

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 294: POLITICS OF PUNK MUSIC; Robert Wallace

As early as 1977, the year when many people first started to hear about the music genre known as punk, it was already being declared dead. But as critics such as Greil Marcus have argued, punk was merely a more recent emanation of a much longer historical phenomenon. This class will investigate the roots and routes of punk, focusing on the politics and cultural impact of punk as music, fashion, art, rebellion, etc.

HON 294: WHAT IS THE NATION?; Jessica Strom

Historian and political scientist Benedict Anderson famously wrote, “Nation, nationality, nationalism — all have proved notoriously difficult to define, let alone to analyze.” What is the nation and who is part of it? Where did the idea of the nation come from and how has that idea changed over the last 200 years? How have revolutions created and recreated nations? In this course we will try to answer these questions by looking at three specific moments when the idea of the nation has been particularly prominent in public discourse. The course will begin by looking at Anderson’s *Imagined Communities*, a foundational text on the study of nationalism. Next we will explore the process of Italian national unification in the nineteenth century. We will then move to the post-World War II period and discuss the collapse of empire, the revolutionary movements that led to the independence of new nation-states, and how the legacies of colonialism affected the creation of these new nations and continue to do so today. Finally, this course will assess the state of the nation in the United States during the coronavirus pandemic. Using the Asian American Pacific Islander as a case study, in this unit we will discuss the history of inclusion and exclusion of the AAPI community in the U.S. and how its relationship to the nation has been affected by the pandemic.

HON 391: HOLOCAUST MEMORY – ALT MEMORY; Karl Krotke-Crandall

This course, “Holocaust Memory Through Alternative Sources,” goes beyond the traditional history of the Holocaust to explore how the memory of the Shoah developed over time. Students will engage with different types of sources, from survivors to those materials created in the modern world, to better understand how and what we know about the Nazi’s genocide of Europe’s Jewish population. In this class, students will read memoirs and explore oral histories, photographs, and other sources from survivors to glean original narratives about the Holocaust from a global perspective. We will then examine modern interpretations such as film, memorials, graphic novels, and holographic survivor representations to understand better modern interpretations of the Holocaust and responses by those who engage in denialism.

HON 393: THE BIOLOGY OF CANCER; Melissa Schonauer

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S., so everyone is affected by this disease in some way. In this class, we will dive into the molecular mechanisms of the disease in order to better understand the causes of cancer as well as to investigate past, present, and possible future treatments for the disease. We will also look into how the field of cancer research began and how it influences the decisions we make as individuals and as a society.

HON 393: HOT MESS: ECOLOGICAL FICTION; Ted Martinez

This seminar will focus on the complex role that science plays in society today. Using sources from popular media to philosophy, will explore big questions such as: Are public perceptions of science shifting in our society? Does science make controversies worse? How can scientific information be communicated creatively? Students will analyze the role of science, technology, and communication in case studies of controversies such as vaccination, climate change, and genetically modified organisms, as well as emerging issues like human germline modification and automation. We will develop strategies for effectively integrating scientific information into public discourse, from media to policy-making, and beyond.

HON 394: (UN)NATURAL DISASTERS; Rima Brusi

This course examines the conceptual, theoretical, and methodological tools employed by ethnographers across disciplines to study the production, shaping, and aftermath of disasters commonly labeled as "natural," such as hurricanes (cyclones), floods, and earthquakes. In this class, "ethnography" refers to research and writing characterized by sustained engagement with a specific place, event or culture. It privileges the meticulous exploration of daily life and utilizes a comparative, holistic approach that considers political economy, ideology, culture, history, and behavior. The course will delve into case studies primarily from Latin America and the Greater Caribbean region.

HON 491C: TOPICS IN BIOLOGY; Melissa Schonauer

In this Honors Capstone course, we will explore topics including molecular mechanisms of disease, genetics, genomics, and translational medicine. This course is geared toward Biology majors. Students will perform individual and group literature-based research on topics of interest and will complete a public presentation. Requirements: Junior or senior status with Honors College consent as well as completion of or co-convening with HON 39X. This class will fulfill 3 units of the Honors Capstone requirement.