

## Spring 2023

### HON 29X course descriptions

#### **HON 291: POP PANDEMIC**

*Robyn Martin*

The rhetorical study of pop culture created in response to particular pandemics and its purpose. Course topics will include discussion of some definitions of popular culture, sample various medieval to 21c popular culture texts, and use rhetorical analysis to determine how particular texts and their messages persuaded and motivated historic audiences to act. Course is interdisciplinary, including some historical, anthropological, sociological, psychological, and of course cultural emphasis. Studying these topics will be relevant and rewarding as we compare the horror of the particular past plague-pandemics to this current one. The course will inspire us to better understand the suffering that happened in the past and understand that relevance to today's Covid 19 pandemic experience.

#### **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: 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: 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: 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: THE CURSE OF MASCULINITY**

*Perry Davidson*

In the first part of the twentieth century, authors such as Dashiell Hammet, and Ernest Hemingway were defining the ideal male as stoic, and in control. While Hemingway's novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, is very clear about the fears and insecurities surrounding any kind of emasculation, Hammet's take is less insightful but ultimately even more damaging than Hemingway's hopeless pursuit of manly perfection. Our task in this class will be to look at all of these roots and reactions to the societal pressure to behave according to a gender role, but also to look at the damage done to that very society in claiming that these roles are of defining importance to the very idea of America.

## **HON 291: MAPS OF IMAGINATION: WRITING ABOUT PLACE**

*Perry Davidson*

Whether you venture halfway round the world or just examine the goings-on in your own backyard, there's plenty to write about! In this course, we will look at different approaches to writing about place, including travel writing, journalism, creative nonfiction, poetry, environmental and nature writing, fiction, history, memoir, architecture, geography, ethnography, cross-genre texts, maps, and guidebooks. We will have opportunities to make excursions and investigate new places first-hand as well as reflect on places with which we are already familiar. We will think about our own relationship to places and what makes each one unique, contrasting different perspectives, genres, and disciplines. We will also look at how space and place help to shape cultures, impact ecology, and change over time. We'll discuss issues about, for example, the tourism industry and the social impact of spatial boundaries and borders. How has writing influenced the way we understand human geography, and how can writing help us see locations anew? Creative, collaborative, research, and experiential methods will aid us in exploring and writing about various terrains and territories.

## **HON 291: MODERN LOVE**

*Kama O'Connor*

This course examines some crucial accounts of love from the past two centuries, beginning with Jane Austen and working up to the present day. What does love mean in the modern world, and how do novelists, filmmakers, musicians, multimedia artists develop and play with our expectations? This interactive course will ask students to think critically about history and the ways stories are told throughout time; it will dive into unreliable narrators and the antihero in works of fiction; and ultimately ask the students to examine their idea of a good love story. From Austen to Bronte to Roberts, we will discover the marks of a story that will stand the test of time, and what Austen meant when she said, "but for my own part, if a book is well written, I always find it too short."

**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: WOMEN WRITE NOW**

*Kerri Quinn*

This course will examine the ways in which women are portrayed in literature, advertising, television, and film from various worldwide sources. We will analyze the powerful effects these representations have on the political, economic, and social lives of women throughout the world and how this affects the way women create and define their identity.

**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: 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.

### **HON 293: CALDERWOOD SEMINAR: TECHNOLOGY**

*Paul Flikkema*

In today's deluge of instant information, how do we sift fact from fiction, particularly in the area of technology? Technology is everywhere, and we know that it affects our lives daily in countless ways. We may also worry about how technology may be influencing the ways in which we think and interact, and who is in control of the information that technology collects about us. How can societies, and we as individuals, assess the good and bad about technologies that sometimes only a few experts really understand? In this course we will explore a number of contemporary technological innovations—including but not limited to artificial intelligence, automation, and the internet—as a means of sharpening our critical thinking skills about technology. Along the way, you will learn to write with greater confidence and impact, and with an eye to presenting specialized information to a general audience. Participants in this seminar do not need to have experience in computer science or engineering, but should have a healthy interest in what it means to live in a digital age.

### **HON 294: ON LEADERSHIP**

*David Camacho*

Students will examine the development of leadership theories. Attention will then be given to assessing leadership skills. At its core, leadership is about knowing one's own personal values. Leaders that practice their personal values set a clear example for others, especially when their values are congruent, desirable, and beneficial for their communities. What shared values bring together diverse communities that define the complexity of the human experience?

### **HON 294: MEDICAL RHETORIC**

*Will Cordeiro*

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.