

Fall 2023

HON 29X & 39X course descriptions

HON 291: Pop Pandemic

Robyn Martin

The rhetorical study of pop culture was 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. The 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 294: WHAT IS THE NATION?

Jessica Strom

Historian and political scientist Benedict Anderson famously wrote, "Nation, nationality, nationalism; all have proved notoriously difficult to define, let alone to analyze." What is the nation and who is part of it? Where did the idea of the nation come from and how has that idea changed over the last 200 years? How have revolutions created and recreated nations? In this course we will try to answer these questions by looking at three specific moments when the idea of the nation has been particularly prominent in public discourse. By looking at a wide range of materials including historical documents, fiction, television and film, and news coverage, we will examine how the idea of the nation has been constructed, contested, and reimagined over time. The course will begin by looking at Anderson's *Imagined Communities*, a foundational text on the study of nationalism. Next, we will explore the process of Italian national unification in the nineteenth century. We will then move to the post-World War II period and discuss the collapse of empire, the revolutionary movements that led to the independence of new nation-states, and how the legacies of colonialism affected the creation of these new nations and continue to do so today. Finally, this course will assess the state of the nation in the United States during the coronavirus pandemic. Using the Asian American Pacific Islander as a case study, in this unit we will discuss the history of inclusion and exclusion of the AAPI community in the U.S. and how its relationship to the nation has been affected by the pandemic.

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: 20TH CENTURY, COLD WAR & TODAY

Karl Krotke-Crandall

This seminar investigates the dynamic relationships between human communities within the 20th-century world through the lens of the Cold War. Events of the last century shaped our modern world through policies, human interactions, and conflicts. HON 294 engages students in the study of the 20th-century world by exploring the evolution of the political spectrum, the intersection of humans through relocation, and modernity in conflict. It unpacks how these events inform our world today. Empirical and theoretical strategies are employed to study

global interaction within social, political, and cultural systems in a time ripe with Capitalism, Communism, Fascism, and the decolonizing world.

HON 340: FINDING PLACE IN NORTHERN AZ

Kevin Gustafson, Dawn Sutherland

What does it mean to have a sense of place, and how can one develop it through reading, writing, and painting? This course combines academic study 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 each focused on either writing or painting. Students will go into the field to develop the relation between hand, eye, and mind. At once academic and creative, this course is designed to help students develop both critical and creative skills. No previous experience with painting or creative writing is 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 393: THE BIOLOGY OF CANCER

Melissa Schonauer

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 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 393: Hot Mess: Ecological Fiction

Ted Martinez

This advanced seminar will analyze science fiction and climate fiction writing as a means to understand public perceptions of science, the science of global climate change, and the limits and opportunities available in science communication. Students will produce fiction writing in the genre of climate fiction using information provided by climate science research. Other means of communication such as poetry or art may also be submitted. Class assignments will center on understanding the science in science fiction, fiction writing, character development and plot development, climate science, global climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.