

Fall 2022

HON 29X & 39X course descriptions

HON 291: Comics and Other Intermedia

Rob Wallace

Over the past few decades, comic books, manga, and anime have finally started to get noticed in the United States as a legitimate, scholarly form of artistic expression. Outside of the US, this type of artistic medium has been both popular and respected for many years. Long before the modern comic book and manga were created, forms of writing mixed with images were being produced, which greatly influenced subsequent generations of global popular culture. This course will survey the evolution of comic books with an emphasis on manga and anime. Japanese poetry, scrolls, kamishibai, and ukiyo-e prints will be addressed so that students better comprehend the background of this artistic, meaningful medium. Students will conduct research and create their own, unique text/image/digital works throughout the semester.

HON 294: Crime & Punishment

Will Cordeiro

We will explore several issues related to American crime and punishment, such as: policing, mass incarceration, immigration and border patrol, the war on drugs and drug legalization, criminal justice reform, systemic racism, the death penalty, gun control, gangs, protests and riots, so-called “white collar” crimes, and criminal behavior by corporations. We will look at how intersecting legal, economic, political, and social systems have contributed to these issues in the United States, especially how racial disparities in both policies and enforcement result in a “New Jim Crow” and have created a prison-industrial complex. Likewise, we will examine the merits and drawbacks of various reform proposals as well as the effect of recent activist groups, political parties, and corporate interests in shaping debates. In addition, we will analyze the historical changes and the ideological roots that have informed these debates both in the past and the present. Students will engage in research, interviews, site visits, collaborative projects, debates, hands-on activities, and writing assignments to consider multiple perspectives on these important issues and the influence of intersecting factors upon them. Ultimately, we will contemplate concepts of citizenship, race, freedom, and democracy.

HON 294: Death & Taxes

Ryan Tans

“In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes,” according to Benjamin Franklin’s famous quotation. Yet while no one cheats death, many people cheat on their taxes. Indeed, the continuous struggle between tax-evading citizens and tax-collecting states can be said to have built the modern political world. Historically, the struggle over taxation led to the emergence of the state, the organizational form that dominates world politics. More recently, the struggle over taxation has underpinned the great ideological debate between socialism and liberalism. This course examines how taxation has shaped history in these two broad respects.

HON 340: Finding Place in Northern Arizona

Robyn Martin and Dawn Sutherland

This course combines academic study of place-based writing and art to explore notions of place in general and some of the extraordinary qualities of northern Arizona’s landscape. We will begin with foundational readings: theories of place and cultural mapping, examples of non-fiction place-based writing, and art (e.g., landscape painting) associated with place, and some theories of the relation between verbal and visual arts, exploring among others Native American and Euro perspectives. The heart of the course will be several required daily field workshops, as well as 4 required weekend excursions — each focused on either writing or painting. No previous experience in art or creative writing required.

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 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 393: THE BIOLOGY OF CANCER

Diane Stearns

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S., so everyone is affected by this disease in some way. In this class, we will dive into the molecular mechanisms of the disease in order to better understand the causes of cancer as well as to investigate past, present, and possible future treatments for the disease. We will also look into how the field of cancer research began and how it influences the decisions we make as individuals and as a society.

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.

HON 491C: Honors Capstone: Topics in Biology

Melissa Schonauer

In this Honors Capstone course, we will explore topics including molecular mechanisms of disease, genetics, genomics, and translational medicine. This course is geared toward Biology majors. Students will perform individual and group literature-based research on topics of interest, and will complete a public presentation. Requirements: Junior or senior status with Honors College consent as well as completion of or co-convening with HON 39X. This class will fulfill 3 units of the Honors Capstone requirement.