

Spring 2023

HON 39X and other HON 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 fully online 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 391: WRITING TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Kerri Quinn

This course will employ an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and reflecting upon the writer’s responsibilities as moral agent and how crafting a piece of writing that not only communicates an idea, but also actually convinces readers of a new truth can be a precarious process, fraught with pitfalls, yet have potentially vast rewards. Over the course of the term, we will analyze texts, examining and questioning how these works touch readers, shake beliefs, expands perspectives and possibly change some piece of the world.

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 395: CALDERWOOD SEMINAR: TRAVEL WRITING

Will Cordeiro

In this workshop-based seminar, we will focus on composing short-form travel writing: guidebook entries, memoir, adventure articles, and nature writing. We'll also try our hand at related forms, such as book reviews and pitches to an editor. Whether telling about far-flung locales or your own backyard, travel literature is a rich terrain to explore issues of identity, cultures, geography, and the environment. We will look at the history of travel literature, too, including whether it reproduces colonialist assumptions of exploration and conquest. How can outsiders represent a place and culture responsibly? Likewise, we'll think about whether contemporary ecotourism can be truly sustainable. Classes will be centered on student-led workshops and discussions about the short weekly writing assignments and peer review. Our goal will be to produce polished pieces for journalistic, creative, and public forums accessible to a wide, non-specialized audience.

HON 491C: 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 CREATIVE WORKSHOP

Will Cordeiro

This course is designed as a hands-on workshop for students who are pursuing individual or group Honors Capstone projects that would be considered creative, such as (but not limited to) creative writing, journalism, performance, video and media, visual arts, and interdisciplinary creative practices. Students will be able to present drafts or selections of their work to their peers and gain feedback in this collaborative, workshop-based class while pursuing their individual (or group) projects. We will create a community to support each other's creative endeavors. Facilitated discussions, lessons, and guidance will be offered where appropriate for each project as well as to the whole class as needed, though students will be expected to work independently toward their own project's goals.