

Spring 2022

HON 39X course descriptions

HON 340: WRITING THE GRAND CANYON

Robyn Martin

In this 3 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 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 adaption 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: GLOBAL STUDIES

Rob Wallace

Global Studies is a opportunity for students to survey the theories and controversies surrounding globalization, including, but from a broader perspective than, the frequently-discussed economic model. Students will develop a final project related to some aspect of globalization, broadly conceived. As globalization implies an interconnected set of places, ideas, people, and histories, students from a wide variety of majors will be able to productively approach a final project topic that fits their individual interests. Along the way, we'll encounter major issues such as war, peace, culture, race & ethnicity, gender & sexuality, the environment, and religion, among others. We will investigate why and how global and international studies have become crucial for an informed understanding of the contemporary world and how the local and global are interconnected.

HON 491C (soon to be HON 395): CALDERWOOD SEMINAR: DIS-EASE

Melissa Schonauer

The understanding of life occurs through observation and questioning while the passing along of this understanding occurs through communication. One aspect of life that affects and concerns all living organisms is their biology. For humans, the most discussed, debated, and funded aspect of biology is disease (or dis-ease). This writing-focused course aims to teach students how to think and write about biology, and to recognize how often biology is all around us via things that are visible to the naked eye and things that are not visible. It also aims to develop a sense of awareness of the general public's perception of biology and of the degree of control they have over their own health, regardless of their level of education. Through regular writing assignments and group discussions, students will learn to communicate complex, specialized ideas to a non-specialized audience. In essence, students will work to take something that is invisible (incomprehensible) and make it visible (comprehensible) to the general public. BIOLOGY STUDENTS ONLY.

Contact honors@nau.edu for permission number.

HON 491C (soon to be HON 395): CALDERWOOD SEM: GOING MEDIEVAL

Kevin Gustafson

Ever since the term was coined, the Middle Ages has served as both an important historical category and a focus of popular fantasy. Scholars continue to debate key questions about the Middle Ages: When did it begin (and end)? Was it limited to Western Europe, or can one usefully speak of a global Middle Ages? In what ways does the Middle Ages continue to shape contemporary art, institutions, ideas, and prejudices? Even as academics debate *these* questions, the Middle Ages is also very much a part of the popular imagination, where it inspires everything from children's books and fantasy novels to Vegas casinos, theme parks, advertising, historical re-enactment groups, sketch comedy, and Hollywood films. Most recently, and to the horror of many scholars, features of medieval culture have been appropriated by a number of fringe political groups. More than ever, the Middle Ages calls us to consider a broader question of how we make sense of, and what fantasies we project onto, the past. In this writing-focused seminar, students will examine texts from and about the medieval past with the goal of learning to communicate what we observe about these texts in various forms of public writing. Students will translate specialist knowledge about the Middle Ages for a general audience, comment on academically inspired work that seeks to dispel popular myths about the Middle Ages, use medieval writing as the basis for creative nonfiction, and review contemporary manifestations of the medieval.