

Winter 2010 HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Honors Seminar (FRESHMEN ONLY –You will only be registered if you did not take HNRS 200 during the Fall 2007 Term)

Instructor: Various Faculty/Staff
Honors 200, Multiple Times, 1.0 credits
CRN –Multiple

Offers intensive discussion of a subject of significant intellectual interest. Subjects vary from section to section and are meant to engage entering Honors students with one another under the guidance of Drexel's best faculty.

Intermediate Ballroom Dancing

Instructor: Samantha Bellomo (sammibell@yahoo.com)
Honors 201, Section 502, Mondays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 22479

Prerequisite --You must have successfully completed Introduction to Ballroom Dancing to register for this course.

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.

The Personal Essay

Instructor: Jason Wilson (jason.f.wilson@drexel.edu)
Honors 202, Section 501, Thursdays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 22477

Writing about one's experiences and ideas can be called many things: autobiography, memoir, creative nonfiction, narrative nonfiction. In this writing workshop, we will focus on a basic form, the essay, which the students will use to craft the material of their own life.

Evolution of American Colleges and Universities

Instructor: Shannon Gary (sgary@drexel.edu)
Honors 202, Section 504, Wednesdays 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 22549

This is a survey course that will examine the historical evolution of American Higher Education. We will discuss how and why institutions transformed from the original colonial colleges to the colleges and universities that exist today. This course will highlight pivotal points in American history and how these moments were critical to

changes that took place in the American higher education landscape. We will also discuss the future of America's higher education system. Once, and arguably still, touted as the best post-secondary educational system in the world, will the higher education system in the United States maintain this distinction? Especially given the increasingly global environment and America's reputation in a post- 9/11 world.

Improvitude

Instructors:

Kevin Egan (kde25@drexel.edu) and Elaine O'Loughlin (oloughlin@drexel.edu)

Honors 301, Section 003, Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 PM – 3:20PM, 3.0

credits

CRN – 25001

This course will explore the emerging emphasis on right-brain thinking via the art of improvisational comedy. It will cultivate different modes of thinking (e.g. subjective, holistic, creative) by seeking an understanding of the right-brain/left brain dualism, as well as through exploring the art of improv as a means of developing creative and expressive skills. It will also demonstrate how the knowledge and skills acquired through improv can foster new modes of thinking/problem solving and how they apply to real life situations.

Writing About Movies

Instructors: Steven Rea (steven.rea@gmail.com)

Honors 301, Section 004, Thursdays, 3:30 PM – 6:20PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 25002

Writers Workshop-meets-film studies in this writing-intensive course led by Philadelphia Inquirer movie critic and Drexel adjunct faculty member Steven Rea. Ten films of different genres, decades and directors will be screened in class, and students will produce essays/critical assessments of each one in response. The writing will be discussed in class, and the work of great critics, authors and poets on the subject of cinema will be read. Designed to hone writing skills and sharpen critical thinking.

Poker, Probability and Decisions

Instructors: Bruce McCullough (bdm25@drexel.edu)

Honors 301, Section 005, Tues. and Thurs., 10:00 AM – 11:20AM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 25003

The course has two objectives. First, to make the students aware of the principles of good decision-making under uncertainty and of unconscious biases that adversely affects decision-making. Second, to introduce the student to game theory and its role in adversarial decision-making. Hold'em poker will be used to illustrate the concepts. The level of mathematics involved is high school algebra. There will be assigned readings on decision theory, game theory, and poker. Students will be required to get an online poker account and to play poker online.

Autobiography of Childhood in America

Instructor: Diane Downs (diane.judith.downs@drexel.edu)

**Honors 302, Section 001, Mon., Wed. and Fri., 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 25004**

The autobiography of childhood is the seemingly curious practice of writing about an unfinished life. Jennifer Schuessler's comment that "the heartland of memoir is still childhood, a place of magically vivid but fragmentary (and often unchecked) memories that fairly cry out for imaginary reconstruction" suggests some of the critical questions that the genre raises. Why does a writer choose to end a memoir with the beginning of adulthood? How accurately can a writer recall childhood experiences? Our reading will begin with the childhood passages of some of the classic American autobiographers-- Benjamin Franklin and Henry Adams. More contemporary reading will include works completely devoted to the experience of childhood, Annie Dillard's "An American Childhood" and Tobias Wolff's "This Boy's Life". Students will select, research and report on an additional autobiography of their own choosing. All of this thinking, discussing and reading will prepare students to conclude this study by writing their own autobiographical pieces, focusing on a specific event, idea, or person central to their experience of childhood.

Character as Catalyst

Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle (CordeliaFrancesBiddle@earthlink.net)

**Honors 302, Section 502, Mondays, 6:00PM – 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 22478**

Every narrative, whether a fictional tale of suspense, a contemporary or historical drama, or a nonfiction memoir or biography evolves through character interaction and conflict. A thorough understanding of the motivating forces within each person in a work of fiction or nonfiction is vital in order to create compelling stories.

In this course, by utilizing a combination of writing and acting techniques, as well as weekly written and reading assignments, students will learn to delve deep into the human psyche in order to build organic and unique writing.

CHARACTER AS CATALYST is offered as a continuation to WRITING KILLER FICTION, or as a separate course. It's not necessary to have completed the prior class. Freshmen are welcome.

Great Works Symposium

Topic: Energy Alternatives

**Instructors – Richard Cairncross, Paul Salvaggio, Daniel Moscovici
UNIV 241, Section 501, 502 and 503, Wednesdays 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 22349, 22350, 22351**

In politics and in business we hear increase discussion about energy alternatives or alternative energy. What is our energy usage now, and what alternatives do we want to shift to? Are fossil fuels the problem, or merely our environmental, social, and political ideologies surrounding it? What is the emotional or “memory” connection to or against certain types of fuel? Are they based on reality? Can they be changed? Locally, can we sustain ourselves as 100% renewable, self-sufficient, zero emissions? What are the connections between our energy use and our land use planning? What ramifications does our shift to alternatives have for our land use for the future?

This course, co-taught by Richard Cairncross, Paul Salvaggio, and Dan Moscovici, will take up these questions--guest speakers will be featured, and small group meetings will facilitate critical thinking and research on the topic.

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