



## Fall 2026 HON 400–Level Seminars

### **HON 410-1001**

**R 2:30–5:15 p.m.**

#### **Instructional Leadership**

**Dr. Mike Chin**

This course provides students with experience in instructing classes and immerses them in the academic conversations related to effective pedagogical strategies. Participants serve as peer instructors for Honors College's First-Year Orientation Seminar (HON 105). This course contributes to the peer instructors' own educational and leadership experiences while benefiting students taking HON 105 as they transition to Honors and UNLV expectations. The course has the following objectives:

1. Help participants gain leadership experience in an educational project designed to facilitate the academic and social integration of new Honors College students; and
2. Give participants teaching experience as well as experience presenting ideas, facilitating discussions, assessing student performance, and reflecting on these in a detailed way.

Department permission required.

### **HON 410-1002**

**M, W 1:00–2:15 p.m.**

#### **Managing Your Money: Personal Finance for Today's Students & Tomorrow's Leaders**

**Professor Danny Siciliano, CPA, CMA**

To be successful in personal finance, students should have the ability to understand and interpret knowledge related to the various financial decisions they will make. Students must also develop proper habits and appropriate behaviors. This course focuses on both knowledge and behavior. By focusing on both, students will develop confidence in making financial decisions that will lead to long-term financial well-being.

### **HON 410-1003**

**M, W 1:00–2:15 p.m.**

#### **Roll the Dice: Tabletop Games from Monopoly to Monsters**

**Dr. William Doyle**

What can games tell us about how humans make decisions, build trust, and negotiate conflict? This class takes tabletop games seriously. You will examine their history, design, and cultural impact through regular in-class play spanning classic and Euro-style strategy games, cooperative games, academic games, and tabletop RPGs. You will read and discuss scholarship in communication, education, and psychology while also developing practical roles as gameplay leads and observers, analyzing live play as both participants and critics. You'll also complete weekly journals, short in-class and outside-of-class assignments, and two major projects (which—depending on your preference and interests—might include academic papers, podcasts, game prototypes, or annotated rulebooks). With these projects, as well as the smaller assignments, you will also explore how games are discussed across popular media and scholarly communities alike. By the end of the semester, you will be able to critique games, translate complex mechanics for new players, and reflect seriously on what games reveal about the world beyond the table.

**HON 410-1004****F, 11:30-2:15 p.m.****Becoming and Being a Lawyer: Law School, Law as a Professional, and Life of a Lawyer****Professor Sagar Raich**

The law is one of the most interesting and widely applicable fields of studies today. From classrooms to courtroom to board rooms and beyond, the applicability of law is second to none. This course is an introduction to preparing for law school, what law school is like, different areas of the law, and what the actual practice of law entails after law school and the bar exam.

**HON 410-1005****F, 8:30–11:15 a.m.****Pets, Property, or Persons? Tracking "the Animal" in Human Societies****Dr. Bryan Blankfield**

Animals abound. They surround us, interact with us, and have been used as symbolic and material resources since the dawn of humanity. While we are profoundly dependent upon animals, we also dictate the quality of their lives in myriad ways. This seminar explores human-animal relationships along three vectors: pet ownership; institutions that rely on animal bodies, such as science and agriculture; and efforts to promote animal welfare.

Readings will consist of scholarly writings and primary texts. Moreover, our class discussions will be periodically complemented by guest lectures from professionals who work with animals. Altogether we will better understand the societal forces that shape our attitudes and treatment of animals.

**HON 410-1006****T,R 8:30–9:45 a.m.****Honors Game Theory****Dr. Skip Crooker**

Honors Game Theory teaches you how to analyze strategic interactions — situations where your outcome depends on what others decide to do. From business competition and political campaigns to negotiations and auctions, you'll learn how to model incentives, anticipate responses, and design better strategies.

Using *Games of Strategy* by Dixit, Skeath, and McAdams, this course develops rigorous analytical thinking and powerful real-world decision tools.

**HON 410-1007****T 2:30–5:15 p.m.****Tech Detox: Let's Study Like It's The 1990s****Dr. Cian McMahon**

Let's face it: our lives are completely dominated by digital technologies. They shape how we work, study, and play, not to mention watch, listen, and think. Yet for most of human history, of course, digital tools did not dominate our lives as they do now.

The transition came (when Dr. McMahon was an undergraduate student) during a decade we now call the 1990s. It was a strange and wonderful time when every house got hand-delivered a free copy of a giant book that included the name, address, and phone number of everyone else that lived in the same city. We called it the "phone book."

This course offers you the unique opportunity to experience an educational "tech detox" by studying the social and cultural history of the 1990s... as if you were living in the 1990s. There will be no email. No WebCampus. No uploads. No downloads. Ultimately, the goal is to create a space where students can explore and re-think their relationship with digital technology... by turning it off for a while.

