



Summer 2025 HON 400-Level Seminars

SESSION II (June 9 to July 11)

HON 410-1001

Web-Based/Asynchronous Online

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: How Modern Transportation Changed American Culture

Dr. Dan Bubb

Summer Session II

This course will examine how transportation reshaped and redefined the American West in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will explore and facilitate dialogue on how the train, automobile, and airplane increased accessibility to American western cities, while simultaneously shrinking the distance between them through speed, space, and time. We especially will explore and have conversations on how airlines, airports, and American cities formed symbiotic partnerships in political, economic, and cultural contexts, ultimately enabling them to compete in national and global transportation markets. In the end, you will be able to confidently answer the questions: How were westerners able to efficiently travel in and out of a geographically expansive, rugged, and meteorologically unforgiving region in the 19th and 20th centuries? To what extent does transportation play a role in the growth and development of the region and nation today?

HON 410-1002

Web-Based/Asynchronous Online

Graphic Medical Stories

Dr. Bryan Blankfield

Summer Session II

How to talk about medical maladies is an ongoing challenge for patients and health professionals alike. Since physical pain is felt individually, it is difficult to adequately convey the severity of one's suffering. Patients may also lack the right medical jargon. In contrast, health professionals often lack the ability to empathize with or listen to their patients, despite their impressive knowledge of human anatomy. This course explores how autobiographical graphic novels that feature medical conditions can serve as a means of bridging these communication difficulties. Special attention will be given to scholarship on medical narratives, the comic medium, and how graphic novels are uniquely positioned to educate about medical matters.

HON 410-1003

Web-Based/Asynchronous Online

The Rhetoric of Music Videos: Communication, Commodification, and Culture

Dr. Bryan Blankfield

Summer Session II

This course critically examines music videos as powerful cultural texts through the lens of rhetorical criticism. Students will explore how music videos communicate messages, construct identities, and engage with political, economic, and cultural contexts. The course will focus on three key themes: communication strategies within music videos, the commodification of both music and artists, and the influence of music videos on popular culture and society. Assignments include close readings of specific music videos, online discussions, and rhetorical analyses. By the end of the course, students will have developed a sophisticated understanding of music videos as complex cultural artifacts that both mirror and mold society.

HON 440-1001

Web-Based/Asynchronous Online

Representation in Television: The Politics of Popular Culture

Dr. Will Sipe

Summer Session II

This online, asynchronous course explores the vast scope of mass media and its relationship to power, representation, and scholarship. The aim of this class is to shine a light on our everyday experiences—superhero shows and medical dramas are not just silly distractions! They are rich texts for exploration, analysis, and critical thought. Through a variety of recorded lectures, readings, activities, and projects, you will expand your understanding of popular media, apply different lenses of analysis to the dimensions of representation in media, and articulate your own unique perspectives.

SESSION III (July 14 to August 15)

HON 410-1004

M, F 11:50- 1:30 p.m.

Career Readiness: Developing the Skills You Need to Be Successful in the Workplace

Dr. Lisa Menegatos

Summer Session III

Most of us pursue higher education to get a good job and create a better life for ourselves. Yet many often struggle to find the “right” career path. Others have a clear sense of what they want to do, but realize after graduation that they lack the skills needed to succeed in the workplace. This seminar is designed to help you become career ready. We will begin with Burnett and Evans’ (2016) “life design” approach to help you envision and build the life you want. From there we will learn the soft skills, the competencies, that employers are looking for across industries, and delve into common issues or problems in the world of work. Thanks to the generosity of Nevada Gold Mines (NGM), this class will include an out of town field trip to Nevada Gold Mines in Elko, with all travel expenses covered.

HON 410-1005

Web-Based/Asynchronous Online

Aliens, Ghosts, and Wizards: The Intersection of Genre Writing and Literature

Professor Mike Chin

Summer Session III

From fantasy to science fiction to horror, academics have historically dismissed creative enterprises that diverge from strict realism. But can dystopian novels like *1984* or *Brave New World* be dismissed as science fiction flights 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 410-1006

Web-Based/Asynchronous Online

Nature & Environmental Writing

Dr. Bill Doyle

Summer Session III

This class explores how we know, alter, enjoy, and create nature as well as how we think about the places where we live, work, and study. We will start with an overview of nature and environmental writing. Then, using resources as varied as Thoreau's *Walden*, environmental journalism, wildlife documentaries, photography, social media, maps, and virtual worlds, we will investigate the assumptions we make and language we use to create, understand, and interpret the environments that surround us. This class also involves composing place-based narrative nonfiction and discussing the craft of writing, so be prepared to complete self-guided explorations of our campus, our city, and surrounding areas as we reconsider the natural, built, and virtual environments that are an often-overlooked part of our everyday experience. Note: while this is a web-based course, we will try to meet for at least one, voluntary in-person field trip during the semester.

HON 430-1001

Web-Based/Asynchronous Online

World Mythologies

Dr. Heather Lusty

Summer Session III

Mythology (from the Greek *mythos* for story-of-the-people, and *logos* for word or speech, the spoken story of a people) is the study of often sacred tales or fables of a culture (myths) or stories that deal with the human condition, good and evil, human origins, life and death, the afterlife, and the gods. Myths express the beliefs and values held by cultures about these subjects. This course is designed to introduce a number of important works of world mythology from the ancient and medieval worlds – up through the folktales of the modern world. We will address a number of literary texts from around the world and focus on how these texts may be read in relation to their literary, historical, cultural, religious, and political contexts.