



Fall 2024 HON 400-Level Seminars

HON 410-1001

R 2:30-5:15 p.m.

Instructional Leadership

Dr. William Doyle

This seminar is a substantive introduction to peer techniques effective in leading university-level students in self-motivated exploration of the world of knowledge. You will gain practical skills in classroom management and teaching, furthering your own professional development. **Restricted to Honors College students accepted as peer instructors for HON 105. Obtain permission from Honors College Advisor.**

HON 410-1002

M, W 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Managing Your Money: Personal Finance For Today's Students & Tomorrow's Leaders

Professor Danny Siciliano, CPA, CMA

To be successful in personal finance, students should have the ability to understand and interpret knowledge related to the various financial decisions they will make. Students must also develop proper habits and appropriate behaviors. This course focuses on both knowledge and behavior. By focusing on both, students will develop confidence in making financial decisions that will lead to long-term financial well-being.

HON 410-1003

F 11:30 a.m. -2:15 p.m.

Becoming and Being a Lawyer – Law School, Law as a Profession, and the Life of a Lawyer

Sagar Raich, JD

The law is one of the most interesting and widely applicable fields of studies today. From classrooms to courtroom to board rooms and beyond, the applicability of law is second to none. This course is an introductory course in preparing for law school, what law school is like, introduction to the different areas of the law, and what the actual practice of law entails after law school and the bar exam.

HON 410-1004

T 2:30-5:15 p.m.

Monsters and Monstrosity

Dr. Sheila Bock

This course will approach monsters and monstrosity as powerful tools for both drawing and blurring boundaries between self and other. Taking seriously representations of monsters and monstrosity in specific cultural contexts, while also attending to how these representations change over time, we will consider how individuals and communities use monsters to grapple with cultural fears and anxieties surrounding, among other things, race, gender, sexuality, the environment, technology, mental health, and the body.

HON 410-1005

M, W 10:00-11:15 a.m.

Banned Books: Closed Pages-Closed Minds

Dr. Jeanne Holland

Throughout history, books in certain cultures, religions, and political systems are marked as unsuitable or dangerous. These books challenge conventional wisdom and are determined to be threatening to institutions and people that support the status quo. Today in the United States, school boards, public library boards, government entities, and churches have launched aggressive attacks to ban certain books and authors. In this course we will consider:

- Should books be banned in tax-supported institutions like public schools and public libraries?
- Who makes the decisions about which books are banned?
- Is it all right for church groups to ban books in their bookstores and libraries?
- Why are certain books banned? Are some books so obnoxious, they should be banned/burned?
- Can ideas be banned?

Students will pick certain banned books as their own and prepare presentations and research papers. Guest lecturers will include a journalist, librarian, public policy expert, and Black literary scholar.

HON 410-1006

W 2:30-5:15 p.m.

Leadership: Bringing Clarity to the Chaos

Dr. Finley Cotrone

Leadership is an exalted topic. We often hear about great leaders as if leadership is a gift only a few are capable of practicing. Obviously, being a great leader isn't easy. If it was, everyone would be doing it. This class will compare and contrast the popular literature and the research that answers the question "what makes a great leader?" Students will tackle this question both theoretically and actively by participating in processes that highlight the role of leadership; including one of the most important roles: bringing clarity to the chaos. These experiential activities will draw on practices from a variety of disciplines including fine arts. As self-reflection is key to personal development, students will reflect on where they are today and where they would like to be both personally and professionally.

HON 410-1007

T 2:30-5:15 p.m.

Tech Detox: Let's Study Like It's the 1990s

Dr. Cian McMahon

Let's face it: our lives are completely dominated by digital technologies. And yet, in the midst of all of this swiping and tapping, studies show that people are hungry for low-tech, introspective experiences. This course offers you the unique opportunity to experience an educational "tech detox" by studying the social and cultural history of the 1990s as if you were living in the 1990s. There will be no email. No WebCampus. No uploads. No downloads.

The class will meet once a week on Tuesday afternoons so that we have ample time to slow down, read, talk, and think in each other's company. For the first two units of the course, we will read a (hard copy) history of the 1990s and share what we have learned through discussion and writing. In the third and final unit, each student will choose a topic from the 1990s that they are interested in and, using microfilmed newspapers available in the Lied Library, research and write a short, smart analytical essay about it.

Ultimately, the goal is to create a space where students can explore and re-think their relationship with digital technology... by turning it off for a while.

