

Course Descriptions

University Honors Program

Fall 2019

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Fall 2019 Course Descriptions

Introductory and Special Topics

Origins and Evolution of Modern Thought

The Good Life

Professor William Winstead

HONR 1015:MV - 4 Credits

CRN 91737

MW 01:00PM - 02:15PM

Writing Lab: HONR 1015:MV30, M 02:30-03:20PM, CRN: 92273

HONR 1015:MV4 - 4 Credits

CRN 91882

MW 06:10PM - 07:25PM

Writing Lab: HONR 1015:MV34, W 10:00-10:50AM, CRN: 92277

Equivalent Courses: UW 1020

Course Description: How may we flourish and excel 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, Seneca), Chinese (Confucius, Lao-Tzu), and Indian (Buddha) traditions. Our discussions will be guided by fundamental questions: 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:MV1 - 4 Credits

CRN 91880

TR 11:30AM - 12:45PM

Writing Lab: HONR 1015:MV31, T 10:00-10:50AM, CRN: 92274

HONR 1015:MV2 - 4 Credits

CRN 96024

TR 01:00PM - 02:15PM

Writing Lab: HONR 1015:MV32, R 02:30-03:20PM, CRN: 92275

Equivalent Courses: UW 1020

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 Eudaemonia (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

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fascinating Western and non-Western thinkers and writers in ancient world history, from the Hellenistic, Daoist, Confucian, and Buddhist schools, among others.

Control

Professor Joseph Trullinger
HONR 1015:MV3 - 4 Credits
CRN 91881

MW 11:30AM - 12:45PM

Writing Lab: HONR 1015:MV33, W 10:00-10:50PM, CRN: 92276

HONR 1015:MV5 - 4 Credits
CRN 96451

MW 02:30PM - 03:45PM

Writing Lab: HONR 1015:MV35, W 01:00-01:50PM, CRN: 96452

Equivalent Courses: UW 1020

Course Description: What do you do with control once you have it? Everywhere we find examples of people straining to gain or keep control of situations, but we seldom stop to ask why they seek this in the first place. This seminar will foster such reflection through an intensive study of these questions as posed by the artists, historians, leaders, and thinkers of the ancient world. Who gets to be in control of your life, and why? Are we better off not being in control of nature? Does sharing control stabilize governments, or does democracy actually promote fickleness and corruption? What does it mean to have self-control, and is it worth having? What if there is no “self” to be controlled to begin with? By exploring classical conceptions of control, we will appreciate how modern thoughts evolve from ancient origins.

Justice

Professor Theo Christov
HONR 1015:MV7 - 4 Credits
CRN 96402

MW 08:30AM - 09:45AM

Writing Lab: HONR 1015:MV37, W 10:00-10:50PM, CRN: 96404

HONR 1015:MV8 - 4 Credits
CRN 93290

MW 11:30AM - 12:45PM

Writing Lab: HONR 1015:MV38, W 01:00-01:50PM, CRN: 93289

Equivalent Courses: UW 1020

Course Description: What is the right thing to do? The perennial quest for justice remains a persistent concern across time, place, and cultures, from antiquity to the present. Ancient thinkers—from the West and beyond—faced problems that we, after two and a half millennia, may recognize as our very own. To explore this question, we will grapple with some major works in ancient thought and engage in political and moral theorizing in the making of a good life. How should we confront the limits of our existence, and are we sufficiently equipped to understand the human condition? Our common aim will be to discuss significant and recurrent questions

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of moral and political value that arise in human experience in order to enlarge our awareness of how people have understood the nature of the just and virtuous life. In addressing the themes of justice, equality, democracy, and citizenship, our readings will be derived from the Western and non-Western intellectual traditions in order to understand the formative forces that shaped the political and moral universe we inhabit today.

Wisdom

Professor Mark Ralkowski
HONR 1015:MV9 - 4 Credits
CRN 95423
TR 10:00AM - 11:15AM
Writing Lab: HONR 1015:MV39, R 11:30-12:20PM, CRN: 95492

Equivalent Courses: UW 1020

Course Description: Course Description: What is happiness, and how can we live lives that will make us happy? How should we cope with the fact that we are going to suffer and die, along with everyone we love most? What is justice, and how can we reshape our institutions, as well as our own choices and lives, so that they better reflect it? Is love really such a good thing? Is art good or bad for us? Why is there anything at all, rather than nothing? These are among the earliest questions asked by human beings in the Middle East, Greece, China, and India. In this seminar we will read seminal texts from each of these traditions. Our syllabus will include the Plato, Sophocles, Thucydides, Aristotle, Confucius, Lao Tzu, and the Buddha. And our discussions will cover issues in ethics, politics, psychology, aesthetics, religion, metaphysics, and epistemology. One of the primary goals of this seminar is to see that, in the ancient world, these concepts were studied as a way of life whose goals were wisdom and happiness. As Socrates once said, "We are studying no small matter, but how we ought to live."

