HON 410-1001
W 2:30-5:15pm
American Nature Writing and the Environmental Movement
Dr. Stephen Brown
This course will engage the theme of “nature” and the genre of “nature writing” from diverse perspectives: literary, scientific, poetic, polemical, gender studies, race, and theoretical. It will feature readings of canonical and non-canonical works in the genre of American Nature Writing. We will use course readings not only as a springboard into class discussion and close analysis of these works, but as (pre)texts for a course-long inquiry into contemporary environmental issues (eco-conflicts) that are being contested in America and around the planet: species extinction, exotic species, reef destruction, pesticide contamination, global warming, eco-activism et al. As a capstone to the course, an eco-colloquium will be held during the final week of instruction, in which students who choose to do so for 100 pts extra credit will give a 10-15 minute presentation of their term paper, by way of heightening awareness relative to their chosen topic.

HON 410-1002
T/R 11:30-12:45pm
Community and Immunity: Narratives of (In)security
Dr. Tim Gauthier
The 21st Century can be characterized by its anxieties. Anxieties about Ebola, terrorism, climate change, and economic catastrophe, have all contributed to an atmosphere of instability. Subsequently, there has been a growing emphasis on security and, relatedly, on immunity. The course will examine this unrealizable desire for complete security/immunity and the lengths to which we will go to obtain it – including the creation of all kinds of borders (national, social, cultural, personal). The course will examine narratives concerned with the establishment of such boundaries – literal and figurative – and assess the potential consequences of such strategies. Most significant, these actions reveal a concern with preservation of the self (or items connected to the self) and the probability of being contaminated by the other. Thus, the course will also probe the extent to which the discourse of contagion problematizes the possibility of empathy and our ongoing endeavors to connect (or not) with a variety of others.

HON 410-1003
T/R 10:00-11:15am
The Secret Lives of Technology: Exploring How Society and Technology Interact, and What It Means for Us
Dr. Julian Kilker
Popular clichés hold that we are immersed in a “fast-paced” technological society. But technology and society interact subtly—in ways that shift over time, influence us differently, and are represented both naively and with great sensitivity in the media. This semester, we explore how people and technologies interact at multiple points in time, specifically during their (1) development; (2) diffusion; (3) modification; and (4) obsolescence. Our primary goal throughout this course is to explore technological interactions using case studies of past and emerging technologies and connecting them with key concepts and theories. The emphasis is on media and information technologies, but with examples and connections in other fields that include student interests. We use popular, academic, and primary sources, focus on discussions and brief lectures, invite guest speakers, and use hands-on and field projects to explore these topics. Previous students frequently note that the concepts have helped them understand their personal and professional environments for years after the course.
HON 410-1004  
F 8:30-11:15am 
Lessons in Leadership and Motivation  
Dr. Daniel McAllister  
As you develop technical and professional skills, remember that because you are competent you will be leading. This class will assist you in your preparation for that reality. Specifically, this class will focus on the concepts, theories and case studies concerning the leadership and motivation of people in modern organizations. The best way to learn about leadership and motivation is to participate in, and observe and analyze that behavior. The class discussions will provide a framework for observation and analysis, and participation in the team assignments will provide additional experience for that observation and analysis. In order to be fully successful in your development of your leadership knowledge and skills, both the framework and the experience are crucial. I will do everything I can to help you increase your knowledge and skills. I need your commitment to prepare and to participate fully in class and team discussions.

HON 410-1005  
T/R 10:00-11:15am 
History of the Future  
Dr. Andy Kirk  
This course provides a broad survey of American perceptions of the future from colonial ideas about progress to countercultural utopian visions. Perceptions of the future reveal insights into challenges and thinking about possible solutions from past eras. The course focus is American history in a global context with a special emphasis on notions of progress, utopian and dystopian thought, science, technology and the environment. Throughout, we will discuss how Americans perceived the future and how these future perceptions reflected contemporary societies and evolving philosophies about what it means to be American.

HON 410-1006  
M/W 1:00-2:15pm 
Tackling Legal Problems  
Professor Thomas Main, JD  
This course offers a collection of tools for thinking about legal questions. The toolkit should be helpful to prospective law students, policymakers, journalists, and anyone else with an interest in the legal system. Course assignments include court opinions drawn from law school casebooks on dozens of subjects. Class time will be spent learning how to read and analyze court opinions. But rather than obsessing about the precise contours of specific legal rules—when a contract is valid or how to distinguish murder from manslaughter—as one does in law school, in this course you will develop a universal set of tools for examining legal problems. Mastering these tools, which are imported from fields such as philosophy, economics, and psychology, will enable you to see more deeply into all sorts of legal questions and to enrich conversations about those questions.
HON 410-1007  
T/R 4:00-5:15pm  
Graphic Medical Stories  
Dr. Bryan Blankfield  

How to talk about medical maladies is an ongoing challenge for patients and health professionals alike. Since physical pain is only 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. In this course we will consider how autobiographical graphic novels on health issues may serve as a means to bridge 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 health issues.

