

Spring 2024

HON 29X course descriptions

HON 291: THE HERO'S JOURNEY; *Dina Yordy*

In 1949, writer and professor Joseph Campbell identified a common pattern found in heroic stories across all cultures. This pattern represented a shared human consciousness regarding daring journeys that came to be known as the "heroic monomyth." In this course, we will be examining a wide range of heroes' journeys across time and cultures. We will explore the nature of heroism and investigate Campbell's assertions and the various iterations of the patterns he identified. As we study hero stories, novels and film, students will gain a deep understanding of this archetypal expedition, determine its importance in the human experience, and create their own hero's journey in writing, film, or other artistic medium.

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: 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: CINEMATIC VIEW: POLITICS AND IDEOLOGY; *Karl Krotke-Crandall*

In "Politics and Ideology through the Cinematic Lens in the 20th and 21st Centuries" what we know and think connects with the content on the silver screen. In the past, films were an easy and convenient method to distribute ideas to massive audiences and became propaganda tools. The medium played a significant role in how societies understood their place in the world and what outcomes their leaders hoped and expected of their citizens. This course examines the role of cinema in developing and communicating political ideology throughout the 20th Century and how they've emerged into the contemporary world. Throughout the course, we will view and analyze films that convey ideologies to viewers to better understand how we see the world today.

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 WRITERS; *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 294: 20TH CENTURY, COLD WAR, & TODAY; Karl Krotke-Crandall

This seminar investigates the dynamic relationships between human communities within the 20th-century world through the lens of the Cold War. Events of the last century shaped our modern world through policies, human interactions, and conflicts. HON 294 engages students in the study of the 20th-century world by exploring the evolution of the political spectrum, the intersection of humans through relocation, and modernity in conflict. It unpacks how these events inform our world today. Empirical and theoretical strategies are employed to study global interaction within social, political, and cultural systems in a time ripe with Capitalism, Communism, Fascism, and the decolonizing world.

HON 294: WOMEN AND WAR; Jessica Strom

War is often associated with men and masculinity, as individuals showcase their power and pride to defend their causes. But women are just as much a part of war as their male counterparts. In fact, their activities and perspectives frequently allow us to see the many different sides of war that we would not otherwise see. In this course we will examine women and war in many settings including, but not limited to: women on the home and battle fronts; women's relationships with fathers, husbands, and sons during war; women and mourning; and women as the spoils of war. We will also look at a wide range of types of war: global war, civil war, and revolution. Readings in this course will include autobiographies, journals and letters, and scholarly articles, in addition to films and other images.

WHAT IS THE NATION?; Jessica Strom

*Historian and political scientist Benedict Anderson famously wrote, "Nation, nationality, nationalism — all have proved notoriously difficult to define, let alone to analyse." What is the nation and who is part of it? Where did the idea of the nation come from and how has that idea changed over the last 200 years? How have revolutions created and recreated nations? In this course we will try to answer these questions by looking at three specific moments when the idea of the nation has been particularly prominent in public discourse. The course will begin by looking at Anderson's *Imagined Communities*, a foundational text on the study of nationalism. Next we will explore the process of Italian national unification in the nineteenth century. We will then move to the post-World War II period and discuss the collapse of empire, the revolutionary movements that led to the independence of new nation-states, and how the legacies of colonialism affected the creation of these new nations and continue to do so today. Finally, this course will assess the state of the nation in the United States during the coronavirus pandemic. Using the Asian American Pacific Islander as a case study, in this unit we will discuss the history of inclusion and exclusion of the AAPI community in the U.S. and how its relationship to the nation has been affected by the pandemic.*

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.

HON 294: Death & Taxes; Joe Whitney

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes," according to Benjamin Franklin's famous quotation. Yet while no one cheats death, many people cheat on their taxes. Indeed, the continuous struggle between tax-evading citizens and tax-collecting states can be said to have built the modern political world. Historically, the struggle over taxation led to the emergence of the state, the organizational form that dominates world politics. More recently, the struggle over taxation has underpinned the great ideological debate between socialism and liberalism. This course examines how taxation has shaped history in these two broad respects.