

## Summer 2022 HON 400-Level Seminars

### **SUMMER SESSION I** **MAY 16, 2022 – JUNE 3, 2022**

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**HON 410-1001**  
**M-F 11:00am-1:40pm**  
**Nevada: The State Beyond Las Vegas**  
**Dr. Andrew Hanson, Dean**

The centerpiece of this class will be a week-long field trip to areas in Nevada that are outside Clark County for an immersive learning experience to inspire our future community leaders to think beyond Las Vegas. The Dean of the Honors College created this class and will lead the trip. Students will engage with a curated reading list pre- and post-trip. Class discussions with a variety of experts will focus on issues relevant to Nevadans outside of Las Vegas. Possible topics will include water-rights, wild horses, disparities in health between rural and urban areas, public land use, and mining, to name a few. Students must be able to travel for a week during Summer Session I. All travel expenses (transportation, hotels, food) for the class will be covered by a philanthropic gift from Nevada Gold Mines operated by Barrick.

**\*COVID-19 Contingency:** This class will only proceed if the COVID-19 conditions in May 2022 are deemed safe per state and university guidelines. Students selected to participate in the course and enrolled will be updated about the course status in late April.

**\*Special Registration Instructions:** Students are required to apply for this class in advance and only those accepted will be able to register for the class. Please [complete the application](#) **February 27**. Students will be notified of their application status via email. Students must have Junior or Senior standing.

### **SUMMER SESSION II** **JUNE 6, 2022 – JULY 8, 2022**

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**HON 410-1002**  
**M-F 11:20am-12:50pm REMOTE SYNCHRONOUS/WEB LIVE**  
**More than Twitter**  
**Dr. Maria Jerinic**

In a 2013 *New York Times* op-ed Christy Wampole suggests that “the essay has become a talisman of our times.” Could it be true? Is the essay the form for the early 21st century? If so, what is the essay? Does it differ from those thesis-driven pieces we write for classes? Is it a blog entry or a tweet or something else? Did the form just pop up now, or does it have a tradition from which we can learn? In this seminar, which combines critical analysis and creative writing, we will explore these questions by reading pieces dubbed essays (including those by Montaigne, Bacon, Woolf, White, Didion, and Sedaris) and by writing our own creative essays. Class requirements will include critical analysis paragraphs, an annotated bibliography, and a collection of creative essays (which we will workshop) with a critical introduction.

**HON 440-1001****M-F 1:00pm-2:30pm****The Women of Hip Hop****Dr. Bryan Blankfield**

Women have routinely shaped hip hop culture from its very beginning. This seminar explores the complexity, contradictions, and contributions of female rappers through assigned readings and music playlists. Moreover, since the work of female rappers is often overlooked and undocumented, students will work to revive their legacies through response papers, presentations, and transcribing missing lyrics on Genius.com. The central tenet of this class is that we have been mis-educated about the history of these prolific artists.

**HON 440-1002****Remote ASYNCRONOUS/Web Based****The Superhero in Literature****Dr. Heather Lusty**

This course is designed to explore the cultural construct of “heroes” in society (myth, literature, print media, and film). The structural framework of heroic epics-- traumatic and/or solitary childhood, overcoming adversity, recognizing and celebrating uniqueness and diversity, and so on--are aspects of physical and emotional growth that everyone must confront. Through their struggles, we see both our own shortcomings and insecurities, as well as our own potential. We will read a range of texts (from classic heroes like Hercules, Beowulf, and Siegmund & Brunhild to more modern incarnations like Wonder Woman, Captain America, and Watchmen) and view/analyze some movie/TV adaptations. All texts (provided via Canvas) selected from the ancient world through the twenty-first century focus on how society reflects upon their relation to historical, cultural, racial, gender, civil, and political contexts.

**SUMMER SESSION III****JULY 11, 2022 - AUGUST 12, 2022**

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**HON 410-1003****M-F 1:00pm-2:30pm****Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: How Modern Transportation Changed American Culture****Dr. Dan Bubb**

This course will examine how technology and transportation reshaped and redefined American culture. It will especially look at the pivotal role commercial aviation and airports played in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries as airlines added larger and faster passenger planes, offered more flights, and airports built multi-billion dollar international terminals to meet the growing needs of domestic and international travelers. As the United States continues to compete in a global aviation market, we will explore many themes including the growing challenges it faces as markets in Asia, Europe, and South America continue to proliferate.

**HON 410-1004****Remote ASYNCRONOUS/Web Based****Aliens, Ghosts, and Wizards: The Intersection of Genre Writing and Literature****Professor Mike Chin**

From fantasy to science fiction to horror, academics have historically dismissed creative enterprises that diverge from strict realism. But can Harry Potter and its commentary on totalitarianism be dismissed as a flight of fancy? What of Shakespeare’s invocation of a ghost in the opening scene of *Hamlet* or the post-apocalyptic imagery at the heart of Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*? Through a deep reading of a variety of texts, this course interrogates perceptions of realism, and explores the ways in which the extraordinary can provide a lens to understand the real world. Students will ultimately generate their own creative work that incorporates speculative elements to access deeper truths.

**HON 430-1001**  
**M-F 9:40am-11:10am**  
**International Travel Writing**  
**Dr. Bill Doyle**

This class offers at least three things. First, it acts as an introduction to nonfiction travel writing and provides some relevant historical and cultural context. Second, while a rich tradition of travel writing exists in a variety of world languages, our class examines a selection of contemporary, international, English-language travel writing. Even so, the authors we will read and the locations they consider represent a variety of identities, perspectives, and locations. Third, the class provides a space for considering the multiple dimensions of a simply stated, but complicated question, one that has historical, cultural, philosophical, and personal significance: what is travel and why does it matter? Collectively, readings, discussion, local field trips, and students' critical and creative work will also help our class develop a deeper understanding of the often-blurry differences between tourist and traveler, observer and observed, individual and culture.