HON 410-1008  
T/R 1:00-2:15pm  
Animal Cognition and Culture  
Dr. Shelly Volsche  

From primates and rodents to dogs and elephants, scientists continue to seek ways to understand the mental and social lives of non-human animals. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to consider which cognitive and cultural traits we share with other species and which are uniquely human. Evolutionary cognition serves as a theoretical foundation as we embark on a journey through this comparative endeavor. The course begins with an emphasis on the theories and philosophies that shape our comprehension of the lived experiences of others, including an introduction to how we test the presence or absence of certain cognitive abilities in non-human animals. Then we move on to discuss the current literature on animals from the great apes to dogs. Finally, we discuss the potential implications of this knowledge, discussing if and how it should shape our interactions with other species. From training the family dog to choosing what goes on our dinner plate, what are the ethical and practical issues behind a deeper appreciation for animal cognition and culture?

HON 410-1009  
R 2:30-5:15pm  
Jane Austin: Her Work, Our World  
Dr. Maria Jerinic  

Jane Austen -- who hasn't heard of her by now? Her novels have appeared on the big and small screens, her face and words on t-shirts, coffee mugs, calendars. She even has her own action figure! Why the attention? Why the interest? Why the celebrity status? Has she always been so popular? How did her contemporaries respond to her work? How did her work respond to her world? This seminar will allow us to explore these questions while we read Austen’s fiction. Please be prepared to read six novels and accompanying criticism. Course requirements will include a group presentation, a 3-5 page paper and a longer research paper/project. (Dancing shoes are recommended!)
**HON 410-1010**  
M 2:30-5:15pm  
*Disposable People*  
Dr. Liam Frink  

We will explore the historical context and contemporary global institutions of modern slavery; women, men, and children who are used throughout the world as “disposable people” – Bales’ term for contemporary slave labor. Through the theoretical lens of structural violence, we will investigate cases from around the world where large scale, low-tech labor is essential, and workers are enmeshed in institutions of debt peonage. We will explore historical systems of exploitation, such as the plantation system in the U.S. and girl’s laundries in Ireland, as well as contemporary systems such as prison labor, and labor and migration systems like in Qatar, readying for the FIFA World Cup.

**HON 410-1011**  
M 5:30-8:15pm  
*Medical Fiction and the Physician*  
Dr. Russ Gollard  

The rigor and breadth required for the successful completion of a premedical education and medical education would seem to leave little space for a thoughtful study of the humanities. However, premedical advisors and medical schools themselves, as well as society at large, desire physicians to ultimately be humanistic in their approach to patients. The pressures on the new physician today – which include ethical concerns, monetary concerns and balancing the professional with the personal – would seem to all demand a foundation which involves at least some study of the humanities – including literature, philosophy and the arts. Our seminar will focus on fiction and the part that medicine plays in it. Though we focus on illness, we will focus on different vantage points from which illness is viewed. Specifically, we will look at the training of physicians, illness as it is experienced by patients and loved ones, and finally, and perhaps most poignantly, we will look at the limitations of modern medicine. We will look at the way death is treated in the novel and novella, particularly the death of individuals in youth or mid-life. The amount of reading required is large; hence, emphasis will be placed on classroom discussion of assigned works. All students should keep a notebook in which reactions and queries are recorded. This will help us make good use of the time we have together in the classroom. After the first two weeks, students will be assigned to lead classroom discussions on a weekly basis.

**HON 420-1001**  
T/R 6:00-7:15pm  
*Bellagio Art Gallery (Off Campus Component)*  
Dr. Robert Tracy  

Honors students enrolled in this Special Topics Seminar will study the work and writings of a Japanese artist showcased in the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art (BGFA). The exhibition will be installed during the month of November 2018 and will run until the end of April 2019. The name of the Japanese artist is being withheld by the BGFA, as contracts are being finalized as of this writing. Honors students enrolled in this seminar will gain significant insight into contemporary Japanese culture as we examine the next iteration of Midori Nishizawa’s *Primal Water*, which is currently installed in the BGFA until November. The first week of the Spring 2019 semester we will meet on campus to familiarize ourselves with museum protocols. The remaining weeks of the Spring 2019 semester we will meet in the BGFA on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:15PM. More description will be available once all the contracts are finalized.
HON 420-1002  
M/W 1:00-2:15pm  
**Film Music and Film Sound**  
Dr. Jonathan Lee  

Film Music and Film Sound surveys the history of music and sound in the cinema. Our primary texts will consist of a wide variety of films, ranging from silent film (and its musical accompaniment) to contemporary production, including both orchestral scores and compilation soundtracks. In addition to feature films, we will study genres such as documentaries, cartoons, and experimental film. Hollywood productions will be at the heart of this survey, but we will also touch on alternative approaches from European and Asian cinema, particularly with attention to how the norms of Hollywood practice have been challenged. We will also discuss the role of sound effects, sound editing, and the dialogue track, with theoretical and historical readings informing our examinations of the films themselves. This course welcomes a wide range of skill sets and expertise. The ability to read musical notation is not required. Students with keen interests in film, film music, or film sound are welcome.

