HON 291: The Power of Love, the Love of Power
Anne Scott
What drives human beings to do what they do? What lies at the root of so much human achievement, whether for good or ill? This class will examine two great driving forces, love and power – their nature, function, interrelationship, motivations, and manifestations – as these forces appear in selected works of literature: short stories, novels, poetry, treaties, and contemporary documents, to list a few. Our examination of these concepts will be both cross-cultural and interdisciplinary, and we will feel free to explore the corollaries and “kissing cousins” of love and power, i.e., the other traits, emotions, forces, and elements that shape our successes or failures, make us beautiful or ugly, or earn us praise or blame.

HON 291: No Sh*t Sherlock
Kevin Ketchner
Sherlock Holmes is perhaps the foremost hero of the post-Darwinian world. His silhouette alone is instantly recognizable, his partnership with Watson is the first bro-mance; his science of deduction which establishes the use of forensics and analysis to dismiss superstition, fear, and ignorance is a staple of primetime television from the US to Finland. Holmes, it could be argued, is the first pop icon of the modern age. The aim of this course is to consider the enduring fascination of this character and how we see community, heroes and villains, science and art through a selection of mediums that have been used to update the personae of Sherlock Holmes, including literature, graphic novels, audio renditions, television and film that reveal the detective’s place in popular culture. We can gain insight about a society from the way it reinvents and embraces a Sherlock Holmes for each new generation.

HON 291: Writing Like a Beast: Hybrid Forms
William Cordeiro
In this class, we will read and write texts that evade, combine, or problematize traditional literary genres. For example, we will explore flash fiction, prose poems, lyric essays, closet drama, nonfiction novels, verse novels, fables, micro-essays, aphorisms, and other genre-busting work. We will also read and compose writing that incorporates photos or artwork into the text or that depends on the design elements of the book itself, including chap and zines; we will examine new media and hybrid performance texts alongside pieces that cross over the supposed divide between academic and creative writing. Ultimately, we will reflect on what constitutes genres and disciplines as well as both the possibilities and potential drawbacks of “bastardization.”

HON 291: The Hero’s Journey
Emily Davalos
Why do our heroes grip us? What is it about them that can rip our hearts out as well as make them soar? What is it about our heroes that opens a door for us to enter their world and travel step by step alongside them without growing weary? Join me as we analyze our favorite literary heroes in the fantastical worlds of Middle Earth and Hogwarts in our exploration of the hero’s journey in the epic tales Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter. What do these tales teach us about character, love, friendship, truth-telling, heroism, justice, law, war, punishment, identity, meaning, death, and free will? Universities across the country are offering courses on Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter because, as Melinda Finberg explains, they help us “understand why we are so driven to invent stories about battling inhuman powers to learn what it means to be human” (“When Harry Potter is in the Classroom, Cameras Role”). We will also focus on language and how it brings our worlds alive for us in light of Tolkien’s languages and Rowling’s use of Latin.

HON 291: Rhetoric in Pop Culture
Emily Davalos
This course will focus on analyzing the rhetoric in pop culture texts. We will begin the semester delving into Aristotle’s Rhetoric in order to lay the foundation of rhetorical theory. We will then apply these skills to analyze messages in tv, movies, music, social media, sports, and videogames. Our guiding questions are: How do we shape and how are we shaped by the rhetoric in pop culture?

HON 291: The Fairy Tale
Emily Davalos
During this course, we will reflect critically on the ways in which fairy tales connect us with each other and teach us about the human condition. This course will create space for us to explore the role and function of fairy tales by applying a range of literary theories to our analysis, which include New Criticism, Deconstruction, Psychoanalysis, Postcolonialism, Gender studies, Queer Theory, and EcoCriticism. We will explore the interdisciplinarity of nature fairy tales by adopting various critical perspectives in order to investigate the intricate dance of human freedom in service of human and ecological communities.

HON 291: Wild Writers Writing Outdoors
Ted Martinez
In this course we will discover the magic of nature writing, why writers do nature writing, and the magic of writing outdoors about place. An emphasis will be placed on the creation of nature writing and discovering nature through experience and writing. We will analyze the elements that make good nature writing and attempt to emulate what we have learned by writing about place while writing in the outdoors. We will read classic nature authors such as Aldo Leopold, Edward Abbey, Barry Lopez, Terry Tempest Williams and John Muir. We will also foray into the philosophical underpinnings of nature writing and environmental philosophy.

