

Spring 2026
HON 29X course descriptions

HON 291: PROPAGANDA; Karl Krotke-Crandall

In “Politics and Ideology through the Cinematic Lens in the 20th and 21st Centuries” what we know and think connects with the content on the silver screen. In the past, films were an easy and convenient method to distribute ideas to massive audiences and became propaganda tools. The medium played a significant role in how societies understood their place in the world and what outcomes their leaders hoped and expected of their citizens. This course examines the role of cinema in developing and communicating political ideology throughout the 20th Century and how they've emerged into the contemporary world. Throughout the course, we will view and analyze films that convey ideologies to viewers to better understand how we see the world today.

HON 291: WILD WRITERS WRITING OUTDOORS; Ted Martinez

In this course we will discover the magic of nature writing, why writers do nature writing, and the magic of writing outdoors about place. An emphasis will be placed on the creation of nature writing and discovering nature through experience and writing. We will analyze the elements that make good nature writing and attempt to emulate what we have learned by writing about place while writing in the outdoors. We will read classic nature authors such as Aldo Leopold, Edward Abbey, Barry Lopez, Terry Tempest Williams and John Muir. We will also foray into the philosophical underpinnings of nature writing and environmental philosophy.

HON 291: GLOBAL POETRY, GLOBAL POETICS; Rob Wallace

Poetry is and has been a global phenomenon, and remains one of the most ubiquitous forms of written and spoken expression in many cultures. In this course, we'll read, discuss, analyze, and write about the function and meaning of poetry in society, broadly defined, with particular focus on how and why poetry has existed throughout a variety of cultures and contexts.

HON 291: SERIOUS PLAY: SHAKESPEARE; Dina Yordy

Many of Shakespeare's comedies depict complicated social issues in the fabric of their humor. Misogyny, deception, racial prejudice, gender roles and identities, class structures, power dynamics, sexual manipulation, and other moral dilemmas force audiences to confront these difficulties even while they are laughing. This course will tackle these difficulties while examining five plays: Comedy of Errors, As You Like It, Taming of the Shrew, Merchant of Venice, and Measure for Measure. Our examinations will include performances of the plays on film, in person, and in class as well as requiring academic readings related to the plays.

HON 291: ART AND WELLBEING; Pegge Vissicaro

Interdisciplinary studies demonstrate the relationship between art and well-being to improve individual, community, and environmental health. Students gain knowledge and skills about how art facilitates wellness in diverse cultural contexts, using a wide range of practices and approaches, informed by scholarly literature, hands-on engagement, class discussions, field trips, and individualized research.

HON 291: THE CURSE OF MACULINITY; Perry Davidson

In the first part of the twentieth century, authors such as Dashiell Hammet, and Ernest Hemingway were defining the ideal male as stoic, and in control. While Hemingway's novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, is very clear about the fears and insecurities surrounding any kind of emasculation, Hammet's take is less insightful but ultimately even more damaging than Hemingway's hopeless pursuit of manly perfection. Our task in this class will be to look at all of these roots and reactions to the societal pressure to behave according to a gender role, but also to look at the damage done to that very society in claiming that these roles are of defining importance to the very idea of America.

HON 291: COMICS AND OTHER INTERMEDIA; Rob Wallace

Over the past few decades, comic books, manga, and anime have finally started to get noticed in the United States as a legitimate, scholarly form of artistic expression. Outside of the US, this type of artistic medium has been both popular and respected for many years. Long before the modern comic book and manga were created, forms of writing mixed with images were being produced, which greatly influenced subsequent generations of global popular culture. This course will survey the evolution of comic books with an emphasis on manga and anime. Japanese poetry, scrolls, kamishibai, and ukiyo-e prints will be addressed so that students better comprehend the background of this artistic, meaningful medium. Students will conduct research and create their own unique text/image/digital works throughout the semester.

