

## Spring 2021

# HON 29X course descriptions

### **HON 240: PERFORMANCE IN PRACTICE**

*Rob Wallace*

Performance in Practice: 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 “non-artists”). 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 class will 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 BbLearn discussions, short reflections on films, weekly related readings, and a final research paper.

### **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 291: MEET THE BEATLES**

*Rob Wallace*

Bigger than Jesus? Or just a band? The Beatles’ John Lennon made both of those claims during the short but incredible life of one of the most significant cultural institutions of the 20th century, the Beatles. This class explores the band and its legacy.

### **HON 291: FACTS & FICTIONS OF TIME TRAVEL: ADVENTURES WITH CONSEQUENCES**

*Tammy Mielke*

“People assume that *time* is a strict progression of cause to effect, but *actually* from a non-linear, non-subjective viewpoint - it’s more like a *big ball of wibbly wobbly... time-y wimey... stuff.*” — Steven Moffat. This quote from the show *Dr. Who* sums up this course; it’s an exploration of “timey wimey stuff” via literature, film, science, and philosophy. In this course we will read about the science of time travel, touch on some philosophies about time and how humans move through time and explore the ways in which time travel has been used in literature and on film (both on the small screen and the large screen) to examine the human condition, including how the ethics and values expressed in one time the impact the present or the future. What are the consequences of time travel to the past? What warnings come with seeing our own future? How does our obsession with time travel adventure negatively affect our involvement in the present? How do stories of past time travel compare with contemporary time travel stories? Are we stuck in our own cause and effect patterns when we evaluate time? How might the ability to time travel add to our understanding of the past, the present, and the future?

### **HON 291: GLOBAL POETRY, GLOBAL POETICS**

*Rob Wallace*

Poetry is and has been a global phenomenon, and remains one of the most ubiquitous forms of written and spoken expression in many cultures. In this course, we’ll read, discuss, analyze, and write about the function and meaning of poetry in society, broadly defined, with particular focus on how and why poetry has existed throughout a variety of cultures and contexts.

### **HON 291: PERFORMANCE: LIFE, ART, ACTION**

*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: 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.

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## **HON 291: WRITING LIKE A BEAST: HYBRID FORMS**

*Will Cordeiro*

This topic-based intensive writing and reading seminar introduces you to the issues surrounding a particular topic in the study of the human condition through philosophical inquiry and analysis of the various forms of creative and literary expression, encompassing diverse modes of artistic communication, including but not limited to the study of writing, music, film, photography, and art. You will develop an understanding between context and creative or literary expression, bridging the gap between academic study and artistic pursuits in a global and changing society. You will use your talents, abilities, and communicative skills to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the ways in which creative endeavors can be used to problem solve, contribute, and enhance your local, national, and global communities.

In this class, we will read and write texts that evade, combine, or problematize traditional literary genres. For example, we will explore flash fiction, prose poems, lyric essays, closet drama, nonfiction novels, linked stories, verse novels, fables, parables, micro-essays, aphorisms, and other genre-busting work. We will also read and compose writing that incorporates photos or artwork into the text or that depends on the design elements of the book itself, including chaps and zines; we will examine new media, film, and performance texts alongside pieces that bridge the supposed divide between academic and creative writing. And we will read YA texts with cross-over appeal to adult audiences. Ultimately, we will reflect on what constitutes genres and disciplines as well as both the possibilities and potential drawbacks of "bastardization." In the process, we will develop the skills of writing in different forms, conducting research broadly construed, revising, giving presentations, collaborating, and articulating rhetorical analysis.

## **HON 292: AFROFUTURISM**

*Kara Attrep*

Afrofuturism is a cultural, literary, and artistic Black aesthetic practice that provides an intellectual framework for the understanding of the history and legacies of slavery and colonialism and theories of technology in the modern world. Afrofuturism creates a space for the Black diaspora in the present and what is to come in the future. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, we will explore works of Afrofuturism through literature (in particular speculative and science fiction), music, dance, theater, and film.

## **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: HUMAN RESTORATION**

*Ted Martinez*

This class will ask the question, what happens to the human spirit and psych when we restore landscapes? Do we restore a bit of humanity when we restore our connection to the land? This class plans to partner with Landscape Conservation Initiative.

## **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 294: IMPROVISATION IN ART AND LIFE**

*Rob Wallace*

Improvisation is one of the most important techniques used by artists in many disciplines. But as scholars have started to discover in recent decades, it turns out that improvisation is also one of the most important tools that humans can use to survive and thrive. This course will investigate the rich history of improvisation as a theory and practice in the arts and other aspects of human experience.

## **HON 294: ATOMIC HOLLYWOOD**

*Robyn Martin*

*Attack of the 50-Foot Woman? The Blob? Red Planet Mars?* Using film as a framework, the course will be an analysis of the movie industry's response to specific social, economic and political forces over the postwar years. We'll watch sci-fi films like *Godzilla*, *Mothra*, and classics such as *On the Beach*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, and others, closely examining the transformation of the imagery and symbolism associated with the atomic age found in film produced and distributed between 1947 and 1964.