

Fall 2009
HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
(All courses are 3.0 credits)

Introduction to Ballroom Dancing
HNRS 201 Section 501 – CRN 11926
Mondays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

Instructor: Samantha Bellomo

Learn by DUing! This is an interactive dance class not a lecture. **To register for this course come to the Honors lounge to sign-up. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. The class will fill on a first-come, first served basis.**

History of Evolutionary Thought
HNRS 201 Section 502 – CRN 11919
Tuesdays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

Instructor: Lloyd Ackert

Recent discussions of the current controversy over teaching evolution in the public classroom makes it clear that there is a “Darwinian” prejudice, held by the critics, supporters, and journalists participating in the debate. In this seminar we will learn that evolutionary thought has a history that is much broader in intellectual range, one that predates Darwin by 2000 years. We will survey the history of evolutionary thought from the ancient period to its modern developments. Drawing on both recent historical literature and writings of the scientists covered, students will engage a broad range of evolutionary ideas in their social, cultural and political contexts. Here we will not only encounter a number of evolutionary perspectives as presented by their authors, but will also practice a number of historical methods including biography, sociology of science, philosophy of science, and cultural history.

Conquest of Mexico
Honors 202 Section 504 - CRN 13780
Thursdays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

Instructor: Donald Stevens

Was technology or culture more important in the conquest of Mexico? The Spanish conquest of the Aztec empire was one of the most important moments in world history. Calling it a "moment" is scarcely an exaggeration. Cortés arrived in Mexico with 600 men; a little more than two and a half years later, he had defeated an empire whose population numbered in the millions. Succeeding generations have been fascinated by these events and have debated their meaning.

Fiction Writing - Writing Killer Suspense Stories
Honors 301 Section 501 – CRN 12468
Mondays – 6:00PM – 8:50 PM
Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle

Tales of mystery and suspense place characters in situations of heightened conflict and danger; protagonists and antagonists possess clear and opposing moral codes; and narrative arcs permit justice to triumph. A fictional character's traditional journey of self-discovery becomes a public as well as a private search for truth. Mystery stories are among the earliest creations of humankind; they are survival lessons and morality plays rolled into one. Using a combination of techniques such as speed-sketching, "ghosts" and sense-memory exercises, students will be encouraged to enter fully into their protagonists and antagonists' problematic inner lives, to build suspense and narrative organically, and to fashion written works that are both visceral and visual. Personal voice and choice will be stressed, as will the ability to make quick and potent decisions concerning defining moments, compelling settings, and fictional characters' emotional and physical struggles. The difference between specific subgenres in the mystery field (True Crime, Historical, Traditional and Thriller) and the varying intersections of character and plot will be examined.

Terrorism and Torture
HNRS 301 Section 502 – CRN 12510
Tuesdays 6:00PM to 8:50PM
Instructor: Fred Abbate

Among other questions the course will analyze are: Can terrorism be strictly defined? How does it differ from uses of violence that we believe (rightly or wrongly) seem to be acceptable from an ethical perspective? How can terrorists ever morally justify the killing of innocents? Is terrorism connected with the just war doctrine or similar policies? What constitutes torture, and can it ever be morally allowed to combat the saving of innocent lives? Why are such techniques not allowable under international conventions? What are the effects—beyond those on the victim—that torture as a policy can produce?

Film and Political Theory
HNRS 301 Section 503 – CRN 13428
Mondays – 6:00 PM to 8:50PM
Instructor: Kevin Egan

This course will explore issues of power, governance, and citizenship (and other key political concepts) through examinations of some of the most prominent thinkers at the center of the canon of Western political thought, including Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Marx, among others. Furthermore, through the use of film, the course will more deeply probe these issues by illustrating how movies can portray certain political themes, whether intentionally or not.

Media Ethics

HNRS 301 Section 504 – CRN 15116

Thursdays – 6:00PM to 8:50PM

Instructor: Albert Tedesco

Few would argue against the proposition that an enfranchised citizenry requires trustworthy information about the political, social, economic and technological condition of its democracy in order to affect the direction government takes. Likewise, few today would deny the unease that many feel when the flow of information to that citizenry is controlled by a small number of large media organizations who themselves have become “players” in the political process. This situation begs the question, “Do media organizations function not only in their self-interest, but also in ethical ways that assure the validity of their product?”

This course is more about asking “impudent” questions of media organizations than finding definitive answers because, just as in life, when discussing ethical behavior in the media, definitive answers are not always derivable. Sometimes ethical action is the result of individual, social, and institutional cross-pressures that not only are not clearly articulated, but also are often deliberately obscured.

Dinosaurs and Their World

HNRS 301 Section 505 – CRN 15191

Mondays – 2:00PM to 4:50PM

Instructor: Kenneth Lacovara

An introduction to dinosaur paleontology, this course focuses on the scientific method as applied to dinosaur studies. Topics include dinosaur evolution, the history of dinosaur research, an overview of dinosaurs, and birds as living dinosaurs. This is suitable for all majors.

UNIVERSITY COURSES – WILL COUNT TOWARDS REQUIRED HONORS CREDIT

Great Works Symposium

Energy and Sustainability

UNIV 241 Sections 501, 502, 503

CRN- 12385, 12440, 12439

Thursdays 6:00PM to 8:50PM

Instructors – Christian Hunold, Eugenia Ellis, Susan Stein

In politics and in business we hear a great deal about energy and sustainability these days. How is "sustainability" defined, by whom, and why? What is “sustainable development”? How do we weigh human needs with environmental costs? What is environmental justice, in the context of energy? This course, co-taught by Eugenia Ellis, Christian Hunold, and Susan Stein will take up these questions--guest speakers will be featured, and small group meetings will facilitate critical thinking and research on the topic.

This team-taught course features a different guest speaker every week, and a weekly discussion section.

Find this course on-line under “University-wide Courses.” For further information, contact Scott Knowles, sgk23@drexel.edu.