

Honors College Seminars – Spring 2013

Course and Instructor	Instructor-supplied Abstract	Time/Place	Attributes
<p>HON 480 – 201</p> <p><i>Environmental Policy and Politics in the Modern Age</i></p> <p>Dr. Betsy Dulin</p>	<p>The course provides an opportunity to study the development of modern environmental policy at the federal and state levels from a multi-disciplinary perspective, including the origins and implementation of current and pending environmental regulatory programs. The course will emphasize the numerous principles and pressures underlying all environmental decision-making, including a wide variety of legal (constitutional, statutory, and administrative), scientific, and socioeconomic issues. The critical role of stakeholders, including the three branches of government, the regulated community, and the public, on all aspects of policy development will be explored and issues will be analyzed from all relevant perspectives. Throughout the semester, students will have an opportunity to read, analyze, and discuss selections from the literature and the headlines on current environmental issues and to explore the ways in which they might participate more fully in the public policy development process.</p>	<p>T-R 11:00 – 12:15</p> <p>GH 5</p>	<p>*Recommended credit: Social Science</p> <p>Writing Intensive</p>
<p>HON 480 – 202</p> <p><i>The Book Beautiful: The Art of Bound Texts from Incunabula to the Private Press</i></p> <p>Prof. Christine Ingersoll</p>	<p>Do you love books? Do you find comfort in holding a book and turning the pages? Are you ready to exchange that paper book for an iPad? “The Book Beautiful” will explore the value of the book as an object of beauty from the making of paper, to the elaborate bindings of master craftspeople, not only through readings and discussions but by examining the book first-hand in libraries, artist studios and participation in a surprising international celebration. The course will also consider the future of books not only as containers of information but as works of interactive and kinetic beauty.</p>	<p>T-R 12:30 – 1:45</p>	<p>*Recommended credit: Fine Arts</p> <p>Writing Intensive</p>
<p>HON 480 – 203</p> <p><i>The Phenomenon of Harry Potter</i></p> <p>Dr. Jill Treftz</p>	<p>Did you look for your Hogwarts letter on your eleventh birthday? Do you sometimes pretend that your chemistry lab is a Potions classroom? Have you devoted hours to attempting to figure out the twelve uses of dragons’ blood? Or do you just wonder what all the fuss surrounding this Harry Potter fellow was about?</p> <p>Harry Potter is one of the most successful book series in literary history. It spurred significant changes in reading and publishing practices and introduced a new generation of children to the delights of reading for pleasure. This class will engage with Harry Potter both as a literary text and as a vehicle for examining larger cultural concerns about education, religion, social justice, and popular media, as they are reflected both in the series and in the various controversies and discussions that have surrounded and grown out of the series. No prior knowledge of the Harry Potter series is necessary to be successful in this course—new readers and old fans welcomed equally.</p>	<p>T-R 2:00 – 3:15</p>	<p>*Recommended credit: Literature</p>
<p>HON 480 – 204</p> <p><i>Are we the masters of our fate? The Art and Science of Free Will</i></p> <p>Dr. Rosanna Lauriola and Dr. Massimo Bardi</p>	<p>This course is a comprehensive study of the concept of free will through history. It is focused on the eternal debate between free will and determinism, or freedom and destiny. Are we the masters of our fate or is our destiny already determined by the gods or other forces? Freedom has been considered one of the most precious resources throughout human history. Debates on the controversy between freedom and destiny are hallmarks in the classics works [e.g., Hesiod for Pandora’s myth; Sophocles’ Oedipus Rex; Aeschylus’ Oresteia; Euripides’ Medea, Iphigeneia in Aulis]. This debate is as current today as it was in the past, and new evidence accumulating using the scientific method are just increasing this controversy, rather than resolving it. Using methods and expertise pertinent to both Classical Literature and Neuroscience, this course will merge the most relevant interdisciplinary reflections on a topic at the core of our existence. We will begin with reflections on classical works then contrast the classical view with data acquired from current topics in neuroscience.</p>	<p>M 4:00-6:20</p> <p>OM 353</p>	<p>*Recommended credit: Social Science -or- Humanities</p>

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<p>HON 480- 205</p> <p><i>Poetic Justice: Solo Performance and Social Advocacy</i></p> <p>Dr. Julie Jackson</p>	<p>For the past century the powerful voices of solo performers have subverted and extended public discourse on identity politics and social justice through the creation of unique dramatic personae in performance. Editorial monologists like Sojourner Truth, Whoopi Goldberg, and Danny Hoch have enticed, offended, goaded and delighted the public by sharing their observations, convictions, fears and outrage in the voice of a fictive stage character. This course will focus on the multifaceted work of solo performers within a social and political context. Class work will allow students to connect with each other and with the material through readings, discussions, and written critique of individual performers. On the premise that theory is practice and practice is theory, each student will research a specific issue related to identity politics and/or social justice and develop a unique dramatic persona loosely based on autobiographical and collected biographical material. In lieu of a final exam or research paper, students will write and perform a brief dramatic monologue before an invited audience.</p>	<p>MW 6:30 – 7:45</p>	<p>*Recommended credit: Fine Arts</p>
<p>HON 480- 206</p> <p><i>Picturing Nature: American Visual and Environmental History</i></p> <p>Prof. Cory Pillen</p>	<p>This seminar explores the environmental history of the United States from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present through the lens of visual culture. Environmental history is a relatively new field of inquiry that focuses on the changing relationship between humans and the natural world. We will address this history by looking at a range of visual material, from paintings and photographs to cartoons and films. We will explore the way these visuals have worked to shape Americans’ interactions with nature and their understanding of concepts like “wilderness.” We will also consider the ways nature has motivated and shaped the production of artwork and other visuals. In the process, we will address a number of important issues, including: changing definitions of nature; the relationship between national identity and place; the environmental repercussions of urban growth and technology; ecological imperialism; "natural" histories of race and gender; ecofeminism; biotechnology and climate change.</p>	<p>W 4:00 – 6:20</p> <p>OM 353</p>	<p>*Recommended credit: Fine Arts</p>
<p>HON 480 – 207</p> <p><i>Boxing in Film and Narrative: Race, Class and Gender in the Most Controversial Sport</i></p> <p>Dr. Michele Schiavone and Prof. Andrew Gooding</p>	<p>Heavyweight champion turned TV pitchman Big George Foreman said, “Boxing is the sport to which all other sports aspire.” Whether you agree or not, it is the subject of stories by Ernest Hemingway, Norman Mailer and Joyce Carol Oates and films from <i>Rocky</i> and <i>Raging Bull</i> to <i>The Fighter</i> and <i>Million Dollar Baby</i>. Boxing is a prism through which we can see changes in society and most racial and ethnic groups have had their day in the spotlight.</p> <p>In this course we will use fiction and non-fiction, documentary and feature films to investigate issues including race, class and gender in American society, corruption and exploitation, the heroes and villains, tragedy, comedy and pathos, and judgments about boxing’s worth.</p> <p>As part of the course, students will complete papers and presentations on these texts and will engage in debates over the present and future role that boxing should play in our society.</p>	<p>R 6:30 – 9:00</p> <p>OM 353</p>	<p>*Recommended credit: Literature</p> <p>Writing Intensive</p>

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