

Honors College Seminars

Spring
2015



HONR 200-01: Ethics and Public Policy [2432]

Instructor: Simon Stacey, The Honors College Wed. 1-3:30; LIB 216M

In this course we examine some of the moral issues that arise in public life. The course begins by reviewing frameworks for thinking about ethical issues in public policy, and then deals with questions concerning the means employed to implement public policy, questions concerning the ends policy should serve, and questions concerning the appropriate roles of public officials. Readings include classics of political and moral philosophy, case studies and some contemporary journalism. Issues may include the official use of violence, terrorism, toleration and its limits, deception and politics, multiculturalism, capital punishment, abortion, welfare, health care, affirmative action, and perhaps others. Short presentations will be required, participation will be emphasized, and students will write several short papers.

HONR 200-02: The Chemistry of Global Climate Change [7903]

Instructor: Steve Mang, Chemistry and Biochemistry MW 10-11:15; LIB 216M

Climate change is among the greatest problems facing humanity, and an understanding of the physical and chemical processes causing this change is vital to crafting effective solutions. In this course, we will study several chemical processes that occur in the atmosphere, and the ways in which these processes can change the climate. We will also investigate the way these changes are seen in society, and some proposed technical and policy solutions. You will be expected to read articles from popular science magazines and from peer-reviewed journals, and to work in groups to analyze and discuss these readings. The chemistry content of the course will be at an "educated layman" level; no previous chemistry experience is required.



HONR 300-01: A History of Kermit [2446]

Instructor: Colette Searls, Theatre TuTh 11:30-12:45; LIB 216M

This seminar will examine puppetry as a surprisingly powerful, ubiquitous craft that is reaching beyond the arts into fields like anthropology and robotics. We will study puppetry both as a vibrant performing art form, and as a means to think creatively about how seemingly unrelated fields connect. While class time will chiefly consist of group discussions in response to readings and assigned film viewings, several class sessions will include time for in-class writing and working with puppets.

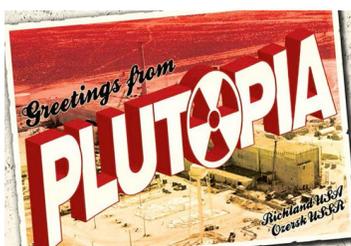
HONR 300-02: Animal Reproduction [5604]

Instructor: Sarah Leupen, Biological Sciences MW 10-11:15; FA 006

The birds and the bees: a comparative look at reproductive physiology, ecology and behavior across the animal kingdom. Because the ability to reproduce is a defining characteristic of life, reproduction is of central importance in the study of biology. Here, we survey animal reproduction with an evolutionist's eye; why do females choose while males display, why are dragonfly penises covered in spines, why do most animals have two sexes rather than three, ten, or none at all? What is a sex, anyway? In suggesting possible answers to these questions, we'll explore the meaning, importance, and fantastic variety of reproduction.



HONR 300-03: The Atom Unleashed: Environment, Health, and Nuclear Power [6399]



Instructor: Kate Brown, History Tues. 1-3:30; LIB 216M

In this course, we will use the following perspectives to look at the creation of nuclear weapons and power: history of science and technology, cultural history, ethics, diplomacy, international relations, history of memory, art, film and literature. We will examine the effects of the bomb on people, bodies and environments. Students will learn some physics, chemistry and biology as the touchstone to understand the history of radioactive isotopes introduced for the first time into human history in industrial-sized quantities in local environments. Working in small groups, students will produce an original documentary video and, working alone, students will write a series of short essays on selected topics.



HONR 300-04: Race, Poverty, and Gender in Baltimore [6400]

Instructor: Jodi Kelber-Kaye, The Honors College Thurs. 1-3:30; LIB 216M

Social categories of race, class and gender provide structure for and organize people's lives. These categories intersect with one another, reinforce one another's effects, and can, at the same time, cut against one another. In this course, we will explore how these main social categories (race, class, poverty, gender) are defined and how they operate in the lives of people in the context of Baltimore. As any city with a unique history, Baltimore provides a location through which we can examine social phenomena like block busting (neighborhood segregation), health disparities, food access, proliferation of crime and drugs, the judicial system, and more. Students will also interview Baltimoreans as part of an oral history project. Some short papers and a longer final presentation/paper that incorporates the interview work will be required.

HONR 300-05: Psychology of Women [7700]

Instructor: Nicole Else-Quest, Psychology Wed. 1-3:30; ITE 456

In this course we will learn about the physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and political dimensions of the psychology of women. We will discuss and critique research methodologies and theoretical approaches and apply them to areas of psychology such as women's physical and mental health, lifespan development, victimization of women, achievement and work, women's sexuality, and emotion. We will also discuss the psychology of men and gender differences. Throughout the course, we will be mindful of variations in women's experiences stemming from marginalization and pathologization.



HONR 300-06: Shakespeare on Film [7701]

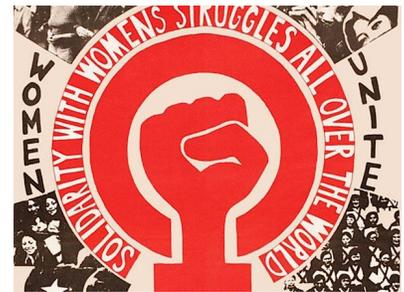
Instructor: Eve Muson, Theatre Mon. 1-3:30; LIB 216M

Shakespeare has been inspiring film makers all over the world since the very beginning of film technology. There are now hundreds of films that adapt Shakespeare's plays into different languages, and varied social worlds. Some films are celebrated for their faithfulness to Shakespeare, others criticized as violating the author's spirit and intent. Still others are worth watching precisely because in bending the original they alert us to the aspects of Shakespeare that we may not have paid attention to, or they tell us something new about our own world. Assignments will involve comparing printed play-texts with the various filmed versions and thinking about the choices made by 20th and 21st century auteurs.

HONR 300-07: Transnational Feminist Solidarities [7703]

Instructor: Emek Ergun, Gender and Women's Studies Thurs. 4:30-7; LIB 216M

This seminar explores the formations and operations of transnational feminist solidarities and coalitions in the contemporary world. It examines how women around the globe collectively and creatively respond to intersecting systems of domination and build alliances across differences, divides, and borders to intervene in such regimes of oppression and exploitation. Drawing on scholarly texts and working through case studies, students will critically engage with global sociopolitical issues that touch our and other's lives and will develop ways of thinking and acting to address them in nuanced, conscious, and accountable ways.



Honors College Applied Learning Experience Courses

HONR 390: Reflections on Community Service Instructor: Jodi Kelber-Kaye

This course provides opportunities for reflection of the principles and techniques of community service. Through a co-enrollment of PRAC 096, students are introduced to basic methods of community service, a background in the cultural, political, and social contexts of community service, and a forum for discussion of issues surrounding civic engagement and social responsibility. Students apply concepts and skills they develop to actual experiences in community service. **Permission required by the Shriver Center and Honors College.**

HONR 410: Honors Internship Instructor: Jodi Kelber-Kaye

This course offers academic credit for an internship. During the semester, student interns perform a minimum of 120 hours of supervised tasks for a research, business, government, or non-profit agency. This course is repeatable for a maximum of 6 credits. **Preliminary authorization by the Career Services Center (Prac 098) and thereafter permission of the Honors College is required.**

HONR 400: Honors Independent Study Instructor: Jodi Kelber-Kaye

Independent study or research under the guidance of faculty mentor. Course guidelines are available in the Honors College. This course is repeatable for a maximum of eight credits.