

# Spring 2025

## HON 2XX and 39X HON course descriptions

### **HON 240: PERFORMANCE IN PRACTICE;** Rob Wallace

Improv, Music, Performance Art and Beyond. This is an undergraduate ensemble dedicated to improvisation, experimental musics, and intermedia/multimedia performances. It is open to all majors and all skill levels (even “non-musicians” or “nonartists”). No audition is required. The ensemble puts on at least one public performance during the semester. Students will learn and perform a wide variety of musics and other performance traditions including improvisation, performance art, theater, movement, and other elements typically overlooked in Western artistic practice. The ensemble interacts with visiting and local artists, and also features original student work.

### **HON 243: LOWER COLORADO RIVER;** Ted Martinez

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;** Ted Martinez

This 8-week class will begin the second half of Spring 2025 and 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 Canvas discussions, short reflections on films, weekly related readings, and a final research paper.

### **HON 391: WRITING TO CHANGE THE WORLD;** Kerri Quinn

This course will employ an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and reflecting upon the writer’s responsibilities as moral agent and how crafting a piece of writing that not only communicates an idea, but also actually convinces readers of a new truth can be a precarious process, fraught with pitfalls, yet have potentially vast rewards. Over the course of the term, we will analyze texts, examining and questioning how these works touch readers, shake beliefs, expands perspectives and possibly change some piece of the world.

**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 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 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.

**HON 394: REVOLUTION! ;** Jessica Strom

What is a revolution? What are its goals and characteristics? What motivates individuals to support revolutionary movements and take action to realize a new and better world? In this course we will examine the social, political, and economic dimensions of revolution and consider the wide range of people who participated in revolutionary activity. For example, we will explore the relationships between the French and Haitian Revolutions and discuss the long lasting consequences of each. We will look at the vast social changes brought by the Industrial Revolution and consider how this fueled subsequent Communist revolutions. We will also analyze how revolutions sought to give people rights, the uneven application of these rights, and continued struggles for increased equality. Throughout the course we will look at examples from 1789 to the present from across the globe and use a wide range of sources to enhance our discussions.

**HON 394: NOT FOR PROFIT;** Kevin Gustafson

This course considers the history, concept, and reality of nonprofit organizations in the United States from several angles: as a response to defined social needs, as a source of civic identity and pride, as a site at which people professionals and volunteers find personal meaning, and as an entity with its own internal organizational dynamics. We will read accounts of social and personal impulses behind the founding and operations of nonprofits, look at case studies of successful (and less successful) nonprofits, and hear from guest speakers from a variety of local and regional nonprofits.

**HON 394: GENOCIDE IN THE MODERN WORLD;** Karl Krotke-Crandall

This course offers an exploration of genocide as a modern concept, created in 1948, but has profound examples pre-dating the globally accepted definition. Students in this class will engage in a discussion of the modern legal definition and its history. They will then explore case studies of violent actions from the nineteenth through twenty first centuries to understand the implications of the current legal definition of the crime. Victims groups explore in this class may include: the Herero, Armenians, Indigenous persons of the United States, European Jews, Bosnians, Cambodians, and Rwandans.