

Spring 2021

HON 39X course descriptions

HON 303: Honors Advanced Scholarship

Various

HON 303 is designed to define and plan, in detail, the student's Honors Capstone experience. HON 303 is the second in a sequence of required courses that builds on the foundation of HON 202. Honors students develop their Honors Capstone Pathway culminating in a research, creative, or experiential project that they complete during their senior year. HON 303 sections are aligned with the different Honors Capstone Pathways (Health/Medical, Interdisciplinary Team-Based Applied, Knowledge/Discovery, Creative, Professional, and Entrepreneurial). Students in HON 303 write their proposal for their capstone experience, define their capstone course options, and select their capstone mentors. Note: HON 303 is not intended to be taken prior to students' sophomore years.

HON 340: Writing the Grand Canyon

Robyn Martin

In this 1-credit workshop style class, students will learn and apply the basic techniques of non-fiction creative nature writing, including the skills of observing, journaling, drafting/peer-reviewing creative writing, and revising. The course includes an overnight field experience camping and hiking at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon (dates to be determined) where we will have a chance to put theory into practice, and gather material for our final non-fiction nature "memoir" essays. The Canyon will be our collective muse: inspiring us, challenging us, and providing vistas and experiences that we will transform into word paintings. No previous creative writing, camping or hiking experience necessary (students must be able to walk at least 3 or more miles at a decent pace).

HON 340: Writing Canyons and Rivers

Robyn Martin

Northern Arizona by studying, reading, and discussing regionally non-fiction creative literature, learning techniques of non-fiction creative writing, and then camping for 2 days in the field, writing, and visiting historic sites. This 2-credit survey course will allow students to experience the dynamic landscape of Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Colorado River, and the Lees Ferry area that many don't get to visit through artistic creation and student-directed learning.

HON 392: CULTURE, RACE, AND DEMOCRACY

David Camacho

This is an interdisciplinary course that examines the experiences of people of color in the United States. Anthropological, historical, sociological, economic, and political evidence offers an understanding of issues relevant to the study of race and ethnicity in the United States. At the most basic level, an understanding of the experiences of people of color must account for social, political, and economic factors shaping their experiences.

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 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 394: PUBLIC POLICY AND DEMOCRACY

David Camacho

This course, Public Policy, Politics, and Democracy: Understanding Policy as a Political Choice and its Consequences, will present approaches to understanding the public policy process. In examining particular policy areas (health policy, environmental policy, water policy, immigration policy, gun policy, or freedom of speech), students will understand not only a topology of policy, but the effects of certain policy types. The policy process will be placed within a framework of politics. Students may want to consider such concepts as equity, fairness, justice, and individual freedom. There will be inherent tensions to consider; indeed, democracy itself can be understood according to its political tensions. This is an interdisciplinary course as economic, anthropological, sociological, and psychological insights will be considered. We will include readings from the humanities, film, and poetry.

HON 394: CULT: IN TOO DEEP

Robyn Martin

This course explores the history, sociology, and psychology behind cults around the world by studying selected cults, from national to global, and their group members and motivations in order to better understand why cults exist and thrive. We will examine how and why society responds, sometimes negatively and sometimes not, to these groups, when and how cults become dangers to others (local to global), and finally finding different ways to relieve threats from particular cults around the world.

HON 394: First Ladies – Evolving Causes and Effects

Tammy Mielke

The White House – the home of the President; but also home of the First Ladies. How have the First Ladies wielded their power? In this class we will explore how the role of First Ladies gained power, fought for their causes, and their lasting impact on society.

HON 491C: Honors Capstone: Topics in Biology

Melissa Schonauer

In this Honors Capstone course, we will explore topics including molecular mechanisms of disease, genetics, genomics, and translational medicine. This course is geared toward Biology majors. Students will perform individual and group literature-based research on topics of interest, and will complete a public presentation. Requirements: Junior or senior status with Honors College consent as well as completion of or co-convening with HON 39X. This class will fulfill 3 units of the Honors Capstone requirement.