HON 410-1008
T,R 10:00-11:15 AM
Aviation in the West
Dr. Daniel Bubb

This course will examine how technology and transportation reshaped and redefined American Western 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 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 410-1009
M,W 10:00-11:15 a.m.
“Do you believe in magic?”: Explaining the Inexplicable Through Magical Realism
Dr. Todd Martinez

How do people explain absurd situations happening to themselves, their families, their communities or even their countries? Although many individuals seek out a rational, scientific, social or historical cause for ludicrous occurrences, sometimes these cannot fully illuminate their full magnitude. Enter: Magical Realism. Within this mode, creatives attribute difficult personal and social circumstances, in part, to supernatural influence. Indeed, numerous writers and filmmakers from various cultures have employed Magical Realism with a similar desire to voice the experiences of those who have been historically silenced. This course will not only examine the “rules” of Magical Realism and regard its development through some key Latin “Boom” writers, but it will also be a cross-cultural survey of how the mode has been applied to cultural memory, as well as social/personal concerns. These ideas will be explored both through major Magical Realist literary texts and through contemporary films.

HON 410-1010
M, W 1:00-2:15 p.m.
Contemporary Moral Issues
Dr. William Ramsey

This course is designed to provide a philosophical analysis of various contemporary moral problems and debates. Some of the topics we will examine include abortion, the death penalty, terrorism, prostitution and a right to health care. In most cases, we will look at arguments from opposing sides of the issue. Sometimes we will examine an argument for a particular position, and then criticisms of that argument; other times we might look at independent arguments for and against a given position. The primary goal is to provide students with a much deeper and more sophisticated understanding of the moral dimensions of these important topics.

HON 410-1011
M, W 10:00-11:15 a.m.
Your Voice, Their Eyes – Writing for the Public
Prof. Oksana Marafioti

Nearly every business or organization has a social presence, and to stand out and follow their mission, companies and entrepreneurs know how to create compelling content through thorough research and preparation. This might mean writing blog posts or newsletters, creating video/podcast content, conducting market research and case studies, and the like. In this class, you will prepare a content proposal for an online blog on your chosen topic. Much like a business proposal, a content proposal outlines goals, defines audience and purpose, shows market research, and includes well-researched resources and references. You will then publish five compelling blog posts for the public eye on a free blog platform of your choice.

HON 410-1012

T, R 4:00-5:15 p.m.

Becoming the President: The Rhetoric of Political Campaigns

Dr. Bryan Blankfield

This seminar explores presidential campaigns from a historical, theoretical, and rhetorical perspective. Students will do so through regular readings paired with a semester-long roleplaying game. In this game, students create their own political parties, select presidential candidates amongst themselves, and organize teams to run these campaigns. Doing so will put theory into practice and sharpen students' critical thinking skills, as well as public speaking skills. Sample assignments include in-class debates, creation of promotional materials (such as mailing advertisements and thirty-second political commercials), and responses to developments along the campaign trail. Additionally, students will remain current with the ongoing 2024 presidential election through assignments such as response papers and watching televised debates. Altogether students will better understand the core elements of presidential campaigns by semester's end.

HON 410-1013

M,W 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Paradoxes in Arts, Science and Mathematics

Dr. Satish Bhatnagar

This class explores the nature and understanding of paradoxes in general, including discussions of classical paradoxes - like, Zeno and Russell/Barber. We will examine social and psychological constructs of paradoxes; students will be encouraged to bring out perceived paradoxes encountered anywhere. The scope of paradoxes is not limited to the areas of Arts, Science and Mathematics.

HON 420-1001

M, W 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Creative Time: Exploring the World Like an Artist

Prof. Sean Slattery

Think like an artist—unlock your creativity to deeply engage with the world around you and the subjects that interest you. Experience how artists, not through innate talent but through honed practice, develop their unique perspectives. Learn from their methods to expand your own world view, tackle challenges creatively, and make conscious choices with your time. Through engaging activities, readings, writings, and discussions, we'll challenge assumptions, problem solve (and “problem create”), and boost our confidence in approaching our physical and mental environments. Daydreamers and curious minds are welcome!

HON 420-1002

M,W 4:00-5:15 p.m.

History of Jazz

Dr. David Schwartz

Jazz is a uniquely American musical art, combining African and European elements with a strong emphasis on improvisation. It has developed for more than a century, at first in the United States and then globally, and has influenced much of the music that has developed since, from classical to popular. This course examines the development and growth of jazz within its social, economic, political, and cultural context, exploring the broader historical forces shaping the society in which it developed, while charting the impact individual musicians have had—and continue to have—on its evolution.

HON 420-1003

Web-Based/ Asynchronous

From Iron Maiden to Beyonce: Global Music and Visual Culture

Dr. Heather Lusty

Music is a central pillar of developed societies. Through musical expression, a culture's fears, fetishes, and daily life are illustrated and shared around the globe. This course will look at several global genres (punk/heavy metal, pop, and Hip-Hop) and their various visual cultures. From stage sets and costumes to holograms and tour movies, from merchandising to movie soundtracks and Super Bowl half-time spectacles, we will look at visual musical culture and the values it platforms, and its influence on mainstream culture.

