



Summer 2026 HON 400-Level Seminars

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 will explore and have conversations about 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

Community-Building Coalitions: Reimagining the Human Habitat in New Urbanism

Dr. William Sipe

Summer Session III

Over half of all humans now live in cities, and that percentage is only projected to grow. At the same time, there is increasing recognition that our human-made habitats are often harmful to our health and wellbeing. New Urbanism is a global political movement that defies typical left/right categories to advocate for better cities. There are pro-business New Urbanists who focus on government debts and profitability. There are New Urbanists who are staunch environmentalists and New Urbanists who fixate on building larger housing complexes. The movement's ideological diversity offers important insights into breaking political polarization. Using a rhetorical lens, this online, asynchronous course uses New Urbanism as a case study for multi-polar politics and coalition building.

HON 410-1003

Web-Based/Asynchronous Online

Presidents, Political Parties, and Power in the American Governmental System

Dr. Dan Bubb

Summer Session III

This course explores in depth the extraordinary power and influence presidents and political parties have in the American governmental system. From George Washington to Joseph Biden, we will examine time periods and events when Presidents and their political parties heavily influenced politics in America such as Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Democrats' ambitious New Deal program to Ronald Reagan and the Republicans' Contract with America. One of the books we will use in this course is Stephen Skowronek's, *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton*, which discusses the notion of presidents as agents of change.

HON 410-1004**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 410-1005**Web-Based/Asynchronous Online****Graphic Medical Stories****Dr. Bryan Blankfield****Summer Session III**

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 420-1001**Web-Based/Asynchronous Online****Art Crime: Looting and Restitution****Dr. Heather Lusty****Summer Session II**

This course explores the fascinating and illicit world of art theft and restitution. Through a critical examination of historical case studies, students will investigate the theft, smuggling, and recovery of some of the world's priceless cultural artifacts. The course will explore the impact of these crimes on cultural heritage, the legal frameworks for restitution, and the ongoing challenges faced by art historians, legal professionals, and governments in the protection and repatriation of stolen art.

HON 420-1002**Web-Based/Asynchronous Online****From Iron Maiden to Beyoncé: Global Music and Visual Culture****Dr. Heather Lusty****Summer Session III**

Music is a central pillar of developed societies. Through musical expression, a culture's fears, fetishes, and daily life are illustrated and shared around the globe. This course will examine several global genres (punk/heavy metal, pop, and Hip-Hop) and their various visual languages. From stage sets and costumes to holograms and tour movies, from movie soundtracks and Super Bowl half-time spectacles, we will consider visual musical culture and the values platformed, and their influence on mainstream culture.

HON 430-1001**Web-Based/Asynchronous Online****Travel Writing****Dr. Bill Doyle****Summer Session II**

This asynchronous online class explores how writers from around the world capture place, culture, and cross-cultural exchange in memoirs, essays, and online genres including social media. We will engage two simply put, but complicated questions: what is travel and why does it matter? Students will keep a personal travel journal, design self-directed field trips (no plane ticket required—these can be local explorations whether you're in the Las Vegas Valley or not), and develop projects that help you think about your own experiences. Whether we're reading about journeys across continents or closer to home, this class offers all of us a space to become better observers and storytellers as we think more carefully about place and how we represent our experiences of the world.

HON 440-1001**Web-Based/Asynchronous Online****The Women of Hip Hop****Dr. Bryan Blankfield****Summer Session II**

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. This course focuses particularly on how these artists have navigated questions of sexism and misogyny, Black feminist politics, and empowerment within hip hop culture. The central premise of this class is that we have been mis-educated about the history of these prolific artists.

HON 440-1002**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.