University Honors Program  
2012-13 courses  
(tentative and subject to change)  *** (HON categories in paren.s.)

FALL 2012

HON 216: Twilight of the Gods.  T/Th, 8:30-9:45, Peters.  This course examines the history of thought on agnosticism, atheism, and skepticism by studying a selection of classical writings from some of the most celebrated thinkers in the West – from Lucretius to Carl Sagan.  (Religious/Philosophical)

HON 202: On Being Ethical in the World.  T/Th, 10-11:15, Peters.  This course considers how major religious traditions understand what it means to be human and how these understandings impact approaches to moral theory. It then surveys the history of ethics, with particular attention to classical philosophical sources. Finally, from these religious and philosophical perspectives various contemporary moral problems are considered.  (Religious/Philosophical) (WC; 7SI; 7VI; 7GC)

HON 207: Darwin’s Evolutionary Theory: The Science and the Controversy.  M/W, 2:30-3:45 p.m., Caporaso.  This course will address the topic Darwin’s theory of evolution by natural selection and its place in scientific thought, and explore the controversy surrounding it for many in the general public. We will explore the options for finding comfort with both the science of evolution and one’s personal religious beliefs.  (Math/Science/Technology – OR – Religious/Philosophical)  (7NI, 7VI)

HON 209: Death, Self and Society.  T/Th, 2:30-3:45, McGrane Students participate in an interdisciplinary investigation of death, dying, and the grieving process.  Topics include: The American way of death as a social institution; dying as a psychological process; how society conditions us to deny death and repress grief; how students relate to "their own death" and the death of significant others.  (Social/Historical – OR – Religious/Philosophical)  (7SI, 7VI)

HON 220: Disney: Gender, Race and Religion.  M/W/F, 9-9:50, Bidmead.  This course examines Disney’s portrayal of gender, sexuality, race, and religion by employing interdisciplinary methods such as cultural criticism, narrative criticism, feminist theory, and deconstruction to animated film and related products.  Will be required to buy an admission ticket for trip to Disneyland.  (Religious/Philosophical – or – Social/Historical)  (7SI)

HON 230-01: Honors Forum.  F, 1-1:50, Peters.  The Honors Forum meets once a week to familiarize students with the academic and social dimensions of the University Honors Program. Required for all incoming freshmen and transfer students.  Plan to bring your lunch and join the discussion. May be repeated for credit.  (1 credit)

HON 230-02: Honors Forum.  F, 2-2:50, Peters.  The Honors Forum meets once a week to familiarize students with the academic and social dimensions of the University Honors Program. Required for all incoming freshmen and transfer students.  Plan to bring your lunch and join the discussion. May be repeated for credit.  (1 credit)
HON 329-01: Civilizing Rituals: Public Culture, Exhibition and Display. M/W, 1-2:15 p.m.; Takaragawa. This course will examine public displays and exhibitions to analyze how these institutions construct meaning, value and authority within specific cultural contexts. (Social/Historical)

HON 329-02: A Brief History of Data, Information and Knowledge, “From the Abacus to the Computational Science.” T/TH, 4-5:15, K. Murphy. This course traces the history of data and computation beginning with early writing and counting systems moving rapidly to modern computing including the Internet. Students will be exposed to the development of theory, systems, technologies and tools for managing data, providing information and creating knowledge. (Math/Science/Technology, OR Social/Historical) (GE pending)

HON 339: Body, Flesh, Subject. MWF, 12:00-12:50, Kelli Fuery. This course analyzes emerging political and ethical considerations of the body – how we care for and how we interpret the body – in contemporary visual culture. We consider how technology has intervened on our understanding of the ‘natural’ body and subsequent influences on our construction of self and other. (Social/Historical) (7AI, 7VI, 7SI)

HON 345: Immigration and Refugee Law and Policy. T/Th 1-2:15, Cianciarulo. Immigration and Refugee Law and Policy explores the causes and effects of illegal immigration, legal responses to immigration, challenges faced by immigrant communities, challenges faced by states and localities with high immigrant populations, the development and implementation of refugee law, and human trafficking. (Social/Historical) (7SI, 7CC)

HON 341: Storytelling M/W, 4-5:15, Gattis. How important is storytelling to our daily lives? What can improving one’s storytelling actually achieve? Using multiple approaches, we explore storytelling as an essential mode of human connectivity with a central focus on improving storytelling skills. (Arts/Letters) (7AI)

HON 395e/ BUS 496: A History of the Future for Commerce. (M, 4-6:50 -time tentative) J. Kotkin. The purpose of this course is to understand the trajectory of history and historical models which can be applied to understand the future. We will focus in particular on historical models that provide insight into the future of business and the associated implications for entrepreneurs and managers. (Social/Historical) (7SI)

HON 412: “Seas of Stories”: Postcolonial Literature and Theory. T/TH, 5:30-6:45, VanMeter. Using an interdisciplinary approach, we will explore diverse “seas of stories” (as Salman Rushdie terms it) from various parts of the world. We will focus on key issues involved in postcolonial theory as well as the complexities, possibilities, and challenges of this particular theoretical approach to the study of literature and culture. (Arts/Letters) (7AI, 7SI)

HON 498: Honors Capstone Seminar. T/Th, 11:30-12:45, Peters. Each senior Honors student is required to complete the Honors capstone. For this capstone, students will complete an interdisciplinary version of their departmental senior projects using the methodology (and, if possible, the content) of other relevant disciplines.
INTERTERM 2013