HON 291: Aesthetic and Humanistic Inquiry
HON 291: The Power of Love, the Love of Power
Anne Scott
HON 291: No Sh*t Sherlock
Kevin Ketchner
HON 291: Writing Like a Beast: Hybrid Forms
William Cordeiro
HON 291: The Hero’s Journey
Emily Davalos
HON 291: Rhetoric in Pop Culture
Emily Davalos
HON 291: The Fairy Tale
Emily Davalos
HON 291: Wild Writers Writing Outdoors
Ted Martinez
HON 292: Cultural Understanding
HON 292: Privilege, Power, and Difference: Performing Diversity in Contemporary America
Season Ellison
Performance is a valuable tool through which artists and audiences alike may grapple with difficult problems in the contemporary world. In this course, we will use performance as a tool to interrogate the larger concepts of Privilege, Power, and Difference in America. We will turn to theatre, film, fiction, poetry, and daily life performance to consider the question: “What does difference mean in contemporary American society.” The answers will vary widely depending on ability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, and sexuality—in fact, defining answers may not be possible at all! However, it is through our questioning that we will develop a better understanding of our society and those people we view as different from ourselves in our ever-shrinking, global world.
HON 293: Applied Science

HON 293: Human Restoration
Ted Martinez
This class will ask the question, what happens to the human spirit and psych when we restore landscapes? Do we restore a bit of humanity when we restore our connection to the land? Readings will focus on ecological restoration, restoring wildlife and habitat and the human spirit. Field trips will be done to perform ecological restoration and experience restored landscapes. We will see firsthand if these experiences have an effect upon the psych of the course participants. Reading, discussion and learning will be done in class and in the out of doors.

HON 293: Social and Political Worlds

HON 294: Resistance and Activism
Cassie Dakan
What inspires people to rise up and resist dominant culture to create a different greater good? Through historic and modern fiction and non-fiction, this course will explore culture change, power, oppression, freedom, conflict, and group identity, and uncover how resistance and activism build more free and just societies.

HON 294: A Life of Meaning: Contemplation, Compassion and Community
Cassie Dakan
What does it mean to “stop the noise” or to experience “quiet ego”? In a hurry-up, want-it-now, future oriented modern Western world, how can we live in the present – in immediate, reflective and meaningful experience, among caring and supportive people? In this class we will read about, discuss, and practice the course title.

HON 294: Breaking Bad
William Cordeiro
In this course we will examine the popular, award-winning AMC television series Breaking Bad from a variety of perspectives. We will closely read each episode as well as interpret and contextualize the series from a cultural studies framework. In addition, we will look at contemporary social and philosophical issues that the show brings up, including debates about drugs, gangs, family structure, disabilities, death, violence, black markets, neoliberalism, borders, morality, egoism, and the nature of good and evil. We will also examine the literary references, geopolitical background, and cinematic influences behind the show.

HON 294: Deconstructing Disney
Glenn Hansen
Steamboat Willie, Epcot Center, princess obsessions, FantasyLand, and animated films have been a part of our culture for generations, entertaining young and old alike. In this class, nothing will be considered sacred about the Disney enterprise as we investigate its effect on society through history, gender issues, racial issues, economics, management, corporate culture, politics, community development, and the arts (to name a few) and consider whether Disney reflects our culture or creates it. Has Disney been a positive, educational influence on our children, values, and culture? Or is it an evil, monolithic corporation to be feared and despised preying on an insatiable need for entertainment in pursuit of profit? Global perspectives and popular culture critiques guide this class.

HON 294: Into the Future: Visions of Tomorrow
Cassie Dakan
Foresight is the newest term for the study of envisioning the future. How do people imagine and theorize multiple possible, probable, and preferable futures, seeking to understand what may continue and what may change for life on Earth. Foresight study merges the social and natural sciences, and parallels the field of history. Importantly, it examines how humans will behave and interact as complex world systems and dynamics shift.

HON 294: The Twilight Zone
Robyn Martin
Why study the 1950s? Was it much different than any other decade? How true, really, were the stereotypical representations of conformity, consumerism, big cars, commies, atomic power, poodle skirts and Elvis?

Using episodes of the original television series The Twilight Zone (1959-1964) as a foundation for analysis, we’ll examine this decade from a historical, socio-political and cultural perspective and discover how this series informs and frames the important issues experienced in the United States and why both the series and the decade still resonates and shapes our collective thought and action today.