# Spring 2013 HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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 - 34762

Learn by DUing! This is an interactive dance class not a lecture. To <u>register</u> for this course come to the <u>Honors Lounge</u> to sign-up. The <u>sign-up sheet</u> is on the bulletin board.

The class will fill on a first-come, first served basis.

## Genetics in Popular Culture

Instructor: Ellen Giarelli Email: eg446@drexel.edu

Honors 201, Section 002, Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34763

In this course, students will examine how genetics and genomics are represented in popular culture and mass media. They will critique these representations for explicit and implicit messages and symbols about broader societal issues, including: the implications of increasing genomic knowledge for conceptualizing health and disease; for understanding identity at the individual and group levels, including race and ethnicity; for gaining insights about human origins; and for considering genetic determinism, free will and individual responsibility.

### HIV/AIDS: A Public Health Perspective

Instructor: Jennifer Breaux Email: jrb43@drexel.edu

HNRS 201, Section 003, Thursdays 6:00 PM - 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34865

This course will broadly explore the HIV/AIDS epidemic from a public health perspective through the exploration of the disease's historical roots as well as examination of the epidemiology associated with the disease, programs and policies impacting those infected with the disease as well as community responses. Past and current treatment for the disease, disease trends and discrimination towards those based on disease status will also be explored. Through the use of field experts, readings and current day periodicals, students will gain perspective and knowledge on the subject. Additionally, the application of the social determinants of health and human rights framework will provide insight and perspective for students regarding the experience of those affected by the disease as well as the impact of larger social institutions, government and access to health care.

## Superheroes in America – ONLINE COURSE

**Instructor: Scott Stein** 

Email: thescottstein@gmail.com

HNRS 201, Section 940, ONLINE COURSE, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34776

This course explores the American superhero, such as Superman and Spider-Man of comic book and movie fame, and examines such topics as the superhero and society; superheroes and the law; the psychology and motivations of superhero characters; the comic book industry; the Comics Code Authority and censorship; superhero parody and homage; superhero fans and real-life superheroes; and the themes and changing nature of the superhero story.

## Celebrating Pride and Prejudice

Instructor: Paula Cohen

Email: cohenpm@drexel.edu

Honors 301, Section 001, Wednesdays 3:00PM - 5:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34764

2013 marks the 200th anniversary of the publication of Jane Austen's most popular novel, Pride and Prejudice. This anniversary offers an opportunity both to study this great novel in depth and to organize an event in its honor. This course would do both. Students would read Pride and Prejudice, discuss its importance and its enduring popularity in literary and cinematic adaptations and spin-offs, immerse themselves in the literary criticism, and devise a special event to celebrate its publication.

#### The City and the Novel

Instructor: Nathaniel Popkin

Email: nathaniel.popkin@gmail.com

Honors 301, Section 002, Tuesdays 6:00PM – 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34765

We will explore four cities through their books and four books through their cities in an attempt to understand the ways that literature and urban life intertwine, particularly in the imagining that happens in the writing and reading of the novel. We will come to think critically about (1) the ways that a city itself becomes a text, (2) the ways the city is invented, explored, and sometimes rejected in telling of stories, and (3) the ways this relationship between the city and the novel helps us to understand history and ourselves. The four cities: London (and NW by Zadie Smith), New York (and Another Country by James Baldwin), Barcelona (and Time of the Doves by Merce Rodereda), and Tunis (and Return to Dar al-Basha by Hassan Nasr).

Freedom, Rights, and Justice: Reality and Illusion in Political Philosophy

Instructor: Fred Abbate
Email: fja421@comcast.net

Honors 301, Section 003, Tuesdays 2:00PM - 4:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34773

We will examine the key ideas of some major classical and influential contemporary political theories with particular emphasis on arguments in favor of democratic institutions. Included in the examination of these views will be an analysis of conflicting theories about the nature of political obligation and the concept of law, as well as the connection these theories have with claims made both in defense of and in opposition to policies on human rights, distributive justice and political liberty.

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

Instructor: Ian Abrams Email: Abrams@drexel.edu

HNRS 301, Section 004, Mondays 6:00PM - 8:50PM, 3.0 credits

CRN - 34854

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, this course is by permission of instructor only. Please contact Prof. Ian Abrams directly (<a href="mailto:ian.n.abrams@drexel.edu">ian.n.abrams@drexel.edu</a>) to discuss enrolling in the course.

## History and Mystery

Instructor: Cordelia Frances Biddle

Email: (CordeliaFrancesBiddle@earthlink.net)

Honors 302, Section 001, Mondays, 6:00PM – 8:50 PM, 3.0 credits CRN – 34777

Tales of mystery and suspense have added nuance and interest when set in an historical context. In an earlier timeframe, a fictional character's behavior and language alters, as can the psychology of intent. In order to write convincing narratives that transpire in a prior era, research into historical fact becomes integral to the plot. Seamless inclusion of archival data and detail is vital.

In this course, students will learn to properly utilize primary and secondary research tools, and create characters and narrative lines that are true to their time periods. Weekly writing assignments will be supplemented by reading and commenting upon other students' weekly submissions, and critiquing assigned short fiction by critically acclaimed authors.

## Great Works Symposium: Life & Death in the Museum

Instructors – Lydia Pyne, Amy Slaton, Jesse Smith

Email: <u>lydia.virginia.pyne@drexel.edu</u>, <u>slatonae@drexel.edu</u>, <u>jessesmithpa@gmail.com</u> UNIV 241, Section 001, 002, or 003 Fridays 9:00AM – 11:50AM, 3.0 credits CRN – 31734, 31735, 31736

Museums are repositories of objects both living and dead. They keep alive certain forms of knowledge, histories, and culture, while denying or making invisible others. Museums give birth to ways of thinking, ways of seeing, and ways of identifying – sometimes suppressing other ways thinking, seeing and identifying in that process. We will visit five museums in Philadelphia during the course: the Academy of Natural Science; the Waterworks; the Mutter; the Wagner Free Institute; and the Philadelphia Zoo. This course will explore many themes – especially how science is displayed to public audiences.

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