UNLV | HONORS COLLEGE

Summer 2024 HON 400-Level Seminars

HON 410-1001
Web-Based/Asynchronous Online
Strategic Communication
Dr. Ursula Kamanga
Summer Session II

The theoretical and practical application of strategic communication seeks to understand the effect of culture on all aspects of marketing communications. Given that strategic thinking promotes creative processes, the goal of the course is to help students develop an understanding of the creative measures' organizations use for effective research-based strategies to communicate ideas to help organizations reach their objectives. Students will learn key concepts of public relations and advertising and apply them to design an infographic that communicates UNLV's Athletic strategic plan. Students will identify a specific audience and inform or persuade them about UNLV's strategic plan. To help students understand how and when to best communicate the message through the right channels, students will use the textbook and read peer reviewed articles among other educational resources. Overall, students will learn how to think critically, gather, and organize supporting information, and disseminate information in a culturally diverse environment.

HON 410-1002
Web-Based/Asynchronous Online
Creative Writing Workshop
Professor Jaclyn Costello
Summer Session III

Writing stories and poems not only allows us to share our interpretations of the outer world via an artistic medium, but it also allows us to explore our unique inner worlds in innovative, depth-filled, satisfying ways. During this course, you will be offered the opportunity to write in any style of creative writing that calls to you, whether it be experimental poetry, dystopian short stories, YA novel excerpts, or a sci-fi multimedia narrative - the possibilities are endless! We will also read Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way* and complete a variety of creative exercises to help you become inspired. This will be a kind, supportive, encouraging environment in which you and your peers will constructively share insights on each other's work with the aim of helping one another evolve as writers.

HON 410-1003
Web-Based/Asynchronous Online
Alien, Ghosts, and Wizards: The Intersection of Genre Writing and Literature
Professor Michael Chin
Summer Session III

From fantasy to science fiction to horror, academics have historically dismissed creative enterprises that diverge from strict realism. But can *Harry Potter* and its commentary on totalitarianism be dismissed as a flight of fancy? What of Shakespeare's invocation of a ghost in the opening scene of *Hamlet* or the post-apocalyptic imagery at the heart of Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*? Through a deep reading of a variety of texts, this course interrogates perceptions of realism, and explores the ways in which the extraordinary can provide a lens to understand the real world. Students will ultimately generate their own creative work that incorporates speculative elements to access deeper truths.

HON 430-1001
Web-Based/Asynchronous Online
The Rise of Right-Wing Populism
Dr. Joanna Kepka
Summer Session II

Many commentators have declared that the world is in the midst of a resurgent right-wing populism. Indeed, over the last two decades, there has been a rise of right-wing nationalist parties, including in some of the world's oldest democracies - from France's National Rally, Spain's Vox Party, Germany's AfD, Hungary's Fidesz, Italy's Brothers of Italy, Argentina's Libertarian Party, India's Bharatiya Janata Party, and the presidency of Donald Trump, to name a few. But are democracies under threat? This course is an investigation into contemporary right-wing populism and its geographical, socio-political, and economic contexts. We will evaluate national cases of populism, analyze political speeches, and discuss texts that examine the conditions which contributed to the rise of populist parties' appeal around the world.

HON 440-1001
Web-Based/Asynchronous Online
The Women of Hip Hop
Dr. Bryan Blankfield
Summer Session II

Women have routinely shaped hip hop culture from its very beginning. This seminar explores the complexity, contradictions, and contributions of female rappers through assigned readings and music playlists. Moreover, since the work of female rappers is often overlooked and undocumented, students will work to revive their legacies through response papers, presentations, and transcribing missing lyrics on Genius.com. The central tenet of this class is that we have been mis-educated about the history of these prolific artists.

HON 440-1002
Web-Based/Asynchronous Online
The Superhero in Literature
Dr. Heather Lusty
Summer Session II

This course is designed to explore "heroes" in society (literature, print media, and film). We will read a range of texts (including modern "texts" like the graphic novel and movie/television depictions) from the ancient world through the twentieth century and focus on how these texts reflect their relation to historical, cultural, racial, gender, civil, and political contexts.

HON 440-1003
Web-Based/Asynchronous Online
Representation in Television: The Politics of Popular Culture
Dr. Will Sipe
Summer Session III

This online, asynchronous course explores the vast scope of mass media and its relationship to power, representation, and scholarship. The aim of this class is to shine a light on our everyday experiences — superhero shows and medical dramas are not just silly distractions! They are rich texts for exploration, analysis, and critical thought. Through a variety of recorded lectures, readings, activities, and projects, you will expand your understanding of representation in media, learn to apply different lenses of analysis, and articulate your own unique perspectives.