**HON 410-1008****T, 2:30-5:15 p.m. WEB LIVE****A History of Higher Education Policy and Access****Professor Andrew Marx**

This course introduces the development of public higher education policies in the United States by examining their origins and historical effects and considers their influence on contemporary higher education structures and practices and as a tool for change. Weekly topics will cover policies that affect access to postsecondary education, all of which resonate in today's environment. Students will examine the social, political, and economic forces that shaped policies related to access both at the time the policy was created and currently. Topics will be explored from a variety of perspectives and analytical frameworks to uncover why the policy was originally enacted, who the policy was meant for, and how we know if the policy worked as intended. The answers may be messy. Assignments will introduce students to scholarly research, analysis, and writing that prepares students for master's and doctoral study.

**HON 410-1009****T,R 1:00-2:15 p.m.****Fight for Your (Water) Rights****Dr. William Sipe**

It is time to fight for your (water) rights! Across the world and the US, people are realizing that fresh water is a vital and depleting resource. Uneven distribution, poor water management, pollution, and the climate crisis impact the supply of fresh water for billions. In this course, you will develop valuable argumentation and debate skills to tackle this life-altering issue. Approaching the topic from several different angles, we will use multiple methods and formats to sharpen critical thinking, collaboration, articulation and coalition-building. No prior debate experience is necessary.

**HON 410-1100****M,W 2:30-3:45 p.m.****Creating Airports as a Sense of Place****Dr. Dan Bubb**

One theme that has gained significant traction in the hospitality and architectural design industries is the renovation of existing terminals and the construction of new ones in airports. Airlines and credit card companies are spending hundreds of millions of dollars renovating or building new airport lounges that offer a suite of amenities including all you can eat food prepared by Michelin Star chefs, bars, swimming pools, saunas, hot tubs, quiet areas, business pods, and luxurious furniture. These lounges are attracting business travelers, credit card customers who can pay with their points, and upper-middle class and affluent travelers. Airports also are building popular shops such as Gucci, Armani, Chanel, and other upscale retail stores because company executives are discovering how many people in airports like to shop and are willing to buy even the most expensive items. Collectively, these stores in airport terminals rival some of the world's nicest shopping malls. The reality is airports and airlines are responding to consumer demands by trying to make the air travel experience more enjoyable by offering a greater variety and higher quality services that are familiar to air travelers whether they are frequent flyers or occasional flyers. In this course, students will learn how airports have become a significant part of the hospitality and architectural design industries. They will explore these trends and others in depth and be able to offer their critical perspectives on the modernization and evolution of twenty-first century airport terminals.

**HON 410-1101****F, 8:30-11:15 a.m.****History of Medicine in Nevada****Dr. CJ Calvo**

This course examines the development of healthcare in Nevada from prehistoric, indigenous people to the present day. Topics include indigenous medicine practices, the rise of Western medicine following American migration into the Intermountain West, the challenges of rural healthcare, mining and public health issues, key Nevada individuals, development of medical education, and modern-day challenges and innovations in Nevada's healthcare system.

**HON 420-1001****Web-Based Asynchronous****Fakes, Frauds, and Forgeries in the Art World****Dr. Heather Lusty**

Former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Thomas Hoving famously estimated that 40 percent of artworks on sale are fake. Artists, collectors, galleries, dealers, museums, and auction houses are all vulnerable to the threats of fakes in the market. This course is an introduction to the various types of fraud and forgeries in the art world today: the ongoing museum dinosaur skeleton forgeries; antiquities /archaeological forgery; contemporary forged painting (and forgers); manuscript/first edition forgeries; AI art and replicas (e.g., Italy's copyrighting and enforcement of medieval sculpture); and AI in music & film (i.e., Drake and The Weeknd).

**HON 420-1002****F, 11:30-2:15 p.m.****Stand Up with Honors: Theory and Practice of Comedy****Professor Sean Clark**

This course will elevate your public speaking and presentation skills to a new level with the added challenge of comedic expectation. In the first half of the course, the instructor, an experienced comedy writer, will engage the class in a study of several stand-up comedy styles and forms. The midterm will consist of the first presentation of the student's own original stand-up comedy routine. The second half of the course will focus on the rehearsal process, honing and sharpening the routine, culminating in a performance under lights with microphone in front of a live audience.

**HON 420-1003****T,R 2:30-3:45 p.m.****Music Theater in Western Culture****Professor Anthony Barone**

Music Theater in Western Culture is a survey of music-theatrical works (especially opera, but other forms of music-theatrical spectacle, such as the twentieth-century American musical, will be examined) from the establishment of court and civic musical theater at the end of the European Renaissance to the present, with particular attention to the expression of different kinds of power and power relations—political, social, sexual, religious, ethnic, and racial. The course will look at works including experimental Italian operas around 1600; the court operas and ballets of seventeenth-century France; the disruptive comic opera tradition of the eighteenth-century; nineteenth-century music drama of revolution, nation-building, and empire; early twentieth-century modernist musical theater; and post-War currents from the twentieth-century and present day. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach that combines viewing and listening with readings in sociology, history, aesthetics, political theory, and other branches of philosophy. (Musical training and literacy are not required.)

