HON 410 Section 1001  
M-F 11:20am-12:50pm  
More than Twitter: The Return of the Essay  
Dr. Maria Jerinic

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? In this seminar, which combines critical analysis and creative writing, we will explore these questions by reading pieces dubbed essays (including those by Montaigne, Bacon, Woolf, White, Didion, and Sedaris) and by writing our own creative essays. Class requirements will include critical analysis paragraphs, an annotated bibliography, and a collection of creative essays (which we will workshop) with a critical introduction.

HON 440 Section 1001  
M-F 9:40am-11:10am  
Gender, Sex, and Sexuality  
Dr. Rebecca DiVerniero

This interpersonal communication seminar explores the impact of gender roles, biological sex, and sexual orientation on our personal and professional relationships. We will examine biological, social, and cultural influences on gender, as well as how gender roles are socially constructed and performed. Additionally, we will delve into the similarities and differences in the ways men and women communicate, as well as the similarities and differences between heterosexual relationships and LGBTQ relationships. Through studying the theories and research related to the influence of gender, biological sex, and sexual orientation on our interpersonal interactions, students should be able to develop their own interpersonal communication skills and competence.

HON 440 Section 1002  
M-F 1:00pm-2:30pm  
“It’s Bigger than Hip Hop”: The Politics of Rap  
Dr. Bryan Blankfield

In 2017, rap dethroned rock as the most popular music genre in the US. Since its inception in the late 1970s, rap and hip hop culture have been regularly condemned and acclaimed—often simultaneously. This seminar is dedicated to better understanding rap as a cultural phenomenon. Over the course of five weeks, we will explore the historical foundations, evolution, and stylistic elements of rap. Special attention will be placed on understanding rap along the lines of race, gender, and class. In addition, several local rappers will visit our class to talk about their craft, influences, and insights about the genre as a performer. Scheduling permitting, we will attempt a field trip to see one local rap artist perform live.
SUMMER SESSION 3 (JULY 15– AUGUST 16)

HON 410 Section 1002
M-F 9:40am-11:10am
Planes, Trains, and Automobiles: How Modern Transportation Changed American Culture
Dr. Dan Bubb

This course will examine how technology and transportation reshaped and redefined American culture. It will especially look at the pivotal role commercial aviation and airports played in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries as airlines added larger and faster passenger planes, offered more flights, and airports built multi-billion dollar international terminals to meet the growing needs of domestic and international travelers. As the United States continues to compete in a global aviation market, we will explore many themes including the growing challenges it faces as markets in Asia, Europe, and South America continue to proliferate.

HON 410 Section 1003
M-F 1:00pm-2:30pm
Science, Technology, and Society: Beliefs, Ethics, & Controversies
Dr. Bryan Bornholdt and Dr. Heather Lusty

From the telescope and microscope to the computer and robotics, science and technology have changed our fundamental understanding about life and the universe. This course takes a team-based approach to trace and critically examine how emerging technology forces society to revise its views, practices, and laws regarding relationships, commerce, research, and life. While mathematics plays an essential role in the development of technology, mathematics is not immune to technology's influence. Topics of focus include artificial intelligence, data availability, cyber security, public and private surveillance, bio-medical ethics, and robotics. The initial portion of the course will be devoted to developing essential logic, discrete mathematics, methods of formal proof, and statistics related to our explorations but will require nothing beyond college algebra.

HON 440 Section 1003
M-F 11:20am-12:50pm
The Superhero Craze: Mythological Origins and Genre-Bending
Dr. Heather Lusty

This course is designed to explore “heroes” in contemporary society in relation to their mythological foundations and their genre-bending evolutions. This course has three main sections: we will read the original Greco-Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Norse myths that most WWII comics draw from, then read the original incarnations of American superheroes, and finally, look at the genre-bending incarnations of superheroes in the post WWII era, including cross-over comics, fan fiction, and TV spin-offs. All texts will be considered for their relation to historical, cultural, racial, gender, civil, and political contexts.