nature of Political Power and Violence](#)

Professor Seth Rotramel
HONR 2053:13 - 3 Credits
CRN: 84252
M 3:30PM -6:00PM

Fulfills:

- GPAC Critical Thinking in the Humanities

Course Description: This course examines the timing and causes of the seizure of executive power by the use or threat of force by some segment of a state's ruling class or state apparatus. By looking at both long and short-term causes of coups, we will seek to better understand the nature of political power through the lens of political violence. After defining what a coup is and investigating theoretical underpinnings, the course will take a deep dive into a number of case studies that occurred during the twentieth century. Not confining ourselves to any one country or region, these case studies provide a comparative approach that will augment our theoretical understanding with real world examples. Investigating the dramatic events leading up to and following a coup d'état will also serve as a vehicle to examine broader issues affecting humanity. Thus, by examining illegal seizures of governments, we will also be studying the political consequences of poverty, inequality, modernization, political fractionalization, and coercive production structures.

Bio: Dr. Rotramel has served as a historian for the State Department since 2011 and focuses on the history of American diplomacy. He recently compiled and edited a [Foreign Relations of the United States document](#) focused on the Carter administration's approach to the South Asia region in response to the shifting political landscape at the end of the 1970s.

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Cross-listed Honors courses

NOTE: Students must be registered in the HONR section in order to receive UHP credit. For courses that are cross-listed with another department, the UHP can add "credit" for a course to the student's DegreeMAP within the major and/or minor's requirements block. Students must have officially declared the major or minor with their respective school, and it must be reflected on their DegreeMAP at the time of the request. Students may also petition their school/major to accept HONR courses they find are relevant to their curriculum requirements. For any questions, please see a UHP Program Manager.

A cross-listed course is a course that is shared with another department, please pay careful attention to the GPAC attributes associated with each cross-listed course.

South Asian Art

Professor Mika Natif
HONR 2053:80 - 3 Credits
CRN: 87694
TR 12:45PM - 2:00PM

Fulfills:

- This course has no GPAC designations

Note that UHP students will only receive Arts & Humanities credit if they are enrolled in the HONR 2047 section (CRN: 88086)

Course cross listed with CAH 2191.80 (CRN: 87275)

Course Description: This course introduces students to the visual and material cultures of South Asia from early archaeological settlements to the contemporary period. The history of South Asian art is remarkably rich, diverse, and complex, consisting of many distinct but interconnected traditions and practices. Working chronologically, we will sample objects and sites from some of the key periods and places in its long history. Students will acquire knowledge of different cultures and their artistic practices, as well as the corresponding geographical, political, and religious contexts. While it is not possible to cover every period, culture, and faith in South Asia, the aim is for students to gain an overview of some of the major moments and achievements in the art history of the region and an understanding that 'South Asian art' is not a monolithic style or culture but a complex web of ideas, idioms, and interchanges.

Bio: Prof. Natif is an Associate Professor of Art History. A specialist in Islamic art, Mika Natif focuses on the intercultural exchanges and global connections that Muslim societies forged with the European sphere during the premodern period.

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The Life of Things

Professor Jenna Weissman Joselit
HONR 2053:81 - 3 Credits
CRN: 87696
M 3:30PM - 5:25PM

Fulfills:

- This course has no GPAC designations

Note that UHP students will only receive Arts & Humanities credit if they are enrolled in the HONR 2047 section (CRN: 87696)

Course cross listed with HIST 2001.80 (CRN: 87431)

Course Description: This interdisciplinary humanities seminar takes a hard and searching look at stuff - furniture, clothing, shoes, religious artifacts, building materials, toys, tools and home décor - all with an eye toward understanding our relationship to the material world. Focused largely, though not exclusively on the United States, it explores the ways in which objects contain a wealth of ideas about authenticity, convenience, craft, faith, heritage, taste and value. This course should appeal especially to those interested in museums and public history, design and social engineering, as well as to those who enjoy watching "Antiques Roadshow," and scouring the flea market.

Bio: Dr. Joselit is the Charles E. Smith Professor of Judaic Studies & Professor of History. Among her many areas of academic study, she specializes in the history and culture of America's Jews and also writes a monthly column on American Jewish culture for Tablet: The Online Magazine of Jewish Culture.

Democracy and American Political Culture

Professor Elisabeth Anker
HONR 2053:83 - 3 Credits
CRN: 87699
M 3:30PM - 6:00PM

Fulfills:

- This course has no GPAC designations

Note that UHP students will only receive Arts & Humanities credit if they are enrolled in the HONR 2047 section (CRN: 87699)

Course cross listed with AMST 3950.80 (CRN: 87658)

Course Description: This class will examine major concepts, practices, and cultural visions of democracy in the United States (and in a transnational context). Democracy is one of the most widely-valued systems for organizing politics and political culture, yet there is significant disagreement about the core ideals and practices that comprise it. This class will

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examine a variety of cultural, literary, and theoretical texts on the promises and perils of democracy in the US. As this is an election year, we will also explore visions of presidential power. The class will make 2-3 field trips around DC.

