Spring 2012 HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Honors Seminar (FRESHMEN ONLY –You will only be registered if you did not take OR successfully complete HNRS 200 during the fall 2011 or winter 2012 terms)

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.

Introduction to Ballroom Dancing

Instructor: Samantha Bellomo

Email: samanthabellomo@gmail.com

Honors 201, Section 001, Mondays 6:00 PM - 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34613

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.

Producing Public Science: The Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University

Instructor: Dr. Amy Slaton and Jesse Smith

Email: slatonae@drexel.edu and jesse.b.smith@drexel.edu

Honors 201, Section 002, Wednesdays 2:00 PM - 4:50 PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34616

Students will have the unique opportunity to simultaneously learn and apply critical science-studies skills that will serve them far beyond this class. The field of science studies combines methods of history, sociology, anthropology, art history and other disciplines to probe the social origins and impacts of scientific practices, turning its attention to cases of scientific discovery, exploration, education and display. We believe students in this class would be unlikely to ever again enter a "place of science" — whether museum, laboratory, classroom, cable channel documentary, or industrial board room — without applying a rich set of critical questions to that site and its work. The course will be directed at students in all majors, from the science, humanities, education and media fields. With an emphasis on how the sciences, arts and other fields have seen the role of natural science knowledge in our culture, the class will include reflection on disciplinary features of each student's major and the distinctions and overlaps among those.

Pulp Fiction

Instructor: Matthew Kaufhold Email: kaufhold@drexel.edu

HNRS 301, Section 900, ONLINE COURSE, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34631

A 10-week exploration of classic Pulp Fiction in America in the 30s & 40s, from its origins in Penny Dreadfuls, Dime Novels, and cheap wood pulp paper, to the modern descendants of the pulps: comic books, television, and even the internet. We will read and analyze primary source material in major pulp genres of mystery, science fiction, fantasy, adventure, horror, and romance, tracing literary antecedents, contemporaneous entertainment sources (such as film serials), and how these pulps inform the entertainment industry today.

The Wire: HBO's Television Novel of the Inner City

Instructor: Dan Driscoll and Robert Watts

Email: dwd27@drexel.edu and wattsra@drexel.edu

Honors 301, Section 002, Wednesdays 6:00PM - 8:50AM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34614

This course will focus on the first three seasons of HBO's acclaimed television series, *The Wire*. Students will examine the series' depiction of a struggling American city and a stunning range of characters, both depicted with depth and complexity rarely seen in television or film. Students will explore the theme of failing American institutions and the world of innercity Americans as represented in The Wire, along with the accompanying issues of race, class, and culpability.

Students will gain an appreciation for *The Wire* as narrative art and explore connections between its formal qualities, the issues and characters and settings it centers on, and questions that arise from the series.

Apocalypse/Post-Apocalypse: Images of Nuclear War in Film and Fiction

Instructor: Ian Abrams Email: Abrams@drexel.edu

HNRS 301, Section 003, Mondays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34615

I've been teaching this course on and off since 2000, and every time it seems to resonate more with current events. In the class, we look at movies and stories (and newsreels and propaganda films and, weirdly, music) about nuclear holocaust, dating from the 1940's up to today-- the class is about how various treatments of this fictional idea have changed according to what was going on in the world.

Because the subject matter is so unnerving, I like to briefly meet with all prospective students before they join the class-- for this reason, THE COURSE IS BY PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR ONLY. PLEASE CONTACT PROF. IAN ABRAMS (ian.n.abrams@drexel.edu) TO DISCUSS ENROLLING IN THE COURSE.

Truth, Value and the Meaning of Mind: The Genius of American Pragmatism

Instructor: Fred Abbate Email: fia421@comcast.net

Honors 301, Section 004, Tuesdays 6:00PM- 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN – 34617

An exploration of the key ideas of major American philosophers in the pragmatist camp, especially C.S. Peirce, William James and John Dewey. The course will emphasize theories of knowledge and the logic of science, concepts of morality and art, legal reasoning and some of the philosophical implications of these issues for political, cultural and social questions at the heart of American policy and practice.

Improvitude

Instructor: Elaine O'Loughlin Email: oloughlin@drexel.edu

Honors 301, Section 005, Thursdays, 6:00PM - 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34618

Explore the emerging emphasis on right-brain thinking through the art of improvisational acting. The curriculum incorporates an understanding of the right-brain/left-brain dualism, and will demonstrate how the knowledge and skills acquired through improv can foster creative, intuitive and aesthetic thinking.

Hearing the Movies: Sound in Film

Instructor: John Avarese Email: avarese@aol.com

Honors 301, Section 006, Tuesdays, 3:30PM - 5:20 PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34641

This course develops critical listening and viewing skills that makes us aware of how we are being manipulated by the elements of the soundtrack: dialog, music, and effects. Class periods will include some instructor lectures, but will also be active on the student's part, ranging from discussions of outside readings to in-class analysis of viewed scenes that are a part of the course. There will be extensive screenings of a variety of scenes, edited from feature films.

Character as Catalyst

Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle

Email: (CordeliaFrancesBiddle@earthlink.net)

Honors 302, Section 001, Mondays, 6:00PM - 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34619

All fictional narratives evolve through character interaction and conflict. A thorough understanding of the motivating forces within each person in a work of fiction 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 – The City and the Senses

Instructors – Drs. Saeed Hydaralli, David Flood, Frank deSantis Email: sh675@drexel.edu; df37@drexel.edu; frank.desantis@drexel.edu UNIV 241, Section 001, 002, or 003 Tuesdays 6:30PM – 9:20PM, 3.0 credits CRN – 31936, 31937, 31938

This course examines the ways in which the physical and urban environment impacts our health through the fundamental and indispensible means by which we experience living in the city – our senses. We will explore how the physical environment of the city, as it correlates to each of the human senses, is seen to pose a threat to the health of the urban population. From noise pollution as an assault on our auditory senses to the food environment (particularly convenience foods such a fast food) as a contributing factor to obesity, this course investigates the relationship among the urban environment, the human senses, and health/well-being.

Find this course on-line under "University-Wide Courses." For further information, contact Dr. Kevin Egan (kde25@drexel.edu)