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Scientific Reasoning and Discovery

Energy

Professor Bethany Kung
HONR 1033:10 - 4 Credits
CRN 91877
TR 09:00AM - 10:50AM

HONR 1033:11 - 4 Credits
CRN 93003
TR 11:00AM - 12:50PM

Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Natural/Physical Science with Lab, GPAC Local/Civic Engagement; ESIA: Science; GWSB: Science

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. (This is a Green Leaf course that satisfies the "Track A" requirement toward a Minor in Sustainability.)

Your Place in Nature

Professor Bernard Wood
HONR 1033:12 - 4 Credits
CRN 95127
TR 11:10AM - 01:00PM

Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Natural/Physical Science with Lab, GPAC Local/Civic Engagement; ESIA: Science; GWSB: Science

Course Description: The course will compare and contrast what was known about 'Man's Place in Nature' in 1863 with what we think we know now. It will cover the history of ideas about our relationship with the rest of the natural world, how we work out how animals are related, the fossil record for human evolution and the growth of the sciences involved in the interpretation of that fossil record. It will explore the social and intellectual context of relevant discoveries as well as the biographies of the people who made

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major contributions to working out the relationships among the great apes and to the recovery and interpretation of the fossil evidence for human evolution.

Biology

Professor LaTisha Hammond
HONR 1033:MV - 4 Credits
CRN 92414
TR 10:00AM - 11:50AM

HONR 1033:MV1 - 4 Credits
CRN 91879
TR 01:00PM - 02:50PM

Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Natural/Physical Science with Lab, GPAC Local/Civic Engagement; ESIA: Science; GWSB: Science

Course Description: GMO foods, biofuels, food allergies, vaccines, honeybees. At first glance this may be a seemingly random string of topics, but a common thread throughout them all is biology, and all require some understanding of biological concepts to understand their implications and make informed decisions about them. In this course we will explore biological concepts through the lens of contemporary issues in biology as they relate to society and everyday life. This course will serve as an introduction to the fundamentals of biology and the nature of science. Topics to be covered include cells and molecules, genetics, physiology, ecology and evolution as they relate to the more complex and nuanced biological issues of disease, food sources, organism interactions, sustainability, climate change, and bioethics, to name a few. Lab exercises will introduce biological techniques for studying these topics. Students will engage in the process of science in an effort to increase their scientific literacy. Students will be expected to take an active role in the class, where we will explore these topics through lecture, discussion, debate, experimentation, data analysis, writing, and group projects.

Human Reproduction

Professor Carly Jordan
HONR 1033:MV2 - 4 Credits
CRN 93134
MW 01:00PM - 02:50PM

Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Natural/Physical Science with Lab, GPAC Local/Civic Engagement; ESIA: Science; GWSB: Science

Course Descriptions: In this course, we will explore the biology of human reproduction, with views at many levels. At the cellular level (How are sperm and egg made? How do chromosomes get sorted?), the organ level (What's happening in the reproductive organs, throughout a month and throughout a lifetime?), the organismal level (How does an embryo become a tiny person? How do changing hormones affect the whole body?), and at the societal level (What misconceptions do we hold about sex and reproduction?). The content of the course is reproduction, but the main focus is skill building- you will develop science literacy and critical thinking skills to make sense of the information you encounter. You will practice communication, in many different forms. And you will conduct a research project to investigate a claim and judge its validity. You will determine the legitimacy of its makers, learn where to find primary sources to support or refute the claim, and create a public information piece to share your understanding with your peers. At the end of the semester, you will be armed with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about your body and your health.

