Summer Session 2

HON 410  
M-F 9:40-11:10am  
More than Twitter: The Return of the Essay  
Dr. Maria Jerinic, PhD

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?

We will explore these questions by reading many pieces dubbed essays, including those by Montaigne, Bacon, Woolf, White, Fadiman, Didion and Sedaris. We will also read and write critical work on the essay form, and then further develop our response to the questions and texts by writing our own essays. Class requirements will probably include a presentation and two 3-5 page critical analyses in the first half of the semester and a collection of essays (which we will workshop) with a critical introduction in the second half.

HON 410  
M-F 1:00-2:30pm  
The Literature of Nature, Place, and Environment  
Dr. William Doyle, PhD

What’s the first image a newcomer has of our city? What ordinary image best represents Las Vegas for you? 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. Using texts and resources as varied as Thoreau’s Walden, wildlife documentaries, environmental art, nature blogs, maps, travel sites, and virtual worlds, we will investigate the assumptions we make and language we use to create, understand, and interpret the environments that surround us. Part of this class will involve composing our own place-based writing, and we will also discuss the history of nature and environmental writing. Be prepared to explore our campus, our city, and surrounding area as we reconsider the natural, built, and virtual environments that are an often overlooked part of our everyday experience.
HON 440
M-F 11:20-12:50pm
The American Experience: 20th Century Immigration Literature
Dr. Heather Lusty, PhD

This course examines a steadily evolving genre of fiction: the American immigrant narrative. Rather than focus on the journeys themselves, this course will explore narratives of both the transition to American culture and the conflicts between generations that ensue as a result of westernization, as well as the struggle to maintain cultural heritage in the west. In this way, students will become familiar with some of the fundamental challenges of “the melting pot” (religion, cuisine, marriage, holiday traditions, literary heritage, political oppression, miscommunication, language) and better understand the wide variety of cultures that make up the great American national. Readings include: Becoming Americans (anthology), Drown by Junot Diaz, Interpreter of Maladies, by Jhumpa Lahiri, The Girl Who Fell to Earth by Sophia Al-Maria, The Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka.

Summer Session 3

HON 410
M-F 9:40-11:10am
Poetry, World & Spiritual Thought
Professor Jaclyn Costello, MFA

Like science, logic, and literature--poetry is another way we come to understand the world. In this course, we’ll study poetry that expresses an awareness of the human being’s placement within a much grander structure than ourselves. You will be immersed in five unique units of poetry: Persian, Hindu, Buddhist, Western European, and poetry of the Americas. Integrated into our learning experience will be music, film clips, and art. You will also be required to participate in discussions relating to philosophy, spirit, and poems. This course offers you the opportunity to see the world from different perspectives--becoming more globally aware, while participating in an in-depth analysis of poetry and, of course, life.

HON 410
M-F 1:00-2:15 pm
The Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine
Dr. Joseph Rhodes, PhD

Students will study how scientists use rhetoric to communicate, and how nonscientists use rhetoric to argue about science and its effects, thereby discovering the means of persuasion available to shape science, its products (technology & medicine), and the publics who consume and participate in its goods. This discovery will result from the rhetorical analysis of scientific and medical controversies, such as climate change, labatomy, gender assignment, and paranormal research. Those who are considering a career in science will learn how to think critically about the internal and external discourse of science, technology, and medicine, improving their use of rhetorical tools in the process. Students who do not intend to become scientists will learn how to critically analyze the claims of science and respond thoughtfully and effectively to its potential influence on them in the modern world.