HON 420-1003  
W 2:30-5:15pm  
**Screen Time: Video and Virtuality**  
Dr. Susanna Newbury  

Today, the majority of us live lives governed and mediated by screens. We experience the world and help author it by performing ourselves and our lifestyles in virtual imagery across a thin sheet of glass, be it through memes, gifs, testimonials, YouTube channels, Snapchats, or stories. How did we get here? With the invention of Sony’s portable videorecorder in 1956, a new world of identity, exploration, and expression was born. With it came an era of exploration: how to mediate personal experience in the world through the projected image. This course surveys the global history of video art over the past 60 years as a response to technological invention and its concomitant social revolution. Exploring themes of narrative, portraiture, documentary, comedy, satire, and banality, we will learn how the invention of video and the refinement of its platforms was critiqued and pioneered through media art, and how it structured our understanding of the contemporary social media platforms that blur the lines between truth, fiction, acting, and confession that define how we live our lives between screens.

HON 430-1001  
T 2:30-5:15pm  
**World Mythologies**  
Dr. Heather Lusty  

Although we don’t always consciously recognize the influence of ancient myths and cultures on contemporary culture, every aspect of modern society is influenced by and often intertwined with the beliefs and practices of our ancestors. This course is designed to introduce important works of mythology from around the world. We will address a number of major and minor literary texts from various regions and time periods, and focus on how these texts may be read in relation to their literary, historical, cultural, religious, and political contexts. Reading will be organized by topics, to better facilitate comparative analysis and discussions. For example, the first unit will introduce archetypes (think Achilles as the ultimate warrior or Loki as the ultimate prankster); the second unit will highlight creation myths and beliefs in the afterlife, and so on. This way, we’ll be able to put different eras and cultures into dialogue with each other.
HON 430-1002
M/W 10:00-11:15am
Cinematic Depictions of European Socio-political Conflicts
Dr. Joanna Kepka

Contemporary Europe is experiencing tremendous political, cultural, and economic changes. During the last decade, Europe has been described as both one and many as the region experiences movement toward unification and division. Using film as medium, this seminar examines cultural and political landscapes of post-war European societies. We will explore themes of war and hegemony, religion, territoriality, regionalism, ethno-nationalism, and national and European identity, among others. Throughout the course, we will make connections between the political realities of modern European societies and their cultural representations on screen. This class offers an opportunity to acquaint yourself with the most pressing issues in contemporary European societies through the medium of film.

HON 430-1003
M/W 11:30-12:45pm
History of US/China Relations
Dr. Austin Dean

This class provides a historical overview of what many experts call the most important bilateral relationship in the world between the United States and China. No background in Chinese history or language is necessary. The first part of the class will identify key themes and questions in U.S-China relations from the founding of the United States in the late eighteenth century to the present day. We will pay particular attention to the changing visions of China that have taken hold of the American imagination at different times and how these views have and have not influenced U.S. policy. We will also examine how different governments in China viewed the United States: the Qing dynasty (1644-1912), the Nationalist Government under the Guomindang (KMT/GMD) and the People’s Republic of China (1949-present). After concluding the historical overview, the second part of the class will consist of student-led sessions on important current topics in U.S-China relations: trade, investment, technology, foreign policy etc. At the end of the term, students will be familiar with the long-term sweep of US-China relations, will understand how decisions made decades ago shape the world we live in today, and be conversant in crucial debates in contemporary politics.

HON 440-1001
T/R 11:30am-12:45pm
Family Communication & The Hollywood Feature Film
Dr. Rebecca DiVerniero

Families come in many forms. And yet, there are societal expectations for familial makeup, scripts for their interactions and their relational development, inevitably privileging some family forms and members, and marginalizing others. Although we may not consciously realize it, we are constantly receiving messages that impact our understanding and management of our familial relationships. One of these sources is the Hollywood feature film. While it is unlikely that we actively look to feature films to tell us how to live, it is undeniable that they serve both as reflections of our society, as well as social prescriptions for what is “normal” in various contexts. Thus, we can learn much from film about how we as society think about communication. This course will utilize feature film, scholarly readings, class discussions, and writing assignments to allow us to better understand how film both reflects and affects how we think about our families, and how to improve our understanding of these relationships.