



HONORS COLLEGE

HON 480 Seminars – Spring 2019

Course Number, Instructor/s and Title	Course Description	Meeting Time & Place	General Education Attributes
<p>HON 480 – 201</p> <p>Dr. John Young</p> <p>Reading David Foster Wallace's Infinite Jest</p>	<p>The one thing that most people know about <i>Infinite Jest</i>, the 1996 novel by David Foster Wallace, is that it's very long (1,079 pages, including 388 footnotes. On the other hand, <i>Infinite Jest</i> is the equivalent of four "regular" books, which probably doesn't sound so bad.) But the reason to read <i>Infinite Jest</i> is that it's one of the most important and influential American novels of the 20th century. We will spend the semester working our way through Wallace's masterpiece, slowly and carefully, while also journeying down various tangential paths. Because <i>Infinite Jest</i> is about (among many other things): addiction (both to drugs and entertainment), celebrity culture, terrorism (in the form of wheelchair-bound Québécois separatists), free will, North American politics, film history, the corporatization of contemporary society (every year has a sponsor, like "The Year of the Whopper"), wargames, family history, tennis, Shakespeare, and Fourier transforms, we will have faculty visitors from addiction studies, film studies, mathematics, and philosophy, among other possible disciplines. And remember, "It is easier than you think" (pg. 175).</p>	<p>Monday & Wednesday</p> <p>2-3:15 PM</p>	<p>Writing Intensive</p>
<p>HON 480 – 202</p> <p>Dr. Nicki LoCascio</p> <p>Poliomyelitis: The 20th Century Epidemic</p>	<p>Polio has infected human populations periodically for thousands of years. With occasional pockets of disease with few victims, its endemic presence persisted with little notice from the medical community. When it hit the United States with a vengeance, starting in the 1900s, little was known of the viruses, their transmission, patient treatment, and appropriate public health responses. This course will chart the progression of poliomyelitis and examine why it has not been eradicated from the wild, the fear mongering for polio that still persists today despite effective vaccines, and the recent outbreaks in Africa being traced to live virus vaccines or laboratory escaped virus. We will explore the immune response to the causative virus PV, the seasonal nature of the disease, why it predominantly affects children and males, and the scientific strategies that resulted in the Salk and Sabin vaccines.</p>	<p>Tuesday & Thursday</p> <p>12:30-1:45 PM</p>	



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<p>HON 480 – 203</p> <p>Drs. Christina Franzen and Robin Conley Riner</p> <p>Death and its Aftermath</p>	<p>Dying and death leave those remaining alive with an empty space to mourn, to grieve, to remember, and to contemplate their own lives and mortality. This space often is perceived as a wound, an invitation for those left alive perhaps to join the deceased loved one in the underworld, but, as the Stoics might tell us, this space can also be interpreted as a place to grow. In this course, we will study this space, the space left behind by the dead and the space that is about to be left behind by the dying. Through such topics as war, human sacrifice, murder, lamentation, pollution, funerals, burial, and marriage to death, we will explore how people from the Ancient world to today live with and make meaning of the deaths of others as well as their own.</p>	<p>Tuesday & Thursday</p> <p>2-3:15 PM</p>	
<p>HON 480 – 204</p> <p>Professor Patricia Proctor</p> <p>Alexander Hamilton: The 18th Century Inspiration for 21st Century Hip-Hop on Broadway</p>	<p>More than any founder, Alexander Hamilton imagined the United States of today. Whatever he did, he did it spectacularly, for better or worse: he was a rebel, a patriot, a soldier, a writer, a lawyer, an economist, a creator, a lover and a fighter; he was loved and hated. He was wise about some things but foolish about others. We will explore Hamilton's story – the quintessential immigrant's story. We will consider why he "walked through time" to inspire Lin Manuel Miranda to tell his story using hip-hop, making this 18th Century "bad boy" the hottest cultural phenomenon on Broadway in years. We will delve deeply into Hamilton's accomplishments and epic failures as we consider Miranda's portrayal of his life through music in Hamilton: An American Musical, including the show's societal impact as well as its effectiveness in telling the story.</p>	<p>Tuesday & Thursday</p> <p>2-3:15 PM</p>	



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<p>HON 480 – 205</p> <p>Dr. Brian Kinghorn</p> <p>Critical Thinking in a Social Media World</p>	<p>In many ways, the rise of social media has contributed to an overall deficiency in critical thinking skills. The overabundance of information available via social media (including fake news, misinformation, the 24-hour news cycle, and filter bubbles) has made it easy for individuals to succumb to common errors in human reasoning (such as confirmation bias, stereotypes, and mistaking correlation for causation), often without even realizing it. Critical thinking is a key to recognizing and overcoming the errors in our reasoning, and it is one of the principle desired outcomes of a university education. Using social media as an educative platform (it will be required to use Facebook, Twitter, and other social media tools), this course addresses many of the psychological underpinnings of common errors of human reasoning and the myriad ways social media is influencing individuals to commit these errors in reasoning rather than engaging in critical thinking.</p>	<p>Tuesday & Thursday</p> <p>4-5:15 PM</p>	<p>Digital Humanities (expected)</p>
<p>HON 480 – 206</p> <p>Dr. Slav Gratchev</p> <p>Spanish Art of the XVI-XX Centuries</p>	<p>This course offers a panoramic overview of Spanish arts throughout the XVI-XX centuries. The course by its very nature is the interdisciplinary study that combines in itself the inquiry into Spanish arts, music, and film in historic context. The course covers the period of XVI-XX centuries, and has the goal to discuss the most notable Spanish artists and architects (Velazquez, Zurbaran, Ribera, El Greco, Goya, Picasso, Dali, Alonso Cano, Jose Chiriguera, Antonio Gaidi), as well as musicians (Andres Segovia, Manuel de Falla, Isaac Albeniz, Enrique Granados, Monserrat Cavalier and Placido Domingo). In addition, the course discusses the cinematographic production of three internationally acclaimed Spanish directors: Pedro Almodovar, Luis Bunuel, and Guillermo del Toro. A particular attention will be given to how Spanish Arts have changed in response to the social and cultural changes that occur in Spain throughout XVI-XX centuries.</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>4-6:20 PM</p>	



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<p>HON 480 – 207</p> <p>Drs. Britani Black and April Fugett Fuller</p> <p>Internet Famous: Language, Health, and Psychology in the Age of the New Celebrity</p>	<p>Internetainers, trolls, and blogs – oh my! As Internet culture has grown in the last decade, words such as these have shaped media and consumers alike. Through this, it has changed the way we view news, health, and entertainment. The psychology behind the language we now use and associate with the Internet, as well as the overall impact it has on healthcare and society, has become more of a focus of interest. Students will engage with Internet media, such as Youtube, and examine relevant literature to better understand the changes brought on by these trends along with their related psychological impact. These topics will lend to hands-on projects including the class’s own “Vidcon”.</p>	<p>Thursday 4-6:20 PM</p>	<p>Writing Intensive</p>