

Winter 2009 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
Honors 201, Section 502, Mondays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 23206**

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.

Eyes of a Citizen: Democracy, Equality and Participation

**Instructor: Dan Dougherty
Honors 201, Section 504, Tuesdays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits
CRN – 24942**

What are the rights and responsibilities of citizenship? Are these equal for all citizens? Should they be? This course will examine these and other questions regarding the conception and practice of citizenship. We will explore democratic citizenship in four areas: classical and American conceptions of democratic citizenship; participatory democracy and citizen action; citizenship and economic inequality; and global citizenship in a changing world.

Because democracy is not a spectator sport, and because democratic citizens are active participants in their communities, in addition to the regular class meetings students in the class will participate in approximately 1-2 hours per week of a civic engagement placement. This practicum is designed to enliven student learning and classroom discussion about citizenship. It also allows students the unique opportunity to apply theories and concepts discussed in class to their own practical experiences in serving others in the community as engaged citizens.

Writing, Travel, Food and Politics

Instructor: Jason Wilson

Honors 202, Section 501, Thursdays 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 23200

The Art of Comedy

Instructor: Sara Felder

Honors 202, Section 502, Tuesdays, 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN –24933

We will examine the art of comedy, past and present. We will study the power of laughter to heal, instruct, expose, attack, and create community. We will examine great works of comic literature, appreciate the techniques of comic performance, consider the psychology of jokes and laughter, and understand the craft of comic writing. We will celebrate our comic traditions and the inner comic spirit of each of us.

Evolution of American Colleges and Universities

Instructor: Shannon Gary

Honors 202, Section 504, Wednesdays 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 23373

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.

Special attention will be paid to the development and proliferation of historically Black colleges and universities, women's colleges, Hispanic serving institutions and tribal colleges. We will examine the need for these institutions and why they still exist in today's post-segregation era.

Special Theory of Relativity

Instructor: Michael Vogeley

Honors 301, Section 002, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 AM – 10:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 24938

Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity is one of the greatest advances of modern science. This theory revolutionized our view of the physical world, unifying space and time, electricity and magnetism, energy and momentum. In this course we will explore and explain many of the sometimes counterintuitive but fundamental aspects of SR. At the end of the course, we will also introduce Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.

Relativity is sometimes thought of as "far out" science applicable only to extreme astrophysical circumstances. In fact, understanding of both Special and General Relativity is necessary for operation of several systems that we have come to rely on. Operation of satellites in orbit around the Earth requires that we compute the effects of both Special and General relativity. Systems like GPS would utterly fail without doing so (which means that most of our advanced weapons guidance systems would fail). I'll show you a "Handbook on Relativistic Time Transfer" that proves this point.

Topics that will be covered in this course include

- Spacetime metrics (unification of space and time)
- Physics in inertial frames of reference
- Transforming between inertial frames (Lorentz transformation)
- Length contraction and time dilation
- Relativity of simultaneity
- Time travel
- Causality
- Unification of momentum and energy
- Transformation of mass and energy
- Curved space: General Relativity

The most important goal of this course is that you further develop your ability to think clearly and quantitatively about the physical world. It is unlikely that your daily life and work will require you to instantly recall the equations that we will use. However, well-developed physical insight will serve you well in whatever endeavor you choose. Einstein was fond of the "gedankenexperiment" - the thought experiment - as a means of gaining insight on a problem. I hope that this course will likewise stretch your imagination.

Physics students may take this course as a Physics elective.

Workshop – Fiction Writing

Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle

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

CRN – 23203

WRITING KILLER SUSPENSE STORIES

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.

UNIVERSITY COURSES – WILL COUNT TOWARDS REQUIRED HONORS CREDIT

**Great Works Symposium –
Civil Rights**

Instructors – Kevin Egan, Kali Gross and Michael Yudell

UNIV 241, Section 501, 502 and 503, Thursdays 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 22949, 22950, 22951

In the winter term 2009 the Great Works Symposium is pleased to offer the next course in its "Democracy" series--"Civil Rights." This course will be taught by Kevin Egan (Honors College), Kali Gross (History and Politics), and Michael Yudell (School of Public Health). Issues will consider the Bill of Rights and the theoretical and political aspects of civil rights. We will also discuss the history of struggles over civil rights in the United States--from Brown v. Board of Education to current debates over genetic testing. 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.

Peer Tutoring in Writing Workshop

Instructor: Harriet Levin Millan

UNIV 320, Section 001, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30PM- 1:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 25013

Instructor: Henry Isreali

UNIV 320, Section 501, Wednesdays 6:00PM- 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 25014

UNIV 320 is a writing course that gives you the opportunity to reflect on writing and to grow as a writer. We will approach the subject of writing and creativity through the question of how and what it means to help others with their writing. We will read and discuss many aspects of writing as it pertains to a university environment, society at large, and to our personal lives. Furthermore, as a member of UNIV 320, you will take part in a unique program to bring a culture of writing to Drexel University. As such, the course will train you to work as a peer tutor in the University Writing Program. After successful completion of the course, you will be assigned to a particular writing intensive course and paid \$715.00 per term. UNIV 320, along with continuing in-

service training during each term will give you an introduction to the pedagogy and experience you will need to be an effective peer tutor.

Find this course on-line under “University-Wide Courses.” For further information and enrollment approval, contact Harriet Millan, millanhl@drexel.edu.