

Spring 2014

HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction to Ballroom Dancing

Instructor: Samantha Bellomo

Email: samanthabellomo@gmail.com

HNRS 201, Section 001, Mondays 6:00pm-8:50pm, 3.0 credits

Learn by DUsing! This is an interactive dance class, not a lecture. To register for this course you must sign-up on the sheet posted in the Honors Lounge – on the bulletin board. This class will fill on a first-come, first-served basis; students on Spring co-op will be waitlisted. Class will be held in the Van R Ballroom.

SIGN UP WILL BE POSTED IN THE LOUNGE: Thursday, February 6th, 9:30am.

ONLINE COURSE – Superheroes in America

Instructor: Scott Stein

Email: thescottstein@gmail.com

HNRS 201, Section 940, ONLINE, 3.0 credits

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.

Genetics in Popular Culture

Instructor: Ellen Giarelli

Email: eg446@drexel.edu

HNRS 201, Section 002, Wednesdays 10:00am-12:50pm, 3.0 credits

In this course, students will examine how genetics and genomics have been presented to the public via mass media. We 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; the meaning of identity at individual and group levels, including race and ethnicity; insight about human origins; consideration of genetic determinism, free will and individual responsibility. Course materials will include spoken, written, and visual text from newspaper articles, YouTube videos, movies, museum exhibits, editorial cartoons, and advertisements. We will evaluate the quantity, quality, accuracy, and adequacy of the scientific information presented in the medium. The larger lesson of the course will be to spur critical thinking about messages in popular culture allegedly based on factual information.

The City and the Novel

Instructor: Nathaniel Popkin

Email: nathaniel.popkin@gmail.com

HNRS 301, Section 001, Wednesdays 6:00pm-8:50pm, 3.0 credits

Students 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. Students will learn 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 Hasr).

Shakespeare as Philosopher: The Insights of Dramatic Genius

Instructor: Fred Abbate

Email: fja421@comcast.net

HNRS 301, Section 002, Thursdays 3:00pm-5:50pm, 3.0 credits

This course will use several of Shakespeare's great dramatic works to not only illustrate some of the critical and substantive issues in philosophical thinking clearly at work in them, but to position those issues as vehicles for intensive student discussion and debate. A full array of well-considered views will be analyzed and evaluated, such as appearance and reality, human consciousness and freedom of the will, the nature of moral value, knowledge and skepticism and philosophical theories of language and action.

The Newest City: Berlin in the 20th Century

Instructor: Cindy Schaarschmidt and Michael Haeflinger

Email: cs837@drexel.edu

HNRS 301, Section 003, Mondays & Wednesdays 6:30pm-8:00pm, 3.0 credits

In 1892, Mark Twain famously quipped, "Berlin is the newest city I have come across." Since then, the city has been in a constant state of transformation. From the cultural revolution of the 1920s to the rise and fall of the Third Reich to the nearly three decades divided by a wall, the city of Berlin has never stopped long enough to even be thought of as a single place.

As the city enters a new phase of rebranding, rampant development, and increasing gentrification, it is important to look at the past and ask: How did the 20th century shape this influential city? What lessons can be learned from important political and artistic shifts during that time? Can we predict where a city is going based on where it has been? By examining historical sources and artistic responses to history, this class will attempt to answer these questions and will offer insights into life in this most unique of places.

Writing Killer Suspense Stories

Instructor: Cordelia Biddle

Email: cfb28@drexel.edu

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

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 private search for truth. In this course, by reading and examining subgenres in the mystery field (True Crime, Historical, Traditional and Thriller), and by class exercises and assigned writing you will learn and apply the craft of creating suspense stories. After successful completion of the course, you will have written a narrative that can be expanded into a full-length novel or screenplay.

Public Art in Philadelphia

Instructor: Morgan Meis

Email: morganmeis@gmail.com

HNRS 302, Section 001, Tuesdays 3:00pm-5:50pm, 3.0 credits

This class is a chance to look at, think about, read about, and write about public art in Philadelphia. There's a rich tradition of public art in Philly: sculptures, monuments, memorials, fountains, you name it. This city is thus a great place to think about what makes public art successful or unsuccessful, what makes it work or fail completely. We'll also read essays by notable art critics discussing what it means for art to be public.

Funk: Everyone on the One (seminar + online hybrid course)

Instructor: Dana D'Angelo

Email: dangeldc@drexel.edu

HNRS 302, Section 002, Wednesdays 4:00pm-5:50pm, 3.0 credits

This course will examine and discuss the historical and musical significance of the genre of American music referred to as "funk". It will present funk music within the overall framework and history of popular American music from the mid 20th century to modern day, as well trace its historical roots back to the mid 19th century and forward. The course will also examine the social, economic and political influences of the times to assist in understanding the significance of the music genre to the American people. It will connect and show the influence of funk to musical genres that followed it as well. This is a hybrid course and students are expected to attend the weekly 2-hour class sessions and participate in online discussions and assignments online.

Great Works Symposium
Topic: Trending Now: News in a Media Saturated World

Instructors: Elliot Panek, Kevin Egan (kde25@drexel.edu)
UNIV 241, section 001 and 002, Tuesdays 6:30pm – 9:20pm, 3.0 credits

How do we know what we know? Though citizens continue to consume vast quantities of news about their world, they're getting it from a broader range of sources: Twitter, Facebook, The Daily Show, as well as old standards like The New York Times and CNN. This course examines several facets of our changing news landscape, including its fragmentary nature, the establishment and maintenance of trust in news sources, and the effects of news on our emotions. The class is intended to broaden and deepen students' knowledge of news creation, distribution, and consumption in a networked media environment. By speaking with news experts and practitioners and engaging in role playing exercises that simulate the news creation and curation processes, students will understand the implications of changes in our media environment for themselves and for society.