Spring 2015

Honors Courses

With Descriptions
General Education Honors Courses

COMS 102:001 (10947)

Honors Foundations of Oral Communication
MWF 11-11:50am in Reynolds 114
Dr. Wang

Principles of foundations of communications for Honors Program students.

HIST 104:001 (10202)

History of World Civilization for Honors II
MWF 10-10:50am in Hill House
Dr. Barone

Continuation of HIST 103.

HIST 104:002 (10203)

History of World Civilization for Honors II
MWF 11-11:50am in Hill House
Dr. Barone

Continuation of HIST 103.

ENG 234:001 (10448)

Honors Global Literature
TR 12:30-1:45pm in Hill House
Dr. Rickel

Focus on global literary perspectives. Consideration given to ethical, social, and aesthetic ideals that reflect shared values as well as cultural distinctions. Readings provide a basis for developing skills in literary interpretation, presentation, analysis, and discussion. Students must complete both semesters of World Literature (or equivalent) before enrolling in any English course numbered 301 or above, with the exceptions of ENG 361 and 408.

Last Updated: 10/29/2014
Spring 2015 Course List and Description

ENG 104:001 (10397)

Honors Composition II

MWF 10-10:50am in Comer 306

Dr. Chancellor

Continued development of advanced skills begun in ENG 103. Emphasis on information literacy, scholarly analysis, and purposeful syntheses of multiple sources. Students must receive a minimum grade of C in English 104 in order to progress on to English 233/234. The grade for English 104 is reported as A, B, C, or NC (No Credit).

MATH 155:001 (11308)

Honors Nature of Mathematics

MWF 1-1:50pm in Harman 225

Dr. Sterner

Basic concepts from set theory, logic, geometry, statistics; the fundamental ideas of calculus, and a survey of the development and application of modern mathematics. This course is designed to satisfy the general education requirement in mathematics while providing an overview of the discipline. Prerequisite: MATH 131 or equivalent.

PHIL 221:001 (11267)

Honors Ethics

MW 2-3:15pm in Comer 309

Dr. Patton

Last Updated: 10/29/2014
Spring 2015 Course List and Description

HNRS 308 Courses (1 Credit)

HNRS 308:001 (10143)
Social Justice Education in a Changing Society
M 3:30-4:20pm in Hill House
Dr. Gregory Samuels

This course will explore theories and practices of social justice in schools and communities throughout the United States and the world. Students will learn both basic and complex characteristics of social justice as a phenomenon and practice throughout our society. Additional features of this course include the basic ideas behind a social justice education in schools today, controversial issues surrounding this theory and practice throughout society, case study analyses of educators who implement this approach in the elementary and secondary classrooms, and ideas for social justice for all proponents in the future. All majors and concentrations are welcome and will find this useful to gain a background in social justice education and exercise critical thinking skills while doing so.

HNRS 308:002 (10507)
Classical Composers on Film
Tuesday 2-2:50pm in Hill House
Dr. Joseph Sargent

How does the cinema shape our perceptions of classical music generally, and of classical composers in particular? Through a series of film viewings and scholarly readings, this class considers how modern perceptions about musical figures have been constructed on film. Each week, students will watch a biographic film on a composer from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Modern era. We will discuss the filmmakers’ portrayal of the composer’s life, as well as the presence (or absence) of the composer’s music in the film. How are composers “mythologized” through these portrayals? What stereotypes about classical music and composers are reinforced, or challenged? Historical readings on composers’ lives, as well as analytical readings on film theory, deepen the course’s academic dimension and serve as benchmarks for assessing each film. The selected films span several decades of film history and originate both in the United States and abroad. Titles will include Tous le matins du monde (Marin Marais), Vivaldi (Vivaldi), Il était une fois... Johann Sebastian Bach (Bach), Amadeus (Mozart), Immortal Beloved (Beethoven), Impromptu (Chopin), Rhapsody in Blue (Gershwin), and Testimony (Shostakovich), among others.

Last Updated: 10/29/2014
HNRS 308:003 (11075)

**Italianissimo II**

M 1-1:50pm in Comer 102

Dr. Rosa Stoops

Italianissimo II is a continuation course of Italianissimo I, Introduction to Italian language and culture. This is a course that is not in the catalog of courses offered by the University. It is an enrichment course designed to introduce Honors students to the Italian pronunciation, basic communication, and information about the country.

