

Honors College Seminars
Summer and Fall 2009

Course	Faculty Name	Name & Description of Seminar	Times
Summer 2009 May 26-July 31 HONR 270.101	Fowler	Narrative Perspectives in Disability: Learning About Disability Through Literature and Film: By reading and viewing various portrayals of disability (in novels, film, documentaries, etc.), we will explore how disability is represented in western culture and how these representations influence our understandings of disability. <i>(GenEd category II.B.3., pending approval)</i>	M 6:00-10:00 ST 306
ARTH 207.101	Siegel	Issues on American Environmental Art: Culture's effect on science, identity and behavior, and on what we hear, see, value and ignore. <i>(GenEd II.C.1.)</i>	T 6:30-9:15 CA 2032
COSC 225.001	Davani	Honors Intro to Lego Robotics: Basic mechanical, electronics and control issues in Robotics using the LEGO Mind storms platform. Design, implement and program robotic systems of interdisciplinary nature. <i>(GenEd I.E.)</i>	TR 3:30-4:45
ENGL 290.001	D'Addario	The Literature of Exile in the Modern World: This course will explore the experience of exile, the psychological upheaval, the familial struggles and the ethical questions raised by the forced migration of individuals and whole communities. We will do so by reading the memoirs, novels, poetry and essays of prominent exiled writers as well as listening to music and watching movies created out of the experience of exile. We will also seek to understand the nature of artistic creation from exile: what effects does exile have on the artist? What common characteristics does writing from exile have? Our focus will be on the Jewish migration during World War II, Eastern European exiles of the post-war era, Caribbean authors and musical artists struggling with the echoes of slavery, and recent exiles from the Arab-Muslim world. <i>ENGL 290 only counts as an honors seminar if the student has successfully completed ENGL 190. ENGL 290 may be taken for a maximum of 6 units, but only 3 units can be applied toward Honors seminar credit. (GenEd II.C.1.)</i>	TR 9:30-10:45 Richmond Commons
ENGL 290.004	Reiner	Where I Fit In: Memoir as Self Discovery: Learning about yourself through the literature and writing of memoir. By reading excerpts from some of the most compelling memoirs, we will explore how memoirists get a better sense of themselves, their lives and how/where they fit into the larger picture. Also, we will explore our own pasts to find the patterns and metaphors that give deeper meaning to our own lives. This seminar is a combination of literature and creative writing. <i>ENGL 290 only counts as an honors seminar if the student has successfully completed ENGL 190. ENGL 290 may be taken for a maximum of 6 units, but only 3 units can be applied toward Honors seminar credit. (GenEd II.C.1.)</i>	MW 3:30-4:45 ST 300
ENGL 290.005	Reiner	Topic: Masculinity <i>ENGL 290 only counts as an honors seminar if the student has successfully completed ENGL 190. ENGL 290 may be taken for a maximum of 6 units, but only 3 units can be applied toward Honors seminar credit. (GenEd II.C.1.)</i>	MW 2:00-3:15 ST 300

