

Spring 2025

HON 29X HON course descriptions

HON 291: CINEMATIC VIEW: POLITICS AND IDEOLOGY; Karl Krotke-Crandall

In “Politics and Ideology through the Cinematic Lens in the 20th and 21st Centuries” what we know and think connects with the content on the silver screen. In the past, films were an easy and convenient method to distribute ideas to massive audiences and became propaganda tools. The medium played a significant role in how societies understood their place in the world and what outcomes their leaders hoped and expected of their citizens. This course examines the role of cinema in developing and communicating political ideology throughout the 20th Century and how they’ve emerged into the contemporary world. Throughout the course, we will view and analyze films that convey ideologies to viewers to better understand how we see the world today.

HON 291: THE NATURE OF CREATIVITY; Pegge Vissicaro

This course investigates creativity from interdisciplinary, historical, and/or cross-cultural perspectives. Theoretical research and experiential practices provide a foundation to explore creative processes and how values such as innovation, imagination, and problem-solving shape individual and group behaviors. Approaches to creativity may examine philosophical, psychological, educational, scientific, aesthetic, spiritual, and/or environmental contexts.

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. An emphasis will be placed on the creation of nature writing and discovering nature through experience and writing. We will analyze the elements that make good nature writing and attempt to emulate what we have learned by writing about place while writing in the outdoors. We will read classic nature authors such as Aldo Leopold, Edward Abbey, Barry Lopez, Terry Tempest Williams and John Muir. We will also foray into the philosophical underpinnings of nature writing and environmental philosophy.

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 291: HOPE, FEAR, AND DESIRE; Kerri Quinn

In his “victory speech” President-elect Barack Obama stated, “It’s the answer that led those who’ve been told for so long by so many to be cynical and fearful and doubtful about what we can achieve to put their hands on the arc of history and bend it once more toward the hope of a better day. It’s been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this date in this election at this defining moment change has come to America.” In this course, your readings, writings, and class discussions will address, both broadly as well as specifically, the themes of fear and hope and how they inform our needs, hopes, and desires on a personal, national, and global level. We will explore, expand, and question the ways in which these themes intersect with our sense of community, language, social reality, and identity.

HON 291: IN SEARCH OF WISDOM; Kyle Welty

Human beings have sought after wisdom since our earliest days. In this course, students will read wisdom literature from various traditions, seeking to find what relevance it might have in their lives. Readings will be drawn from a wide range of sources, including eastern authors, classical authors, and authors from the three Abrahamic faiths. Stretching the label “ancient,” readings from Enlightenment authors will be incorporated at the close of the semester.

HON291: WEIRD WORLD: SCI-FI; Robert Wallace

By the time Mary Shelley published what is often considered the first science fiction novel in 1818 (*Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus*), the new fields of physical science had started to influence imaginative writing in ways unknown to past generations. This course will investigate the history and contemporary context of so-called “science fiction” in dialogue with other genre fiction categories (“speculative fiction,” etc.) to unpack how these fictional worlds have both influenced and been influenced by modernity.

HON 292: HEALING ARTS, WORLD CULTURES; Pegge Vissicaro

Comparative study of music, dance, storytelling, creative writing, and other art forms as a therapeutic means to improve wellbeing in diverse global contexts.

HON 293: 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 293: PLANTS AND PEOPLE; *Ted Martinez*

Plants and people have co-evolved for thousands of years, but how much do you really know about the plants we depend on so much? Learn about plants as a source of medicine, food, fiber, alcohol, nutrition and health. Plants provide for us from our birth to death, exist in our culture and rituals, economy and industry, and comfort us in our homes. In this class we will examine plants in our everyday lives. There will be a focus on the principles of plant biology and taxonomy with an emphasis on human reliance upon plants including those used as a source of food, fiber, medicine, and other commercially important uses. Focus will also be on human nutrition, important plant families such as grasses and legumes, starchy foods, stimulating and alcoholic beverages, herbs, spices, and medicinal and psychoactive plants. There will be field collections and plant walks to foster a scientific appreciation of the plants around us.

HON294: MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH; Kyle Welty

As our knowledge of the natural world expands rapidly, we find that moral problems become more intricate rather than simplifying or disappearing. In this course, students will grapple with the major ethical questions surrounding birth, life, and death. Students will consider the major philosophical arguments germane to contemporary debates about medicine, abortion, euthanasia, and other similar issues. To gain additional insight, various cultures' approaches to these thorny ethical questions will be considered.

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.

HON294: MEDICAL RHETORIC; Kara Attrep

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.

HON 294: DIVAS OF THE WORLD; Kara Attrep

This course explores the music and lives of female and female-identifying singers. We will not only explore the music of the divas but will also examine the intersection of gender, sexuality, race, and class in connection with the lives of such musicians as Beyoncé and Lady Gaga.

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 analyse." 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. 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.