Honors Seminars for Spring 2014

HON 400IH-1001  
Afghanistan and Pakistan: A Study in Complexity  
Instructor: Dr. Cathy Hanks  
*this course can satisfy the International requirement

Developing and implementing a national security policy for a specific country or region is most frequently a complex process. The underlying realities of the area must be understood. These can include, inter alia, national and regional history, ethnicity, geography, religion, economic factors, regional context, current political and military landscape, and non-state actors. U.S. interests must be identified and clearly articulated, both nationally and internationally. A policy must be developed using the broad range of “tools” available including but not limited to diplomacy, foreign assistance, international organizations and alliances, intelligence targeting, and if necessary military intervention. This seminar will use Afghanistan and Pakistan as a case study of the successes and failures of U. S. policy.

HON 400MH-1001  
Communicating Across Cultures  
Instructor: Dr. Danielle Roth-Johnson  
*this course can satisfy the multicultural requirement

To operate effectively in today’s increasingly globalized, diverse world, one needs to be socially sensitive and culturally competent. This course will help you meet the challenges of interacting with people whose communication practices may vary greatly from yours. Its primary goals will be to help you become more sensitive to differences in communication styles and to provide you with knowledge and skills that will help you interact more productively with people from cultures other than your own, including those within the United States. The class will cover basic concepts, principles, and practical skills for improving communication between persons from different ethnic, racial, religious, occupational and cultural backgrounds. It will also spotlight some of the key challenges that may arise when intercultural communication occurs between individuals and address how those issues may affect people in their jobs and relationships. Class activities will include oral presentations, guided discussion and analysis, exercises, simulations, fieldwork and group problem-analyses.

HON 400MH-1002  
The Courts in American Politics  
Instructor: Dr. Michael Bowers  
*this course can satisfy the multicultural requirement

Analysis of the effects of the courts on the political process in the United States. Extensive review of the literature and research in areas including judicial review, institutional constraints, and theories of judicial decision making.
HON 400MH-1003:
Law and Religion: Separating Church and State
Instructor: Ian Bartrum, J.D. LL.M
*this course can satisfy the multicultural requirement

This is a seminar course on the theory, history, and doctrine supporting the separation of church and state in American constitutionalism. The first third of the course focuses on theory, and readings will include Augustine, Aquinas, Hobbes, Luther, and Locke among others. The history section will include selections from Roger Williams, Madison, Jefferson, Leonard Levy, and Philip Hamburger among others. The final section of the course will focus on the Supreme Court cases that shape the modern constitutional doctrine separating church from state.

HON 400H-1002
Mind in the Physical World
Instructor: Dr. Greg Janssen

A common view of the mind, from the ancient times through the present, is that the mind is a nonphysical object – that is, it is not located in space, it is not composed of matter, it does not have a height or weight, and cannot be seen nor touched. The body, on the other hand, is a physical object, is located in space, is composed of matter, has a height and a weight, and can be seen and touched. But now, at the beginning of the 21st century, the physical sciences are dominant. These disciplines have given us good reason to suppose that the world is, at bottom, purely physical. Where does that leave the mind? Is there room in the physical world for the mind? This course will examine various attempts to reconcile these two views, from Descartes through the present.

HON 400H-1003
Medicine and Literature
Dr. Russell Gollard

We will be reading both works of non-fiction and fiction in this seminar. We will concern ourselves with illness from both the perspective of the patient and clinician. To that end we will read works both of fiction and non-fiction, both classic and newly minted. We will look at the perspective of physicians, particularly their long “training”. We will also look at how biases are built into such training. We will also focus on the different attitudes toward illness manifest in the experience of a patient. Discussion will be required. This class will be of a complete non-lecture format.
Russell P. Gollard, M.D., is a physician in private practice here in Las Vegas. His practice focuses on hematology and medical oncology. Dr. Gollard holds a Master’s Degree in English from the University of Southern California and has taught for many years.

HON 400H-1004
Jane Austen, Her Work, Our World
Instructor: Dr. Maria Jerinic

Jane Austen -- who hasn’t heard of her by now? Her novels have appeared on the big and small screens, her face and words on t-shirts, coffee mugs, calendars. She even has her own action figure! Why the attention? Why the interest? Why the celebrity status? Has she always been so popular? How did her contemporaries respond to her work; how did her work respond to her world?
This seminar will allow us to explore these questions while we read Austen’s fiction. Please be prepared to read six novels and accompanying criticism. Course requirements will include a group presentation, a 3-5 page paper and a longer research paper/project. (Dancing shoes are recommended!)

HON 400H-1005
Crime Scenes: The History of American Crime in Film
Instructor: Dr. Jay Coughtry

Description is not yet available

HON 400H-1006
Dr. Marcia Gallo
The Power of Place and the Politics of Memory

The Power of Place and the Politics of Memory” is an Honors College 400-level course which will explore -- through readings, oral histories, journal writing, field trips, websites and films -- the ways in which individuals and communities use public spaces to commemorate a special person or event. We will investigate some of the ways in which people from different cultures in the 20th and 21st centuries have remembered their pasts, including the myths that define them, and the places they select for such memorials. At the end of the course, each student will create her/his own original project commemorating previously unrecognized individuals or communities.
HON 400-1007  
Dr. Michael Green  
History of Las Vegas  

This class examines the history of Las Vegas from its beginnings to the present. The course objectives are that you should better understand the contours of Las Vegas history better understand the role of world, national, regional, and state events in shaping Las Vegas, past and present and appreciate your role in politics and society, and your obligations as a citizen, in Las Vegas and elsewhere. In addition you should develop a better understanding and appreciation of the ethnic diversity of Las Vegas. The goal is that your abilities at critical thinking should be enhanced, your oral and written communications skills should be improved, and your ability to research historical and current events should improve.

HON 400H-1008  
Motivation and Leadership  
Instructor: Dr. Daniel McAllister  

As you develop technical and professional skills, remember that because you are competent you will be leading. This class will assist you in your preparation for that reality. Specifically, this class will focus on the concepts, theories and case studies concerning the leadership and motivation of people in modern organizations. The best way to learn about leadership and motivation is to participate in, and observe and analyze that behavior. The class discussions will provide a framework for observation and analysis, and participation in the team assignments will provide additional experience for that observation and analysis. In order to be fully successful in your development of your leadership knowledge and skills, both the framework and the experience are crucial. I will do everything I can to help you increase your knowledge and skills. I need your commitment to prepare and to participate fully in class and team discussions.