*Prerequisite: Italianissimo I*

HNRS 309 Courses (3 Credits)

HNRS 309:001 (10146)

**The Origins of Comics: Graphic Narratives Before 1940**

Cross Listed with: ENG 439 (10459)/ ART 327 (11100)

T, Th 11-12:15pm in Comer 208

Dr. Alex Beringer

This course investigates the history of the comic strip before 1940. Comics from the mid-twentieth century are staples of modern popular culture. Charlie Brown and Batman will be familiar to virtually anyone over age 5 (or anyone under age 5 for that matter). But few people know much about the comics, characters, and madcap antics that came before these works. What did early comics look like?

How did the rules and conventions for making comics evolve over time? How did comics form the basis for other forms of popular culture such as film? In investigating these questions, we will explore a rich and tangled history. Some of our topics will include early “proto-comics” such as the 15th century Bayeux Tapestry and William Hogarth’s 18th-century sequential paintings; the rise of cartoons and caricature in nineteenth century magazines and newspapers; and the first “graphic novels” via French and Swiss picture stories. We’ll conclude with works from the early 20th century “golden age of comics” with works such as Winsor McCay’s Little Nemo in Slumberland, George Herriman’s Krazy Kat, and Frank King’s Gasoline Alley. Discussions and readings will combine approaches from literary studies, history, and art history. Students will complete two written exams, a short essay, and collaborate on a museum-style exhibit.
HNRS 309:002 (11010)

**Ethnicity, Race, Gender & Identity**

Cross Listed with: ANTH 311:001 (11328)

M, W 2-3:15pm in Hill House

Dr. Virginia Ochoa-Winemiller

Ethnicity, race, gender are cultural constructions grounded on perceived biological differences. In any society, these cultural constructions affect people and their identity. This course examines how and why these forms of identity matter so intensely, both in this country and around the world. Drawing on theories and methods from anthropology and human geography, students will develop a cultural perspective on these topics by surveying a range of ethnographic work on these forms of identity and understand the fundamental dynamics shaping racial, ethnic, and gender identities globally.

HNRS 309:003 (11087)

**Ethical Challenges of Environmentalism**

Cross Listed with: PHIL 300:001 (10486) / ES 300:001 (11332)

T, Th 12:30-1:45pm in UMOM 307

Dr. Stefan Forrester & Dr. Susan Caplow

This course will use both social science and philosophical perspectives to explore some of the ethical paradoxes and cognitive dissonances inherent to conservation behavior and management.
HNRS 309:004 (11141)

Tolkien and Medieval Literature: The Admirers and the Academics

M, 5-7:30pm in Hill House

Dr. Stephanie Batkie

J. R. R. Tolkien is without a doubt a popular author. We see from his books, to the films they inspired, to the legions of fans and devotees, that Tolkien built a world people become attached to on a number of levels. For some, it is bound up in childhood nostalgia; for others, it is a real and important part of their adult lives. And for still others, it is a source of study and literary analysis. In this class, we will investigate the boundary between the admirers and the academics, and the boundary between the admirers and the academics, and ask ourselves how these two approaches to Tolkien’s work produce different kinds of communities with different traditions of initiation, participation, and production. What is the difference exactly between the scholarly article and a piece of fan art? And what are the ways in which these two might overlap? To do this, we will approach this question from each side of the problem. On the academic side, we will look at questions of alterity and adaptation. We will examine the medieval literature Tolkien himself studied and taught, and which forms the foundation for much of Middle Earth and the characters that inhabit it. We will look at Anglo-Saxon riddles, Middle-English romances, and Norse sagas, among other things. In doing so, we will see what academics have to say about how these elements work within Tolkien’s world-creation, and we will produce scholarly writing about what we find. On the appreciation side, we will consider how Tolkien fans create fellowship and community through their engagement with the huge amount of material associated with Middle Earth. We will look at fan forums, online environments and games like MUDs and MUSHs, wikis devoted to Tolkien lore, and (of course) the films. Furthermore, we will attempt to participate in these communities by entering into them, both as a group and as individuals. What is it like to try and engage with them? And how does entry into these communities produce a different kind of pleasure in and relationship with Tolkien’s work? We will see how “medievalism” (the integration of the popular concept of the medieval world into the modern) functions to define and to bind an interested group together, and we will question how similar or different this is from how scholarly communities function. In keeping with this goal, we will form a community of our own through extensive class discussion and collaboration, so be prepared to shoulder your pack and be ready. Pocket-handkerchiefs not necessary.