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**Spring 2020**

HON 29X course descriptions

**HON 202: Engaging in Honors Scholarship**

Step one in your Honors Capstone Pathway: Explore research and careers; apply for scholarships; identify and choose your “Pathway” from “Health and Medical,” “Interdisciplinary Team-Based Applied,” “Knowledge/Discovery,” “ Creative,” “Professional,” or “Entrepreneurial” that best matches your future goals, plans, education, and/or professional aspirations and what that Honors Capstone might look like: Independent Study, Internship, Undergrad Research, Thesis, major-based capstone, or some combination of the above! HON 202 is designed to be taken your sophomore year, ideally, but we are offering a few sections this coming Spring 20 term“.

**HON 240: PERFORMANCE IN PRACTICE**

*Rob Wallace*

Performance in Practice: Improv, Music, Performance Art and Beyond. This is an undergraduate ensemble dedicated to improvisation, experimental musics, and intermedia/multimedia performances. It is open to all majors and all skill levels (even “non-musicians” or “non-artists”). No audition is required. The ensemble puts on at least one public performance during the semester. Students will learn and perform a wide variety of musics and other performance traditions including improvisation, performance art, theater, movement, and other elements typically overlooked in Western artistic practice. The ensemble interacts with visiting and local artists, and also features original student work.

**HON 243: LOWER COLORADO RIVER**

*Ted Martinez*

HON-243 Lower Colorado River and the West is an on-line and field course that will introduce students to issue of environmental justice, volunteerism, environmental restoration and international cooperation between the US and MX. Pre –trip studies will be done through reading and film. Students will read the Colorado River Compact which governs the law of the river as well as Minute 319 which is a cooperative agreement between the US and MX that allocates environmental base and pulse flows to the delta below Morelos Dam in MX during spring 2014. Students will also gain a historic perspective through the writings of Aldo Leopold who explored the delta in 1922 with his brother and wrote about his findings in *A Sand County Almanac*. In the field students will visit restoration sites on the border between US and MX and have the opportunity to perform on-site environmental restoration that will directly contribute to the success of the delta ecosystem.

**HON 244: WATER WORLD**

*Ted Martinez*

This class will explore local, regional and global water issues using film, reading and discussion. We will begin by asking questions about how we use water in our daily lives and society, and examine the primary water source of the southwest, the Colorado River. We will use this as an opportunity to talk about water resource management and water quality before exploring global water issues. Global water issues will include the privatization of water and pollution. This is a cultural awareness course, with additional emphasis on scientific concepts related to water. Course includes online film viewing and BbLearn discussions, short reflections on films, weekly related readings, and a final research paper.

**HON 291: Harry Potter and the Muggle World**

*Tammy Mielke*

This course focuses on gaining a greater understanding of Harry Potter as literary and cultural phenomena. This course studies the critical discourse that has emerged over the last decade or so as it relates to the novels and other cultural and artistic manifestations. This series is explored in terms of its broader social and political implications.

**HON 291: FACTS & FICTIONS OF TIME TRAVEL: ADVENTURES WITH CONSEQUENCES**

*Tammy Mielke*

“People assume that time is a strict progression of cause to effect, but \*actually\* from a non-linear, non-subjective viewpoint - it's more like a big ball of wibbly wobbly... time-y wimey... stuff.” ― Steven Moffat. This quote from the show Dr. Who sums up this course; it’s an exploration of “timey wimey stuff” via literature, film, science, and philosophy. In this course we will read about the science of time travel, touch on some philosophies about time and how humans move through time and explore the ways in which time travel has been used in literature and on film (both on the small screen and the large screen) to examine the human condition, including how the ethics and values expressed in one time the impact the present or the future. What are the consequences of time travel to the past? What warnings come with seeing our own future? How does our obsession with time travel adventure negatively affect our involvement in the present? How do stories of past time travel compare with contemporary time travel stories? Are we stuck in our own cause and effect patterns when we evaluate time? How might the ability to time travel add to our understanding of the past, the present, and the future?

**HON 291: THE CRAFT OF FICTION**

*Lynica Begay*

In this creative writing course we will examine the elements of crafting various genres and styles of fictional narratives, focusing especially on the short story. Through practice (individual and collaborative writing assignments), workshops, revisions, and readings, we will explore the techniques that help writers produce engaging and compelling fictional characters, stories, and worlds.

**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.

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**HON 292 GLOBAL POPULAR CULTURE**

*Kara Attrep*

This course examines popular culture from a global perspective. How is popular culture defined globally? What are the economic, political, and social forces that shape and influence popular culture around the globe? In answering these questions, this course employs anthropology, sociology, and cultural theory to address global popular culture from a critical and theoretical perspective. Although geographical regions and nations will contribute to our investigation of global popular culture, this course is organized around specific themes. These themes include the impact of politics on popular culture, the influence of globalization on popular culture worldwide, the importance of race, class, religion, and gender to understanding popular culture, and the consideration of economic forces on popular culture around the world.

**HON 292: HEALING ARTS, WORLD CULTURES**

Pegge Vissicaro

Comparative study of music, dance, storytelling, creative writing, and other art forms as a therapeutic means to improve wellbeing in diverse global contexts.

**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: THE MYTH OF TECHNOLOGY**

Theodore Martinez

In this course we will study the myth of technology. Students will be asked to decide for themselves exactly what that myth is. As a means of answering this question we will examine a number of technologies and scientific applications. Some of these being artificial intelligence, robotics, human cyborgs, smart phones, social media, biomimicry, gaming, mythology, nature, health, and medicine.

**HON 294: RESISTANCE AND ACTIVISM**

*Staff*

What inspires people to rise up and resist dominant culture to create a different greater good? Through historic and modern fiction and non-fiction, this course will explore culture change, power, oppression, freedom, conflict, and group identity, and uncover how resistance and activism build more free and just societies.

**HON 294: INTO THE FUTURE**

*Staff*

Foresight is the newest term for the study of envisioning the future. How do people imagine and theorize multiple possible, probable, and preferable futures, seeking to understand what may continue and what may change for life on Earth. Foresight study merges the social and natural sciences, and parallels the field of history. Importantly, it examines how humans will behave and interact as complex world systems and dynamics shift.

**HON 294: IMPROVISATION IN ART AND LIFE**

*Rob Wallace*

Improvisation is one of the most important techniques used by artists in many disciplines. But as scholars have started to discover in recent decades, it turns out that improvisation is also one of the most important tools that humans can use to survive and thrive. This course will investigate the rich history of improvisation as a theory and practice in the arts and other aspects of human experience.

**HON 294: WHO REMEMBERS THE 1960’S?**

*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 294: ATOMIC HOLLYWOOD**

*Robyn Martin*

*Attack of the 50-Foot Woman*? *The Blob*?  *Red Planet Mars*? Using film as a framework, the course will be an analysis of the movie industry’s response to specific social, economic and political forces over the postwar years. We'll watch sci-fi films like *Godzilla*, *Mothra*, and classics such as *On the Beach*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, and others, closely examining the transformation of the imagery and symbolism associated with the atomic age found in film produced and distributed between 1947 and 1964.

**HON 294: LIFE OF MEANING: CONTEMPLATION**

*Pegge Vissicaro*

This topic-based seminar investigates the systemic components and dynamics of contemporary human societies, relationships between human societies and the global community, the major dimensions of variation in contemporary human experience, and the dynamic relationships between human communities and their ecological context.  This course will explore contemplative practices, their contexts and benefits: compassion as a common denominator across human societies: quiet ego as a fundamental component of contemplative, compassionate living: and contemplation and compassion as foundations for discovering personal meaning and building community.