



HON 480 Seminars – Fall 2021

Course Number, Instructor/s and Title	Course Description from Instructor/s	Meeting Time & Place	General Education Attributes
<p>HON 480 – 201 CRN</p> <p>When <i>Ew=Cool</i>: Popular Science by Mary Roach</p> <p><i>Rachael Peckham</i></p>	<p>Have you ever wondered what happens to us when we die? Or how astronauts go “number two” in space? Or why the stomach doesn’t eat itself? What if you could ask a scientist such questions? Better yet, a funny, straight-talking science writer? Best-selling author Mary Roach examines what science has to say on these subjects and more, exploring the various methods and experiments that have helped us to understand the mysteries of human life and death. In every discussion, we’ll be taking up the same questions scientists have taken seriously for decades, revealing some basic truths governing our shared humble experience as human beings. Besides critiquing Roach’s work, you will explore your own long-held curiosities through (dare I say fun) scientific research. You will then compose an exploratory essay that will become the basis for a podcast episode of your own design and making, all geared toward a popular audience.</p>	<p>TR 2:00-3:15 PM</p>	<p>Writing Intensive</p>
<p>HON 480 – 204 CRN</p> <p>Trash or Treasure? An Introduction to Archives</p> <p><i>Lori Thompson</i> <i>Lindsay Harper</i></p>	<p>In an era of “cancel culture” or “call-out culture” where movies are pulled from streaming services for featuring negative stereotypes, or celebrities are asked to take responsibility for their non-PC actions, archives and archivist plays a critical role in preserving and providing sources so society can learn from these mistakes and not repeat them. In this seminar students will consider the role of the archives in a civil society through the examination of the types of materials that exist (or don’t exist) within archival collections. Students will examine archives and activism, ethics, and the silencing/amplification of voices. Students will learn how institutions obtain, preserve, and make accessible primary source materials. This will be achieved by using hands-on practical exercises, critical analyses of primary sources, and thoughtful discussion.</p>	<p>MW 1-2:15 PM</p>	<p>Writing Intensive (Intended)</p>

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<p>HON 480 – 202 CRN</p> <p>Science & Science Denial</p> <p><i>Herman Mays</i></p>	<p>What happens when people disregard well-established scientific conclusions in favor of intuition, ideology, conspiracy, and belief? This course will explore our emerging “post-truth” society specifically by examining the causes and consequences of science denial. Increasingly a reliance on the conclusions of consensus-based science is being abandoned by those who seek to erode trust in science, scientists, and our scientific institutions and insert narrow ideological, religious, economic, and political agendas in their place. Through extensive readings and discussion, we will learn what it means to adopt a scientific attitude, probe science’s strengths and shortcomings, and explore where science denial, conspiracy theories, and pseudoscience fall short of the methods and goals of scientific inquiry. The course will focus on examples of science denial including those espoused by creationists, flat earthers, anti-vaxxers and climate denialists and discuss how to effectively confront this growing threat to scientific literacy, progress, and a functioning representative democracy</p>	<p>TR 4-5:15 PM</p>	
<p>HON 480 – 203 CRN</p> <p>Belonging: Reimagining Kinship in Literature and Culture</p> <p><i>Jana Tigchelaar</i></p>	<p>Family life, kinship, and community represent central sites for the construction and contestation of social and political belonging. But kinship bonds and communities can be exclusionary—to people of color, to LGBTQIA+ individuals, to non-heteronormative families. Through the examination of classic and alternative kinship models, including friendship, neighborliness, non-human kinship, and queer kinship, we will work to understand what kinship teaches us about the politics of belonging and exclusion in the United States. Literature and film from a range of genres and time periods will be accompanied by cultural and critical background readings. In addition to a final research project (which can take the form of a research paper, a digital artifact, a video essay, a website, a creative artwork, or similar), students will practice lower-stakes creative and critical writing throughout, including personal writing on community and kinship and analysis of current events and media using the kinship lens.</p>	<p>W 4-6:20 PM</p>	<p>Writing Intensive (Intended)</p>