Bio: Prof. Anker is a Professor of American Studies and Political Science. Her research and teaching interests are at the intersection of political theory and cultural studies, with a focus on practices of freedom, violence, and power in US politics and culture.

Other People's Bios

Professor Jenna Weissman Joselit
HONR 2053W:81 - 3 Credits
CRN: 85613
M 12:45PM - 2:35PM

Fulfills:

- WID Course
- This course has no GPAC designations

Note that UHP students will only receive Arts & Humanities credit if they are enrolled in the HONR 2047 section (CRN: 85613)

Course cross listed with HIST 3001W.83 (CRN: 87466) and JSTD 2002.82 (CRN: 87572)

Course Description: The lives of others, be they saints or sinners, celebrities or just plain folks, fascinates us. Sometimes we turn to them out of curiosity; at other moments, we seek inspiration, and at still other moments, we're drawn in by the juicy bits. A mix of motivations also prompts people to write about themselves. Sometimes they attempt to set the record straight or to settle a score; at other moments, they seek forgiveness or reconciliation; and at other times, they have a great story to tell of a life well-lived.

It's to these varied expressions of the self that this interdisciplinary seminar attends. Through a series of case studies that encompass autobiography and autofiction, biography and bio-pics, memoir, obituaries and reminiscences, as well as the diaries, letters, objects, portraiture and photo albums on which they're based, we'll explore up close & personal what makes us tick.

Bio: Dr. Joselit is the Charles E. Smith Professor of Judaic Studies & Professor of History. Among her many areas of academic study, she specializes in the history and culture of America's Jews and also writes a monthly column on American Jewish culture for Tablet: The Online Magazine of Jewish Culture.

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Contract Courses

Honors Internship

Professor Chosen by Student

HONR 2182:10 - 0 to 4 Credits

Course Description: Students who secure an internship placement can get academic credit by arranging a faculty-supervised project related to their internship. Students must submit an Honors Contract. Please see a Program Manager for further information.

Honors Undergraduate Research

Professor Chosen by Student

HONR 2184:10 - 0 to 4 Credits

Course Description: Students working on original research or on another research project can get academic credit by working closely with a faculty mentor. Students must submit an Honors Contract. Please see a Program Manager for further information.

Honors Research Assistantship

Professor Chosen by Student

HONR 2185:10 - 0 to 4 Credits

Course Description: Students who secure a research assistantship with a faculty member can receive academic credit by completing their assistantship duties. Students must submit an Honors Contract. Please see a Program Manager for further information.

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Senior Capstone and Thesis

Honors Senior Thesis

Professor Chosen by Student

HONR 4198 - 3 to 4 credits

Course Description: The Honors Senior Thesis is a one or two-semester independent study to complete a senior thesis. This course is for students who are NOT completing a thesis within their department of major. Any student considering the Honors Senior Thesis option should contact an Honors Program Manager. This course is only open to Seniors and requires a completed Honors Contract to register. Please see a Program Manager for further information.

Games

Professor Bethany Kung

HONR 4199:12 - 1 Credit

CRN: 83280

F 1:30PM - 3:30PM

This course will meet on September 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th.

Course Description: Archaeological evidence demonstrates that humans have been playing board games and using dice for over 5,000 years. Today, card and tabletop gaming represents a \$10 billion industry which is expected to continue growing in the coming years. Clearly - humans love to play games! Together in this capstone, we will consider the history of gaming and its purpose in culture and society. We will ponder why we love to play games and what lessons we can learn from these games. We will also play games! Course readings will include excerpts from books such as "It's All a Game: The History of Board Games from Monopoly to Settlers of Catan" by Tristan Donovan and "Your Move: What Board Games Teach Us About Life" by Joan Moriarity and Jonathan Kay. Each meeting will start with a discussion in which we will draw connections between board games and life and then we will challenge each other to the "game of the day" (including classics such as backgammon and modern tabletop games, too). For our final meeting, we will try our hand at an escape room! **Please note that this capstone requires a \$15 fee, payable to the Honors Program main office in September.**

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Nature Appreciation

Professor Thiago Moreira
HONR 4199:13 - 1 Credit
CRN: 84250
F 10:00AM - 1:00PM

This course will meet on September 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th.

Course Description: “Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.”
—Khalil Gibran

To live in a modern city in the 21st century is not easy. We are always busy with our schedules. Things to do, places to be... We are surrounded by all comforts and amenities a modern city has to offer. So much that we can be entirely consumed by modern technology and forget that there is a whole world out there.... In this course, I propose we step out of our busy modern urban life and stop to smell the flowers (literally, if you so wish...). We will visit some places where we can experience and experience some of the beauties nature has to offer to us. We will use our time to visit some places that hold some of the biodiversity of life, but also try to appreciate nature in our daily urban surroundings. This course has a great deal of moving around the city, so we have a more extended time band to cover the trip time.