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Introductory and Special Topics

Introductory and Special

Enlightenment East and West

Professor Mark Ralkowski
HONR 2016:10 - 4 Credits
CRN 97762
W 03:30-6:00PM

Fulfills: ESIA: Humanities; SEAS: Humanities

****This course is limited to students joining the Honors Program as rising sophomores.****

Course Description: The great works of the Western and Eastern intellectual traditions take the problem of Enlightenment as their guiding theme. The concern with enlightenment emerges in the West with the origin of Occidental philosophy in Plato's famous allegory of the cave, while in the East it takes shape with the Buddha's call a century earlier to break with illusion and practice awakening. The modern enlightenment project contrasts sharply with those of antiquity thanks to its commitment to science and technological power and their political and economic counterparts, liberalism and free-market capitalism. Our seminar this semester will examine enlightenment projects East and West, highlighting the sharp differences between a variety of seminal responses to the problems of human delusion, suffering, and injustice. In addition to the theme of enlightenment, our discussions will be guided by fundamental questions: What are good and evil? What constitutes genuine knowledge? What is the character of human nature? What is natural? What is just or virtuous? Our approach to these questions will be open-ended and deliberative, and we will strive to remain sensitive to the complexity of argumentation found in our readings as we discuss and debate their claims.

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Arts and Humanities

Self and Society

Transitional Justice

Professor Maria Restrepo
HONR 2047:10 - 3 Credits
CRN: 96526
Time: W 12:45PM-3:15PM

Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Social Sciences, Political Science Major Group 3 (international politics, law, international organizations) requirement, Peace Studies Major Group 2 International Peace and Conflict requirement; ESIA: Conflict Resolution concentration, Comparative Economic and Social Systems concentration; GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Social Sciences

Course Description: Since the end of the Cold War, peacebuilding interventions have increasingly implemented Transitional Justice (TJ) initiatives. TJ is dynamic multidisciplinary set of procedures adapted to societies transforming themselves after a period of pervasive human rights abuses due to conflict or dictatorship. While definitions vary they all capture the political, legal and moral dilemmas phased in these transitions. The purpose of this course is to allow the student to weigh the relative theoretical merits of some of the Transitional Justice components (its most iconic are trials and truth commissions) in actual concrete experiences in different countries that have experienced huge violations of human rights. Emblematic case studies are used to illustrate and expand the analyzed concepts of transitional justice in countries in Africa (South Africa and Rwanda), South America (Argentina, Chile and Colombia) and Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Czech and Slovakian Republics).

Natural Resources and Environmental Economics

Professor Arun Malik
HONR 2047:11 - 3 Credits
CRN 97538
TR 03:45PM - 05:00PM

Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Social Sciences, Economics Majors should consult with the economics department's director of undergraduate studies in order to get this to count for a major elective, Environmental Studies majors should consult their departmental advisor; ESIA: International Economics concentration, International Environmental Studies concentration; GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Social Sciences

Course Description: The course will apply the basic tools of microeconomics to analyze a variety of environmental and natural resource problems and policies, including climate change. Economic reasoning will be used to examine the causes of environmental/resource problems, the consequences of these problems, and measures for dealing with them. The course will help students understand: (1) how environmental and resource problems arise because of market and government failures; (2) the techniques used by economists to attach monetary values to environmental and resource degradation; (3) the role of benefit-cost analysis in assessing the merits of various forms of government intervention; and (4) the relative merits of alternative policies for mitigating environmental and resource problems. Prerequisites: ECON 1011.

Theories of Political Development

Professor Harvey Feigenbaum
PSC 6388:80 - 3 Credits

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Arts and Humanities

CRN 93318

T 06:10PM - 08:00PM

Fulfills: CCAS: Social Sciences; GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Social Sciences

Equivalent Course: HONR 2047

Course Description: One of the principal concerns of comparative politics is understanding how and why political systems develop the way they do. Why do some countries develop into democracies, while others experience various forms of authoritarian rule? How do factors such as class conflict, timing of industrialization, the nature of the elite, and the influence of political culture affect the development of political institutions? This course reviews the literature in comparative politics focusing on these concerns. While most of the cases are drawn from the histories of the advanced industrial states, some attention is also accorded to countries which are currently deemed "underdeveloped". A brief examination of the problem of nationalism is also included. Note: this is a graduate level course that will count for HONR 2047. Students must be signed into the course by the instructor.

Disability and Film

Professor David Mitchell

HONR 2048:10 - 3 Credits

CRN 97393

TR 11:10AM-12:25PM

Fulfills: GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Social Sciences

Course Description: Disability (the existence of, or social belief in, an impaired body that is stigmatized) exists at a paradoxical crossroads in film history. First, we tend to watch disabled characters in films all the time yet screen them out of our minds as a specific minority population. Second, many of the most innovative films are based on efforts to portray disabled lives in their gritty encounters with ablest worlds. We will exam this paradox in order to make ourselves more aware of the specific cultural situatedness of people with disabilities as well as to better attend to the ways in which disability fuels filmic creativity (technically, narratively, and representationally). The vast majority of films we will watch attempt to use visual, audio, and editing alterations in order to capture the unique experiences of disabled lives; along the way we will also think about the particular social predicaments people with disabilities have faced in a culture designed for a narrow range of bodily capacities, forms, and aesthetics.

