

Spring 2027
HON 29X course descriptions

HON 291: MEET THE BEATLES; Rob Wallace

Bigger than Jesus? Or just a band? The Beatles' John Lennon made both of those claims during the short but incredible life of one of the most significant cultural institutions of the 20th century, the Beatles. This class explores the band and its legacy.

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 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: 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: IN SEARCH OF WISDOM; 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: SYMBIOSIS; 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: 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: WRITING CULTURE; Pegge Vissicaro

This writing-intensive course explores ethnography through the lens of both literature and practice to deepen understanding about culture. Students examine classic and contemporary ethnographies while exploring fundamental ethnographic practices that

include participant observation, interviewing, fieldnote writing, and reflexive analysis. Written assignments, readings, and a research paper enable students to develop the skills necessary to observe social worlds, analyze cultural practices, and represent ethnographic knowledge.

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.

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: DIAGNOSING U.S. HEALTHCARE; Kevin Gustafson and Laura Maurer

How does the American healthcare system work, and how does it compare to other healthcare models? This course is not primarily about medicine. Rather, our primary focus will be on how medical systems function economically, socially, and politically, and how (and whether) they respond to social needs. Students will develop their critical thinking, reading, and writing skills by engaging with peer-reviewed books and articles, firsthand accounts of key healthcare initiatives, guest speakers from local and regional providers, and group activities that break the social history of American healthcare into manageable parts.

HON 294: WHO REMEMBERS THE 1960s?; Rob Wallace

"If you remember the 60s, you weren't really there," or so goes the quip attributed to various people who were there, including members of the seminal psychedelic rock band, Jefferson Airplane. But what might we learn from remembering the 60s? And what kind of 60s memories have transformed our current era? This course investigates the various and sometimes conflicting and contradictory legacies of the 1960s, from a global perspective. We'll read histories and fictions, listen to music, watch films, and generally assess the way in which this single decade of the 20th century casts a long shadow on our contemporary lives.

HON 296: FORCED INDIGENOUS MIGRATIONS; Karl Krotke-Crandall

This course was designed on the heels of the war in Gaza and the complicated short history of the region in conjunction with forced migration. The class will unpack topics related to the mass migrations of Indigenous peoples across the modern era and into the 21st Century to draw connections between political, social, and cultural upheavals that spark large migrations. Topics covered in the class will include the Jewish diaspora, the "long walk" of Indigenous populations in the United States, the Armenian Genocide, colonization, and decolonization of the British and French Empires, nation building including the State of Israel.