**HON 420-1004****Web-Based Asynchronous****Creative Time: Exploring the World Like an Artist****Professor Sean Slattery**

No art experience necessary: daydreamers and curious minds from all disciplines are welcome! This asynchronous seminar explores how artists develop distinctive ways of seeing and thinking, then teaches you to apply these methods to deepen your engagement with the world around you. Through readings, reflective writing, hands-on activities, and small-group discussions, you'll challenge assumptions, approach problems creatively (and learn to "problem create"), and make intentional choices about where you direct your attention. We'll explore how creative practice reshapes perception and strengthens your ability to navigate uncertainty.

**HON 420-1100****M, W 11:30-12:45 p.m.****Creativity by Design****Professor Christina Watanabe**

"Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail better." – Samuel Beckett.

This class will introduce and develop skills and techniques used in the creative process, particularly as it applies to design. Gleaning information from a variety of creators to understand how their process is formed and practiced, you will put their advice in motion with a series of creative projects. Ultimately, reasoning and innovation are skills that are uniquely and wonderfully human. "Show up, show up, show up, and after a while the muse shows up, too." – Isabel Allende.

**HON 420-1101 The History of Jazz****M, W 4:00-5:15 p.m.****Dr. David Schwartz**

Jazz is a uniquely American musical art, combining African and European elements with a strong emphasis on improvisation. It has developed for more than a century, at first in the United States and then globally, and has influenced much of the music that has developed since, from classical to popular. This course examines the development and growth of jazz within its social, economic, political, and cultural context, exploring the broader historical forces shaping the society in which it developed, while charting the impact individual musicians have had—and continue to have—on its evolution.

**HON 430-1001****Web-Based Asynchronous****Latin America: Politics and Cultures****Dr. Joanna Kepka**

Latin America is a complex region filled with contrasts, failures, and possibilities. Its many countries share common origins in the Spanish and Portuguese colonies established in the 16th century, but have since followed at times parallel and at times divergent paths. While the colonial legacy of cultural origins and language unite the region, heterogenous local experiences and distinct national histories separate it into parts. Through the lens of cultural and political geography, this seminar offers an examination of Latin American cultures, politics, and societies. Using a variety of texts and films by the region's renowned authors and filmmakers, together we will explore the past and present through topics such as colonization, revolutionary and reformist movements, religion, violence, gender, ethnicity, and class.

**HON 440-1001****M, 2:30-5:15 p.m.****History of American Violence****Dr. Michael Alarid**

The United States has long held the dubious distinction of being the most homicidal nation among affluent world democratic societies, with a rate four to ten times higher than comparable nations. Violence, especially homicide, has been endemic in the U.S. since the earliest European colonization of the Americas, and scholars have long struggled to explain why the United States in particular has remained so homicidal. These same scholars have proposed numerous theories, which include America's abundance of guns, America's long history of racial strife, and America's poverty, which was caused by centuries of unchecked capitalism. However, none of these theories have proven sufficient.

In this course we will examine the latest theory that seeks to explain. We will consider the social, political, and economic factors at play, in addition to how the legal system and lawmakers have attempted to deal with America's homicide problem. Utilizing Randolph Roth's latest book, *American Homicide*, we will first explore why Americans resort to murder, both over time and by region. With Roth's thesis as our framework for understanding homicide, we will transform our inquiry into a study of violence more broadly. We will examine numerous case studies of violence and homicide in American history, first at home and later during times of war. Our journey will take place across time and space: from the 17th to the 21st centuries and from the eastern United States, to the American Southwest, to the islands of Southeast Asia. Ultimately, our goal will be to search for patterns in the history of the United States to uncover why violence is so endemic in American culture.

**HON 440-1002****M, 2:30-5:15 p.m.****Race, Sports, and America's Unlevel Playing Field****Dr. Todd Robinson**

Sports are a valuable vehicle to explore issues of politics, culture, race, ethnicity, gender, and class in American history. Moving from Reconstruction to the present, this course examines the role sports played in the black freedom struggle in America. By analyzing the unique issues faced by African American athletes across various sports, this course will survey how the intertwining history of race and sports has contributed to America's unlevel playing field.

**HON 440-1003****M, W 2:30-3:45 p.m.****Cannabis Law, Policy, and Society****Alicia Ashcraft, J.D.**

This course is designed as an overview of federal and state medical and adult-use cannabis laws and regulations with emphasis on the policies that inform and develop as a result. Students will learn about and discuss laws and regulations that govern the cultivation, distribution, possession, and consumption for cannabis businesses, as well as medical and adult-use consumers.