Progress in World Society

Professor Michael Barnett

HONR 2048: 11 - 3 Credits

CRN 95031

T 03:30PM - 06:00PM

Fulfills: CCAS: Political Science Major Group 3 (international politics, law, international organizations) requirement, Peace Studies Major Group 3 Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice requirement; ESIA: International Politics concentration; GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Social Science.

Course Description: This course will address several four themes in the study of progress in world affairs. One is: What is progress? What is the best case for the existence of progress in world affairs? What are the different ways to conceptualize it? Do you think that the world is getting better and heading in the right direction? Based on what? The second is: What are the causes of progress?

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Several hundreds of years ago the presumption was that it was directed by the heavens, but since we have tended to give credit to earthly creatures, science and technology, and reason. The third is: What happens when our belief in progress is shattered? There have been many extraordinary moments in world affairs that have challenged our belief in progress, including World Wars One and Two, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia. How do we make sense of the presence of evil in a story of progress? How does the world respond? Is it possible to respond to evil in a way that restores a sense of progress?

Data Science, Predictive Analytics, and Ethics

Professor Philip Wirtz
HONR 2048:13 - 3 Credits
CRN 95737
TR 12:45PM - 02:00PM

Fulfills: GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Social Sciences

Course Description: As public and private institutions capture and integrate extensive data about individual characteristics and habits, privacy concerns have flared. The advent of "big data" and sophisticated data analytic algorithms have spawned questions about the adequacy of privacy safeguards. This course explores how individual data are collected, stored, analyzed, and acted upon; safeguards that are and are not in place to protect individual freedoms; and ethical quandaries posed by the advent of recent technological advances.

Humanitarianism

Professor Michael Barnett
HONR 2048:80 - 3 Credits
CRN 96979
TR 11:10AM - 12:25PM

Fulfills: CCAS: Political Science Major Group 3 (international politics, law, international organizations) requirement; Peace Studies Major Group 3 Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice requirement; GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Social Sciences

Equivalent Courses: PSC 2994, IAFF 3190—approved for: Conflict Res, Int'l Politics (concentration), Int'l Development, Comp. Pol. & Economic Social Systems, Security Policy and Int'l/Comparative Politics (advanced fundamental).

Course Description: This class focuses on humanitarianism – the attempt to provide life-saving relief during moments of urgency to distant strangers. Because humanitarianism is so closely identified with humanity, acts of compassion and benevolence, and people sacrificing to help strangers, it is often treated as the posterchild of what is good in the world. But nothing is pure and this course takes a sober look at the blends. This course is divided into three sections. Section I considers the “humanity” in humanitarianism. What does it mean to act in the name of humanity? Who is supposed to act? When? For what purpose? Is humanitarianism a Trojan horse for imperialism? Do acts of relief and care bring out the best in us, or are they a mixture of care and power? Section II provides an overview of the history of humanitarianism. It begins by exploring the theory and practice of humanitarianism, and then turns to its history. A key point is that there are several humanitarianisms, and global politics deeply influences their life and times. It ends by looking at the current state of the humanitarian architecture. Section III examines some of the dilemmas of humanitarianism. Doing good is far more morally treacherous than it appears. Trade-offs have to be made. Some lives saved and others sacrificed. All too often attempts to do good only create more harm. What are humanitarians to do?

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Value Conflict in Politics

Professor Ingrid Creppell
HONR 2048W:80 - 3 Credits
CRN 93769
T 12:45PM - 03:15PM

Fulfills: WID; CCAS: Upper-level Philosophy elective (counts as PHIL 2132); GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Social Science

Equivalent Course: PSC 3192W

Course Description: This course will introduce students to the problem of “value conflict,” delve into some of those conflicts over central political-moral dilemmas, and consider ways to respond to issues of (apparently) irreconcilable values. Isaiah Berlin observed: “The world that we encounter in ordinary experience is one in which we are faced with choices between ends equally ultimate, and claims equally absolute, the realization of some of which must inevitably involve the sacrifice of others.” If politics consists in struggles over needs, power and order, and people mobilize on the basis of conflicting ideas about what is good and right, then the stakes of politics will be high and intense. We study the problem of value conflict itself and a number of fundamental disputes over conceptions of freedom, equality, justice, race and identity, religion, nationalism, cosmopolitanism, and immigration. We read philosophers and texts that argue for contrasting points of view. This is a discussion-focused course. Familiarity with political theory is recommended.