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Course	Faculty Name	Name & Description of Seminar	Times
HONR 230.001	Baker	American Poetry: New Directions: This course examines issues of poetic form and experimentation in the tradition of modern American poetry. Following the lineage of “radical” Modernism from its roots in the experimentations of Stein and Williams in the early 20th century to its mid-century manifestations in Oppen and Creeley to later 20th century figures such as Michael Palmer and Bernadette Mayer will allow students to see the continuity of American poetic expression in its cultural and aesthetic contexts. The goals of the course are an increased conceptual and discursive understanding of one of the main currents in American literary and cultural life. <i>HONR 230 may ONLY be repeated provided a different topic is covered. (GenEd II.B.1.)</i>	TR 2:00-3:15 ST 306
HONR 240.001	Botkin	The Empire Writes Back: A Dialogue between Europe & the Caribbean: This course will explore race, class, gender, religious and ethnic traditions, minority issues as well as investigate how Western pre-judgments, systems and traditions contribute to issues in diversity. <i>HONR 240 may ONLY be repeated provided a different topic is covered. (GenEd II.C.3.)</i>	TR 3:30-4:45 ST 306
HONR 270.002	Kelleher	Computational Thinking in The Humanities. Through classic and contemporary readings, how computational concepts can be used to deepen our perspective on and understanding of cultural artifacts and literary texts will be investigated. Topics include: Borges' engagement with issues of abstraction and modeling, Carroll's interest in making and breaking rules for language games, Hardy and Falkner's use of maps to orient their imaginative worlds, Poe's fascination with code, encryption and hoaxes, and Pynchon's experimentation with the ways chance and randomness affect a subject's search for meaning. The ways of using virtual environments (Netlogo, Scratch, etc.) and popular tools like Facebook for modeling well-known texts will also be covered. <i>HONR 270 may ONLY be repeated provided a different topic is covered.</i>	TR 11:00-12:15 ST 300
HONR 270.003	Kleinsasser	Computational Thinking: Creative Work with Audio and Video Using an Integrated Software Environment. This is an interdisciplinary seminar-based exploration and hands-on introduction to computational thinking applied to creative problems using software that integrates audio and video data and processing. The course introduces students to thinking in terms of how sounds and visual information can be represented, interconnected, and developed for creative and expressive uses within the context of computational data and abstractions. The course does not require any previous programming experience and/or background in musical notation or music theory. <i>HONR 270 may ONLY be repeated provided a different topic is covered.</i>	TR 2:00-3:15 CA 3092

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Course	Faculty Name	Name & Description of Seminar	Times
HONR 370.001	Baker	The Idea of the University: The Idea of the University looks at the theory of the modern university from the German Romantics to modern literary theorists. We will also examine how the production and transmission of knowledge depends on the division of knowledge into disciplines, with reference to Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies. Finally, we will look at the meaning of work in the contemporary university (professors, part-time instructors, students, staff) and the pressures from politicians and administrators to increase the productivity of the labor force. <i>Prerequisites: English 102/190 or AP English credit. HONR 370 may ONLY be repeated provided a different topic is covered.</i>	TR 9:30-10:45 ST 300
HONR 370.002	Mattanah	Gender, Culture, Politics & the Arts: The Legacy of Psychoanalysis: This course will take an inter-disciplinary look at psychoanalysis and its impact, examining psychoanalytic studies of art, film, children's literature, feminism, political issues and the political divide between liberals and conservatives, and folk customs in diverse cultures. <i>This course will satisfy a Psychology and Women's Studies major elective. HONR 370 may ONLY be repeated provided a different topic is covered.</i>	MW 2:00-3:15 ST 306
HONR 370.003	Bynum	Black, White, and Read All Over: The American Slave Narrative Reconsidered. This course seeks to reconsider the American slave narrative by addressing the social and political concerns of African American authors, Douglass, Jacobs and Wells Brown alongside those of the American Renaissance rather than separately. The larger social concerns will include: race, gender, manhood and womanhood and American identity. <i>HONR 370 may ONLY be repeated provided a different topic is covered.</i>	TR 11:30-12:15 ST 306
PHIL 212.001	Fuchs	Life and Meaning: There have been plenty of questions aimed at the relation of the terms 'meaning' and 'life' and a corresponding number of answers have been given. Many of these appear to be platitudes or empty formulas that seem true enough but also seem empty of meaning. There is also a disturbing lack of clarity in regard to "life" and "my life." Finally, there are the difficulties raised by the meaning of 'meaning': is it singular or plural? Are there different sources of meaning for the different registers on which life is lived? Do public events and their meanings influence private life and personal meaning? How is one to understand the meaning of current events in our culture? How is one to understand how meaning is determined or derived from one's place in this culture? The course will address such questions (and answers) by reading what some contemporary thinkers have to say and also by examining efforts at determining the meaning of some current events in our times. <i>(GenEd II.C.1.)</i>	TR 12:30-1:45 LA 4150

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PHIL 212.002	Evangeliou	The Legacy of Socrates: Socrates is one of the great philosophers in the Western tradition. His significance is such that his name is used to divide the history of Hellenic philosophy into the Pre-Socratic and Post-Socratic periods. By understanding Socrates' philosophy and legacy well, students will be able to better appreciate the philosophies of other Hellenic and European, or non-European thinkers and writers whose thoughts have been shaped by the influence of Socratic thinking. <i>(GenEd II.C.1.)</i>	TR 2:00-3:15 LI 310