

Fall 2017

HON 29X course descriptions

HON 291: TALIESIN'S SUCCESSORS

John Doherty

The course will explore the origins of the medieval/renaissance story, showing how changes in society impacted its development into a hugely popular morality tale wrapped around the mythic image of idealistic heroism that we still reference today. We will jump forward to its use in the 20th/21st century, especially its presence in film and fantasy fiction. We will take most of the course time to explore the legend's influence on some of the biggest fantasies of this time, including Tolkien, Star Wars, and Game of Thrones. Finally, we will end with an examination of the latest version that is Ritchie's King Arthur.

HON 291: CHILDREN'S FILM

Tammy Mielke

This class focuses on cinematic adaptation of literary works, exploring how theme, form, technique, and style manifest in both film and written text for a specific audience. We are also vested in exploring how the intended audience is both inside and outside both the literature and the film to determine through authorship and directing, publishing and producing - the desires of adults have in the shaping of the generation after them.

HON 292: YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT: FOOD&CLTR

George Gumerman

Food is a necessary component for survival; yet food and cooking go beyond calories and nutrition. Food is symbolically loaded and forms a part of everyday social relations. Because food and cooking are extremely social, the study of food provides an innovative avenue towards understanding culture, especially social and gender relations. Through the study of food we thus gain an illuminating perspective on culture. Ethnic and Group Identity, food taboos, gender relations, hunger, food sharing and feasting, the political economy of food, food and self, food and sustainability (Including farmers markets and community supported agriculture).

HON 293: THE MYTH OF TECHNOLOGY

Ted Martinez

There are numerous myths of technology. One is that it is a savior, the other is that it is a double edged sword. In this course we will attempt to analyze the promises as well as the limits of technology. To do this we will examine folklore and mythology related to technology as well as novels that may serve as cautionary tales. Some contemporary case studies will include social media, space travel, energy production, climate change, medicine, and genetic engineering just to name a few. Students will be asked to assess their own values related to technology and determine comfortable boundaries for its application in their own lives and society.

HON 294: POLITICS OF PUNK MUSIC

Rob Wallace

As early as 1977, the year when many people first started to hear about the music genre known as punk, it was already being declared dead. But as critics such as Greil Marcus have argued, punk was merely a more recent emanation of a much longer historical phenomenon. This class will investigate the roots and routes of punk, focusing on the politics and cultural impact of punk as music, fashion, art, rebellion, etc.

HON 294: MEDICAL RHETORIC

Will Cordeiro

The class will focus on medical culture, but also the science of medicine, and the social and political implications of it. We'll look at the cultural of illness, disabilities, and surgeons; the science behind vaccination, hysteria, Munchausen syndrome, fibromyalgia, and morticians; the history of medicine all the way back to the theory of the humors and Galen; and the social and political nature of such things as the health care system, health campaigns, abortion, euthanasia, medical laws, and patient-doctor empathy.