Race, Medicine, and Public Health

Professor Vanessa Northington Gamble
HONR 2048W:81 - 3 Credits
CRN 96104
MW 12:45PM-02:00PM

Fulfills: GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Social Sciences; MISPH: Public Health major elective

Course Equivalents: AMST 4702W, HIST 3001W

Course Description: This course focuses on the role of race and racism in the development of American medicine and public health by examining the experiences of African Americans from slavery to today. It will emphasize the importance of understanding the historical roots of contemporary policy dilemmas such as racial and ethnic inequalities and inequities in health and health care. The course will challenge students to synthesize materials from several disciplines to gain a broad understanding of the relationship between race, medicine, and public health in the United States.

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Shakespeare on Film

Professor Alexa Alice Joubin
HONR 2053:11 - 3 Credits
CRN 96007
TR 12:45PM - 02:00PM

Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Humanities, pre-1700's English requirement or upper-division English course; ESIA: Humanities; GWSB: Humanities; SEAS: Humanities

Course Description: This course examines Shakespeare's "problem" plays, Roman plays, tragedies, and comedies and their adaptations on screen, with a focus on the themes of race, gender, sexuality, and colonialism.

Politics of the Future

Professor M McAlister
HONR 2053:12 - 3 Credits
CRN 96103
MW 02:20PM - 03:35PM

Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Humanities; ESIA: Humanities; GWSB: Humanities; SEAS: Humanities

Equivalent Course: AMST 2490

Course Description: The course examines how writers and filmmakers have speculated about alternative possibilities for human and non-human life. Exploring narratives about aliens and robots, alternative pasts, or apocalyptic or magical futures, we ask questions about how fiction helps us to think about the possibilities of political life, environmental realities, and moral action. Writers and filmmakers from the US and beyond, with special attention to work by people of color, writers from the global South, and women.

Classical Mythology in Art

Professor Rachel Pollack
HONR 2053W:10 - 3 Credits
CRN 95678
TR 11:10AM - 12:25PM

Fulfills: WID; CCAS: GPAC Humanities, Classic Studies majors should consult their departmental advisor; ESIA: Humanities; GWSB: Humanities; SEAS: Humanities

Course Description: This course examines the relevance and mutability of classical mythology in western art. The iconic stories of gods and heroes, passed down to us through ancient poets such as the Homer, Virgil, and Ovid, have left an indelible impression on the visual arts from antiquity to modern day. Artists ranging from Titian, Caravaggio, Rubens, Rembrandt, Poussin to Picasso and Jeff Koons, have adapted and reinterpreted these myths through the direct appropriation of ancient myth and sculpture. Each time

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these giants of the visual arts reveal to us that the significance of classical mythology extends beyond the limits of these ancient literary and visual sources.

Metaphor

Professor Steven Knapp
HONR 2054: 10 - 3 Credits
CRN 96008
W 01:00PM - 03:30PM

Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Humanities, upper-division English course; ESIA: Humanities; GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Humanities

Course Description: Metaphors are often ignored or else dismissed as decorative or amusing: a mere “play on words.” In fact, however, they are an indispensable aspect of human language and thought, playing a key role in our interactions with others and in how we perceive, organize, and experience the world. They are powerful instruments of reason and persuasion; rich sources of insight, surprise, and humor; dangerous causes of bias and confusion. In this seminar, we will examine theories of metaphor, ancient and modern, but also the practice of metaphor in a range of contexts, from lyric poetry to science, media, and public policy.

The Life of Things

Professor Jenna Weissman Joselit
HONR 2054:81 - 3 Credits
CRN 96369
R 11:10AM - 01:00PM

Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Humanities; ESIA: Humanities; GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Humanities

Equivalent Course: HIST 2001

Course Description: Things, like people, have a life: They come into being, are exhibited, paraded about and cherished; passed on, discarded, abandoned or lost; transformed and repurposed, only to end up a long way from where they started out. This interdisciplinary seminar zeroes in on a series of case studies of particular objects, from Japanese miniatures to baseball gloves; the institutions that house them, and the human practices that relate to them - enshrining, encasing, hoarding, looting, plundering, memorializing and safeguarding. Along the way, we'll meet up with collectors of artifacts, real-life versions of “Hector, the Collector,” as well as those who, in their capacity as curators, take good care of them. Artists who traffic in found objects, rendering trash into artwork, will also be on hand to explain their process. Think of this course as GW's version of “Antiques Roadshow.” You'll be surprised to learn how much an object reveals about faith, heritage, value, taste, power and history.

