

Fall 2021
HON course descriptions**HON 243: Lower Colorado River**

HON-243 Lower Colorado River and the West is an on-line and field course that will introduce students to issue of environmental justice, volunteerism, environmental restoration and international cooperation between the US and MX. Pre –trip studies will be done through reading and film. Students will read the Colorado River Compact which governs the law of the river as well as Minute 319 which is a cooperative agreement between the US and MX that allocates environmental base and pulse flows to the delta below Morelos Dam in MX during spring 2014. Students will also gain a historic perspective through the writings of Aldo Leopold who explored the delta in 1922 with his brother and wrote about his findings in A Sand County Almanac. In the field students will visit restoration sites on the border between US and MX and have the opportunity to perform on-site environmental restoration that will directly contribute to the success of the delta ecosystem.

HON 244: Water World

This class will explore local, regional and global water issues using film, reading and discussion. We will begin by asking questions about how we use water in our daily lives and society, and examine the primary water source of the southwest, the Colorado River. We will use this as an opportunity to talk about water resource management and water quality before exploring global water issues. Global water issues will include the privatization of water and pollution. This is a cultural awareness course, with additional emphasis on scientific concepts related to water. Course includes online film viewing and BBLearn discussions, short reflections on films, weekly related readings, and a final research paper.

HON 291: Pop Pandemic

Robyn Martin

The rhetorical study of pop culture created in response to particular pandemics and its purpose. Course topics will include discussion of some definitions of popular culture, sample various medieval to 21c popular culture texts, and use rhetorical analysis to determine how particular texts and their messages persuaded and motivated historic audiences to act. Course is interdisciplinary, including some historical, anthropological, sociological, psychological, and of course cultural emphasis. Studying these topics will be relevant and rewarding as we compare the horror of the particular past plague-pandemics to this current one. The course will inspire us to better understand the suffering that happened in the past and understand that relevance to today's COVID-19 pandemic experience.

HON 292: Politics of Culture

David Camacho

This course takes the view that culture and politics are related. Evidence to his effect will be drawn from the United States. The close relationship between culture and politics makes it difficult to determine a causal relationship. That is, there are periods in history when culture shaped politics; and other periods where politics influenced culture. While we may generally identify a "common culture," or a "common politics," the tensions in this relationship make for a much more complex view of the U.S. experience. The course is multidisciplinary in approach. We examine the subject matter through academic textbooks, novels, articles, film, art, and poetry.

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 294: Politics of Punk Music

Rob Wallace

This writing and reading intensive, topic-based seminar investigates the dynamic relationships between human communities and their ecological context, the systemic components and dynamics of contemporary human societies, relationships between human societies and the global community, and the major dimensions of variation in contemporary human experience. HON 294 engages students in the study of the diversity of human communities and the relationships and interactions between the psychological, historical, social, and political components of human communities. Empirical and theoretical strategies are employed to study human behavior and interaction within social, political, and cultural systems.

HON 303: Honors Advanced Scholarship

Chelsea McKeirnan, Kara Attrep

HON 303 is designed to define and plan, in detail, the student's Honors Capstone experience. HON 303 is the second in a sequence of required courses that builds on the foundation of HON 202. Honors students develop their Honors Capstone Pathway culminating in a research, creative, or experiential project that they complete during their senior year. HON 303 sections are aligned with the different Honors Capstone Pathways (Health/Medical, Interdisciplinary Team-Based Applied, Knowledge/Discovery, Creative, Professional, and Entrepreneurial). Students in HON 303 write their proposal for their capstone experience, define their capstone course options, and select their capstone mentors. Note: HON 303 is not intended to be taken prior to students' sophomore years.

HON 391: Art in Social Justice

Kara Attrep

This course examines the creative responses to current social justice issues (Black Lives Matter, the Women's March, DAPL, etc.). Through a socio-cultural and historical lens, we will explore the music, art, literature, and film that has developed from these movements. Ultimately, the course will lead students into our community to talk and learn from artists, filmmakers, authors, and musicians who, here in Flagstaff, Arizona, and beyond, have been involved in creative endeavors to bring attention to social justice issues. Students will also have an opportunity to engage in creative activities that address social justice movements.

HON 391: Experimental Writing

Will Cordeiro

Most writing courses emphasize rules, conventions, and guidelines. Instead, this course will experiment in challenging some of those preconceived notions and inherited prescriptions. We will play with alternative constraints; question the purposes, forms, and audiences of our work; and reinvent the writing process. In this course we'll engage in a wide variety of composition, both on and off the page, including cutting-edge creative writing in fiction, poetry, drama, and creative nonfiction. We'll also explore work in journalism, travel writing, essaying, post-genre modes, philosophical analysis, collage, hybrid genres, aphorisms, new and social media, "creative" academic writing, so-called "uncreative writing," co-opted forms, retellings, pop genres, translations, visual and aural forms, and more. We will seek to situate experimental writing traditions in relation to performance, crafting textual materials, emerging technologies, social justice and political engagement, and emerging communities of practice. As experimental writing requires an experimental classroom, we will likewise re-envision seminar and workshop pedagogy. Our inquiries will delve into what constitutes research and fieldwork, how best to engage in collaborative endeavors, finding innovative ways to revise, seeing how the medium affects the message, testing the limits of communication, and examining the very nature of writing itself from hieroglyphs to emojis. We will seek inspiration from a long tradition of avant-garde movements as well as contemporary literature, film, and other materials. Experimental writing puts us in the position of learning to read all over again; similarly, experiments in reading will attempt to reveal the original excitement and wonder of language.

HON 392: Culture, Race, and Democracy

David Camacho

This is an interdisciplinary course that examines the experiences of people of color in the United States. Anthropological, historical, sociological, economic, and political evidence offers an understanding of issues relevant to the study of race and ethnicity in the United States. At the most basic level, an understanding of the experiences of people of color must account for social, political, and economic factors shaping their experiences.

HON 394: Marvels of the Marvel Universe

Tammy Mielke

In this course, *The Marvels of Marvel: The Cinematic Universe and Beyond*, we will study this history of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), including the psychology behind the success of the comics. We will then move into the 2008-present year, evaluating the films, television shows, and comics for their actions, behaviors, and issues inside this singular reality. Beyond the MCU study itself (concepts of gender, disability, ageism, geographical locations, the real-fake and the fake-real), we will unearth about how the MCU is managed. Ultimately, we will learn about the need for seeing heroes in ourselves through the ways Marvel redefines and problematizes the concept of the heroic.

HON 394: Cult: In Too Deep

Robyn Martin

This course explores the history, sociology, and psychology behind cults around the world by studying selected cults, from national to global, and their group members and motivations in order to better understand why cults exist and thrive. We will examine how and why society responds, sometimes negatively and sometimes not, to these groups, when and how cults become dangers to others (local to global), and finally finding different ways to relieve threats from particular cults around the world.