HON 291: FEAR, HOPE, AND DESIRE; Kerri Quinn

In his “victory speech” President-elect Barack Obama stated, “It’s the answer that led those who’ve been told for so long by so many to be cynical and fearful and doubtful about what we can achieve t put their hands on the arc of history and bend it once more toward the hope of a better day. It’s been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this date in this election

at this defining moment change has come to America.” In this course, your readings, writings, and class discussions will address, both broadly as well as specifically, the themes of fear and hope and how they inform our needs, hopes, and desires on a personal, national, and global level. We will explore, expand, and question the ways in which these themes intersect with our sense of community, language, social reality, and identity.

HON 291: THE ABRAHAMIC RELIGIOUS TEXTS; Kyle Welty

Human beings have sought after wisdom since our earliest days. In this course, students will read wisdom literature from various traditions, seeking to find what relevance it might have in their lives. Readings will be drawn from a wide range of sources, including eastern authors, classical authors, and authors from the three Abrahamic faiths. Stretching the label “ancient,” readings from Enlightenment authors will be incorporated at the close of the semester.

HON 293: MYSTERY OF THE BRAIN; Melissa Schonauer

Who, really, is in control of our decisions, behavior and emotions? Is it our logic or our instinct (the more developed part or the more primitive part of ourselves)? Which is more important for our success in life, intellectual or emotional intelligence? And how does the brain function and sort through constant information in order to guide us through life? In this class, we will explore these questions by looking into neuroscience, anatomy, psychology, and, of course, ourselves.

HON 293: PLANTS AND PEOPLE: HOW WE USE; Ted Martinez

Plants and people have co-evolved for thousands of years, but how much do you really know about the plants we depend on so much? Learn about plants as a source of medicine, food, fiber, alcohol, nutrition and health.

HON 294: MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH; Kyle Welty

As our knowledge of the natural world expands rapidly, we find that moral problems become more intricate rather than simplifying or disappearing. In this course, students will grapple with the major ethical questions surrounding birth, life, and death. Students will consider the major philosophical arguments germane to contemporary debates about medicine, abortion, euthanasia, and other similar issues. To gain additional insight, various cultures’ approaches to these thorny ethical questions will be considered.

HON 294: 20TH CENTURY, COLD WAR, & TODAY; Karl Krotke-Crandall

This seminar investigates the dynamic relationships between human communities within the 20th-century world through the lens of the Cold War. Events of the last century shaped our modern world through policies, human interactions, and conflicts. HON 294 engages students in the study of the 20th-century world by exploring the evolution of the political spectrum, the intersection of humans through relocation, and modernity in conflict. It unpacks how these events inform our world today. Empirical and theoretical strategies are employed to study global interaction within social, political, and cultural systems in a time ripe with Capitalism, Communism, Fascism, and the decolonizing world.

HON 294: MEDICAL RHETORIC; Kara Attrep

Bodies of Knowledge: Medical Rhetoric will focus on medical culture, but also the science of medicine, and the social and political implications of it. We'll look at the cultural of illness, disabilities, and surgeons; the science behind vaccination, hysteria, Munchausen syndrome, fibromyalgia, and morticians; the history of medicine all the way back to the theory of the humors and Galen; and the social and political nature of such things as the health care system, health campaigns, abortion, euthanasia, medical laws, and patient-doctor empathy.

HON 294: DIVAS OF THE WORLD; Kara Attrep

This course explores the music and lives of female and female-identifying singers. We will not only explore the music of the divas but will also examine the intersection of gender, sexuality, race, and class in connection with the lives of such musicians as Beyoncé and Lady Gaga.

HON 294: WOMEN AND WAR; Jessica Strom

War is often associated with men and masculinity, as individuals showcase their power and pride to defend their causes. But women are just as much a part of war as their male counterparts. In fact, their activities and perspectives frequently allow us to see the many different sides of war that we would not otherwise see. In this course we will examine women and war in many settings including, but not limited to: women on the home and battle fronts; women’s relationships with fathers, husbands, and sons during war; women and mourning; and women as the spoils of war. We will also look at a wide range of types of war: global war, civil war, and revolution. Readings in this course will include autobiographies, journals and letters, and scholarly articles, in addition to films and other images.