Fast Fashion / Slow Art

Professor Bibiana Obler
HONR 2054:80 - 3 Credits
CRN 97392
R 12:45PM - 03:15PM

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Fulfills: CCAS: GPAC Humanities; ESIA: Humanities; GWSB: Non-Business Elective/Unrestricted Elective; SEAS: Humanities

Equivalent Course: AH 4189

Course Description: Conceived as a crucible for new research, the exhibition “Fast Fashion / Slow Art,” co-curated by Bibiana Obler, associate professor of art history, and Phyllis Rosenzweig, curator emerita, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, will be on view at the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design from August 8–December 15, 2019. The show aims to foster discussion on such questions as: What are the merits of the local and tailor-made versus the global mass production of “fast fashion”? Is it possible to protect workers’ rights and ensure safe working conditions while keeping up with consumer demands? What skills do the mass production of textiles require? Can design and technology offer sustainable solutions to the environmental effects of fast fashion? What role do art and popular culture have in raising consumer consciousness? In this eponymous seminar, students will pursue their own individual research on relevant topics as well as presenting tours and/or their own research to public audiences, if scheduling permits. PLEASE NOTE: The course is listed under the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design / Art History & under the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design / Honors on the Schedule of Classes.

Contract Courses

Honors Internship

Professor Chosen by Student
HONR 2182 - 0 to 4 Credits

Course Description: Please see an Honors Advisor for further information.

Honors Undergraduate Research

Professor Chosen by Student
HONR 2184 - 0 to 4 Credits

Course Description: The Honors Program gives credit for independent study work completed in cooperation with a professor. Each student needs a faculty member to oversee his or her project and assign a grade. The student and the professor must meet at least ten times during the semester.

Honors Research Assistantship

Professor Chosen by Student
HONR 2185 - 0 to 4 Credits

Course Description: Students pursuing a directed research project in collaboration with a faculty advisor may receive credit for the project with Honors Program approval. Students participating will be actively engaged in the scholarly research of the supervising faculty member.

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Senior Capstone and Thesis

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 doing departmental honors. Any student considering the Honors Senior Thesis option should contact an Honors Advisor. This course is only open to Seniors, and requires a completed Honors Contract to register.

[Click here](#) to see an example of a final Honors Senior Thesis.

Time - September Capstone

Professor Bethany Kung
HONR 4199:12 - 1 Credit
CRN 95679
F 01:30PM - 03:30PM

Course Description: This course will meet on September 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. Augustine famously said: "What then is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks, I do not know." "What then is time?" During our four meetings we will approach this weighty question from a multi-disciplinary perspective. We will ask questions like is it inside our head? Is it real or an illusion? If it is real, is it real only now in the present or do past and future exist as well? Also - what does time mean for our lives when time is seen as commodity that can be treasured or wasted?

Life and Living - October/November Capstone

Professor LaTisha Hammond
HONR 4199:14 - 1 Credit
CRN 95680
M 02:00PM - 04:00PM

Course Description: October 28th, and November 4th, 11th, and 18th. What is life? What does it mean for something to be living? What constitutes a life lived? In this capstone we will discuss life and living from biological and social perspectives, exploring where and how these perspectives converge and diverge. Some of the questions we will ask and attempt to understand will include: what are the biological requirements of life, and what does it mean for something or someone to live at these minimum requirements versus something more? What characterizes living? What is considered a "good" quality of life, and who or what decides this? What are the indicators of a good life, and what does it mean to live well? All of these questions and others will be considered in various readings and media as we reflect on the experiences of life and living.

What is Meaning? - October/November Capstone

Professor Ingrid Creppell
HONR 4199:14 - 1 Credit
CRN 93908

Fall 2019 Course Descriptions

Senior Capstone and Thesis

T 05:00PM - 07:00PM

Course Description: This course meets October 29th, and November 5th, 12th, and 19th. Perhaps the most distinctive human trait is our quest for meaning. We seek to comprehend some purpose or significance to individual life, to the state of one's "people," or in the grand scheme of existence. Where is this search for meaning as humanity moves into the mid-21st century? In this capstone, we will read two works from the field of psychology that explore the need for meaning. We will also reflect on the contemporary pursuit of meaning in religion, politics, and the body.