

## HON 290 Seminars: Spring 2019

### HON 291: Aesthetic and Humanistic Inquiry

#### HON 291: Comics and Other Intermedia

*Chelsea Bergner and Kevin Gustafson*

Over the past few decades, comic books have finally started to get noticed in the United States as a legitimate form of artistic expression. Outside of the US, comics have been both popular and respected for many years, and even before the modern comic book was created, forms of writing mixing with images were being created that would influence subsequent generations of popular culture. This course will survey the history of comic books and associated forms of visual and textual art (such as concrete poetry and Japanese ukiyo-e prints) and encourage students to create their own text/image works.

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

*Cara Corbin*

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: Performance: Life, Art, Action

*Robert Wallace and William Cordeiro*

Students in this course will explore a wide variety of creative writing and performance-based art forms and media, including play scripts, improvisation, choreography, happenings, devised works, film and video, stand-up comedy, poetry reading, dance, opera, monologues, installations, musical performances, theater, and other acts of collaboration. We will explore the history and intersections of these performative genres while endeavoring to create our own pieces as individuals and groups.

#### HON 291: Romance versus Romance

*Amanda Gilbert*

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: Wild Writers, Writing Outdoors

*Ted Martinez*

In this course we will discover the magic of nature writing, why writers do nature writing, and the magic of writing outdoors about place. We will analyze the elements that make good nature writing and attempt to emulate what we have learned by writing about place and writing in the outdoors.

#### 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 292: Cultural Understanding

#### HON 292: Global Popular Culture

*Kara Attrep*

This course examines popular culture from a global perspective. How is popular culture defined globally? What are the economic, political, and social forces that shape and influence popular culture around the globe? In answering these questions, this course employs anthropology, sociology, and cultural theory to address global popular culture from a critical and theoretical perspective. Although geographical regions and nations will contribute to our investigation of global popular culture, this course is organized around specific themes. These themes include the impact of politics on popular culture, the influence of globalization on popular culture worldwide, the importance of race, class, religion, and gender to understanding popular culture, and the consideration of economic forces on popular culture around the world.

## 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 bred 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: 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: 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: Life of Meaning: Contemplation**

*Cassandra Dakan*

This topic-based seminar investigates the systemic components and dynamics of contemporary human societies, relationships between human societies and the global community, the major dimensions of variation in contemporary human experience, and the dynamic relationships between human communities and their ecological context. This course will explore contemplative practices, their contexts and benefits: compassion as a common denominator across human societies: quiet ego as a fundamental component of contemplative, compassionate living: and contemplation and compassion as foundations for discovering personal meaning and building community.

#### **HON 294: Resistance and Activism**

*Cassandra 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*

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: Playing the Game of Thrones**

*Tammy Mielke*

This course will look at the reality of Cersei Lannister's words by analyzing this history of Martin's world and his use of genre to present, the relationships between the psychological, social, cultural and political components of human communities, and the dynamics of human behavior in varied contexts. This course will unearth the many ways in which the text/show operate as a discourse on power: political power via government and personal sphere; power through bodies in terms of gender and age; power through religion and ethnicity; and power through society in terms of wealth and poverty.

## **HON 294: Medical Rhetoric**

*William Cordeiro*

Bodies of Knowledge: Medical Rhetoric 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.