Additionally, in the course, we will examine the prevailing policy and societal considerations, and the effects of those considerations on the cannabis business industry, and the impact on society including the disproportionate impact on particular racial or socio-economic groups.

**HON 440-1100****T, R 4:00-5:15 p.m.****Courts in American Politics****Professor Marlon Urquico**

Understood to be the nation's least political branch that's directed to solely interpret the Constitution, the United States Supreme Court is often revered for its majesty and cautious deliberativeness. However, from time to time, the justices have fervently feuded with one another, and the Court has stepped into the contentious political arena, handing down controversial and consequential policy decisions that impact all Americans. In this course, students will study the history of the Supreme Court and its role in American politics. By examining the Court's past in chronological eras, students will understand how chief justices led the Court and associate justices thought about and decided major policy issues that have shaped American life into what it is today. Students will also come to know the Court's overall structure, standard proceedings, and everyday operations. Finally, they will apply theory into practice by analyzing court cases and participating in mock senate confirmation hearings for judicial nominees, court conference debates, and oral arguments. By semester's end, students will not only have a firm understanding of the U.S. Supreme Court's story and functions but will have also developed a better sense of their own judicial philosophy. This course may be used to satisfy the university multicultural requirement.

**HON 440-1101****Hybrid-Tuesday in Person 11:30-12:45****Protecting Labor in American History****Dr. Michelle Turk**

This course will explore the history of work and workers with emphasis on the political, economic, social, and cultural forces that contributed to and inhibited solutions to protect American labor. We will examine the nature and dangers of working in the United States, how employment has changed over time, and government policy related to labor, business, and occupational safety and health. Students will gain an understanding of the lasting legacies of slavery, the evolution of capitalism and its impact on labor, the emergence of labor consciousness and protest, and how employers and the government gradually developed the legal and moral obligation to safeguard America's working men and women.

The overall goal of the course is to understand how labor transformed American culture and politics, and continues to shape the contemporary United States. The saga to protect American workers is therefore our story, complete with lessons for all who labor for capitalism.

**HON 496-1001****R, 2:30-5:15 p.m.****Navigating End-of-Life: Honors Service Learning****Dr. Sheila Bock**

This class recognizes death as a universal part of the human experience and thus as something that warrants the attention of the living. Throughout the semester, we will give focused attention to some of the realities and practicalities of death and dying. Students will consider how social, cultural, political, and economic factors heavily inform how individuals' experiences with death and dying take shape. Through course readings, guest speakers, class discussions, and service-learning with Bristol Hospice and other community partners, students will learn about the important work of professionals and community members who are committed to helping others navigate end-of-life, as well as the challenges they encounter as they work toward facilitating a "good death."

***This is a service-learning course requiring off-campus site visits and engagement with Bristol Hospice and other community partners. You will be required to complete 15-20 hours of service work during the semester. You are responsible for securing your own transportation to and from service-learning locations.***

**HON 496-1002****T, 2:30-5:15 p.m.****AI Pedagogy Studio: Honors Service Learning With CCSD**

This is a hands-on Honors seminar in which students partner with Clark County secondary educators to design practical, ethical AI teaching resources for real classrooms, including guides, lesson templates, rubrics, micro-tutorials, and workshop materials. The course runs as a weekly studio with discussion, demos, collaborative build time, and ongoing feedback from partners. Students learn to apply Universal Design for Learning, accessibility practices, and responsible AI use while strengthening metacognition, motivation, and ethical reasoning. Major work includes a partner-ready resource pack, reflections, workshop design/delivery, public repository publishing, and a final impact portfolio.

**HON 496-1003****F, 8:30-11:15 a.m.****Love of Reading and Learning: Childhood Literacy Honors Service Learning****Professor Myles Lum**

On a rainy day in the middle of the desert, nothing beats grabbing a warm drink, sitting by a window, and escaping into an adventure through a good book. But how many children understand the joys that reading can provide? In this service-learning course, students will work with local elementary schools to learn about effective pedagogical strategies to inspire the love of reading, literacy rates of children in Southern Nevada, and the needs classrooms have when considering this question. To accomplish this, Honors students will volunteer at local elementary schools, do readings for these students, discuss readings on pedagogy and reading practices with their cohort, and meet together to share triumphs and failures in the classroom. Employing the UNLV University Learning Outcomes (Lifelong Learning, Communication, Citizenship and Ethics, etc.), students will reflect on their own relationship with reading through various projects to eventually engage with and inspire others in the Las Vegas community. Ideally, this course will also serve as a launching point for students to go beyond the course and begin serving local students, schools, and broader communities. It will surely be an adventure.

***Because there will be on-site (off-campus) responsibilities, students will need to have their own transportation to and from service-learning locations.***