

HON 290 Seminars: Spring 2018

HON 291: Aesthetic and Humanistic Inquiry

HON 291: Fierce Food in the Arts: A Journey Through Humanity's Use of Food as a Creative Medium

Gamin Summers

Humans need food to live, yet we do not always associate food with mere survival. In this course, we will examine ways food is used as a medium for communication and creative expression. Renaissance still-life food paintings convey status and wealth. Food writing uses elaborate descriptions to make a reader's mouth water (or stomach churn). Food in literature and film connects us to characters, cultures, and memories. Food is hilarious as a device for comedians or songwriters, or it inspires self-examination and change in documentaries. Food is even weaponized in a food fight. We will explore artistic works, writing, film, fashion, and music about food, including music using food as instruments. We will even work with food to express ourselves!

HON 291: Romance versus Romance

John Doherty

The medieval tales of King Arthur, Queen Guinevere, and Sir Lancelot established the genre of courtly love that continues to influence traditional perceptions of love and romance to this day. This course will explore the development of the Romances of the so-called Matter of Britain and its influence on contemporary popular culture and romantic traditions and ideals.

HON 291: Harry Potter and the Muggle World

Tammy Mielke

This course focuses on gaining a greater understanding of Harry Potter as literary and cultural phenomena. This course studies the critical discourse that has emerged over the last decade or so as it relates to the novels and other cultural and artistic manifestations. This series is explored in terms of its broader social and political implications.

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 chaps 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 292: Cultural Understanding

HON 292: Way Out West: Cultural Studies of the American West

Rob Wallace

Cowboys, Indians, shootouts, horses . . . but also punk rockers, beat poets, aliens, and detectives. This course will investigate various archetypes of Western culture as well as figures not usually associated with the American West. From the Mexican/American borderlands, to the Pacific Rim, to the high desert, to the urban sprawl of Los Angeles, we'll analyze a shifting set of histories and mysteries that remain central to how the U.S. views itself and how the world views the U.S.!

HON 293: Applied Science

HON 293: Food Fight

Ted Martinez

In this class we will examine metabolic disorder and the role of added sugar in the diet. In his book *Fat Chance: beating the odds against sugar* (2013) Robert Lustig examines the role biology plays in our eating habits and health. We will also read *Salt, Sugar, Fat: How the food giants hooked us* by Michael Moss (2013), about the uphill battle we face as consumers to make healthy food choices. Finally, we will read *Eating on the Wild Side* by Jo Robinson (2013) about how we have bread vital phytochemicals out of our food stocks in order to replace them with sweet, palatable, evenly ripening food. The course will also feature a wide range of films focusing on food.

HON 293: The Mystery of the Brain

Melissa Schonauer

Who, really, is in control of our decisions, behavior and emotions? Is it our logic or our instinct (the more developed part or the more primitive part of ourselves)? Which is more important for our success in life, intellectual or emotional intelligence? And how does the brain function and sort through constant information in order to guide us through life? In this class, we will explore these questions by looking into neuroscience, anatomy, psychology, and, of course, ourselves.

HON 294: Social and Political Worlds

HON 294: Improvisation in Art and Life

Rob Wallace

Improvisation is one of the most important techniques used by artists in many disciplines. But as scholars have started to discover in recent decades, it turns out that improvisation is also one of the most important tools that humans can use to survive and thrive. This course will investigate the rich history of improvisation as a theory and practice in the arts and other aspects of human experience.

HON 294: Who Remembers the 1960s?: Cultural Studies of the Decade that Changed Everything

Rob Wallace

"If you remember the '60s, you weren't really there," or so goes the quip attributed to various people who were there, including members of the seminal psychedelic rock band, Jefferson Airplane. But what might we learn from remembering the '60s? And what kind of '60s memories have transformed our current era? This course investigates the various and sometimes conflicting and contradictory legacies of the 1960s, from a global perspective. We'll read histories and fictions, listen to music, watch films, and generally assess the way in which this single decade of the 20th century casts a long shadow on our contemporary lives.

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: 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: Now You See Them, Now You Don't

Robyn Martin

Societal motivations and reactions to unknown anomalies, like UFOs, Bigfoot, and the Bermuda Triangle, among others. Analyzes reports of unknown objects and creatures globally, and the controversies that surround them by studying the historic and current attitudes worldwide toward some of these phenomenon, including the scientific community, search/proof organizations, the "lunatic fringe," charlatans, the entertainment industry, and the press, and the reasoning behind the continuing societal need to believe in an unknown.

HON 294: On Leadership

David Camacho

This course is about leadership. As a member of the Honors Program community, you have a special and significant opportunity to affect the lives of others. Stated a bit differently, what obligation do you have to building community? Consider the following: Skill in building community is one of the highest and most essential skills a leader can command. Students will examine the development of leadership theories. Attention will then be given to assessing leadership skills. At its core, leadership is about knowing one's own personal values. Leaders that practice their personal values set a clear example for others, especially when their values are congruent, desirable, and beneficial for their communities. What shared values bring together diverse communities that define the complexity of the human experience?

HON 294: The Disney Discourse

Tammy Mielke

"In the 1960s, Richard Schickel wrote: "Disney has succeeded in putting a pair of Mickey Mouse ears on every developing personality in America." In this class, we will examine the myths about America and Americans that accompanied those mouse ears. We will focus on Disney's visions of the past and the future as arguments about his present, study the ways in which the Disney discourse was codified, multiplied, and disseminated during Walt's lifetime, and capitalized on after his death. We will look at a variety of Disney texts-animated and live action movies, themes parks, television shows, documentaries, speeches and interviews, merchandise-in the context of both their political and historical moment and Disney's real and imagined biography."

HON 202: Engaging in Honors Scholarship

Step one in your Honors Capstone Pathway: Explore research and careers; apply for scholarships; identify and choose your "Pathway" from "Health and Medical," "Interdisciplinary Team-Based Applied," "Knowledge/Discovery," "Creative," "Professional," or "Entrepreneurial" that best matches your future goals, plans, education, and/or professional aspirations and what that Honors Capstone might look like: Independent Study, Internship, Undergrad Research, Thesis, major-based capstone, or some combination of the above! HON 202 is designed to be taken your sophomore year, ideally, but we are offering a few sections this coming Spring 18 term."