HON 430-1001

W 2:30-5:15 p.m.

Telling Our Stories: Political Narratives Through Film

Dr. Roman Lewis

This course will examine several persistent political narratives embedded in film through a thematically-curated selection of films from around the world. We will apply cultural, critical, and root narrative theory in our analysis of general political narratives and symbolic elements present in film across space and time; context specific application of these narratives and their intended impact on audiences; and those responsible for creating and perpetuating these narratives and their critics. Additional consideration will be given to the impact of individual and structural factors on the artistic, technical, and commercial aspects involved in production. Through case studies, students will develop a comprehensive and critical understanding of how political narratives are advanced through film as a form of mass media; why certain narratives resonate with particular audiences; and how they help shape individual and group understandings of identity and events.

HON 430-1002

Web-Based/ Asynchronous

Cinematic Depictions of European Socio-political Conflicts

Dr. Joanna Kepka

Contemporary Europe is experiencing tremendous political, cultural, and economic changes. During the last decade, Europe has been described as both one and many as the region experiences movement toward unification and division. Using film as medium, this seminar examines cultural and political landscapes of post-war European societies. We will explore themes of war and hegemony, religion, territoriality, regionalism, ethno-nationalism, and national and European identity, among others. Throughout the course, we will make connections between the political realities of modern European societies and their cultural representations on screen. This class offers an opportunity to acquaint yourself with the most pressing issues in contemporary European societies through the medium of film

HON 430-1003

T,R 5:30-6:45 p.m.

Unpacking Study Abroad: Disorientation to Transformation

Dr. Kim McGrath

Grounded in Transformative Learning Theory, this capstone seminar is an exploration of the transformative and intercultural outcomes of a study abroad experience. When and how do students transform when confronted with cultural differences? Through a variety of resilience-building techniques including story circles as developed by UNESCO, students will examine their own personal and academic development throughout their participation in study abroad. Following this, students will design their own projects of original scholarship based upon their own experience across the ten stages of transformative learning.

Class restricted for students who studied abroad in Fall 23, Spring 24, and Summer 24. Department Permission Required. Obtain permission from Honors College Advisor.

HON 440-1001

T, R 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Protecting Labor in American History

Dr. Michelle Turk

This course will explore the history of work and workers with emphasis on the political, economic, social, and cultural forces that contributed to and inhibited solutions to protect American labor. We will examine the nature and dangers of working in the United States, how employment has changed over time, and government policy related to labor, business, and occupational safety and health. Students will gain an understanding of the lasting legacies of slavery, the evolution of capitalism and its impact on labor, the emergence of labor consciousness and protest, and how employers and the government gradually developed the legal and moral obligation to safeguard America's working men and women. Our class meetings will take a number of formats. Depending on the topic, either I will deliver a lecture or we will have a guest speaker. Other days, we will have student-led presentations, discussions, analyze primary documents, or meet with local union leaders. The overall goal of the course is to understand how labor transformed American culture and politics and continues to shape the contemporary United States. The saga to protect American workers is therefore our story, complete with lessons for all who labor for capitalism.

HON 440-1002

W 2:30-5:15 p.m.

Are There Ethics in Business? A Critical Film Appraisal

Charles Stanton, Esq.

Through the lens of film, we will catalog the way American business really works. What are the standards and guidelines that govern the corporate world? How do these rules affect not only those who work in the business universe but all of us? One of the seminal questions we will hope to answer is how industry has either helped or harmed the advance of social justice. We will study such core issues as employee efficiency, workers' rights, the fight for unionization, the quest for women's equality, and whether there are legal safeguards available to ensure corporate responsibility and accountability. If not, what legal protections can be created? The main goal of the course is to provide our students with a more nuanced view of how business operates and to prepare them to question actions that may threaten our society.

HON 440-1003

Hybrid, W in person, 10:00-11:15 AM

Neurobiology of Addiction: A Multicultural Approach to Abused Substances

Dr. Rachel Ali Rodriguez

Complex neurological mechanisms significantly influence drug abuse. However, genetic and environmental factors also play roles in addiction, adding more layers of complexity. Despite recent improvements in inclusivity, most cultures are still excluded from research on drug abuse, potentially affecting the outcome of treatments. This seminar begins with an overview of the neurobiology behind the psychological effects of abused drugs. Students will then develop their analytical and critical thinking skills by exploring cultural differences in the perception of and reasons for drug use and abuse. We will then delve into the available research, exploring treatment efficacy/outcomes across cultures.