HON 329-01: Alternative Ideologies: Subversion and Marginalization. Days/Time TBA. This preceptorial is being put together by Nicole Connolly and Rick Wysocki. It will focus on the writings of four controversial and ideologically distinct thinkers—Karl Marx, Ayn Rand, George Orwell, and Noam Chomsky. Using their philosophical and political views, we will examine the ways in which societies interact with subversive ideas, as well as the ways in which they react, voluntarily, by marginalizing those thinkers who enumerate uncomfortable world views. A willingness to carry out significant reading and to participate in thoughtful discussion is an absolute necessity for the course. One week will be dedicated to each writer/thinker, so the course will need to move along at a pretty fast pace. (Honors elective)

HON 329-02: Musical Theatre: A Study of Race, Religion, Gender, and Sexuality (Day/Time TBA) This preceptorial is being put together by Brynn Nelson and Jason Gousak. The course will study recently produced musicals in order to gain a better understanding of the stereotypes (and truths) that they present about humanity and society as a whole. The issues of race and racism, religion and persecution, and gender roles and sexuality will be applied to modern day musicals like Memphis, Bat Boy: The Musical, The Book of Mormon, Legally Blonde the Musical, and Zanna, Don’t!. The class will also plan on viewing one professional show together, after which they will discuss the different issues brought up by said musical. (Honors elective)

SPRING 2013

HON 208: Universal Geometry. M/W/F, 9-9:50, Vajiac. Students will learn elements of Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometries in the context of axiomatic systems. The main objective of this course is to help students develop quantitative and logical skills of mathematical reasoning. (Math/Science/Technology) (7QI)

HON 209: Death, Self and Society. T/Th, 1-2:15, McGrane Students participate in an interdisciplinary investigation of death, dying, and the grieving process. Topics include: The American way of death as a social institution; dying as a psychological process; how society conditions us to deny death and repress grief; how students relate to "their own death" and the death of significant others. (Social/Historical – OR – Religious/Philosophical) (7SI, 7VI)

HON 210: Monsters and Monstrosities. M/W 2:30-3:45, VanMeter. Using an interdisciplinary approach, we will investigate and interpret the stories we construct about ourselves and “the Other” by exploring works from east/west involving the vampire, the specter, the witch. We will particularly focus on cultural, literary and political representations from various periods and locations. (Arts/Letters) (7SI)

HON 230-01: Honors Forum. F, 1-1:50, Peters. The Honors Forum meets once a week to familiarize students with the academic and social dimensions of the University Honors Program. Required for all incoming freshmen and transfer students. Plan to bring your lunch and join the discussion. May be repeated for credit. (1 credit)

HON 309: American Storytellers. M/W 4-5:15, Magosaki. This course explores U.S. narrative fiction after WWII, examining an increasingly interethenic imagination and hybrid literary heritage of American writers. Those writers may include Vladimir Nabokov, Ralph Ellison, Louise Erdrich,
Jamaica Kincaid, Toni Morrison, Karen Tei Yamashita, and Junot Díaz. (Arts/Letters)( 7AI, 7GC, 7SI, 7VI)

**HON 311: Ethnicity, Race and Nationalism.** T/Th, 5:30-6:45. Woldemikael. All around us we see the rising tide of ethnic, racial and national conflicts. From terrorist acts in New York City to war in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Rwanda, we see people divided along ethnic, religious, and national identities. Is this inevitable? What are the possible causes and consequences of these conflicts? We will explore what we mean by identity and its various representations such as ethnic, religious and national identities today. (Social/Historical) (7SI; 7VI; 7GC; 7CC)

**HON 322: Political Literary Theory and the Modern Novel** M/W 5:30-6:45, Ruppel. Novels sometimes explore politics directly (most famously and frighteningly, Orwell’s 1984), but all novels may be read politically and culturally. Through the semester, we’ll read novels linked with readings by political and cultural philosophers and analysts. We’ll learn to read politically, to unearth a novel’s political and cultural assumptions, and we’ll become familiar with Marxist, feminist, new-historical, and cultural ways of reading. (Social/Historical) (7AI)

**HON 329-01: Shaping Space in Russian/Soviet Architecture.** T/TH, 2:30-3:45, W. Salmond. In this course we will use theoretical approaches from a variety of disciplines to explore the symbolic meanings of architectural space and the built environment. Using case studies from Russia before, during and after the Soviet era, we will examine the themes of sacred space, architecture and political power, the city as a means of personal and social transformation, and ruins and memory. (Arts/Letters – OR – Social/Historical)

**HON 329-02.** The Moral Arc of Science: How Science and Reason Have Bent the Arc of the Moral Universe Toward Truth, Justice, Freedom, & Prosperity. M, 4-6:50 (time tentative) Michael Shermer. The arc of the moral universe bends toward truth, justice, freedom, and prosperity thanks to science and reason—the type of thinking that involves rationality, empiricism, and skepticism. The Scientific Revolution led by Copernicus, Galileo, and Newton was so world-changing that thinkers in other fields consciously aimed at revolutionizing the social, political, and economic worlds using the same methods of science. This led to the Age of Reason and the Enlightenment, which in turn created the modern secular world of democracies, rights, justice, and liberty. (Math/Science/Technology – OR – Social/Historical)

**HON 335: The Enigma of Being Awake: Zen Buddhism.** T/Th 10-11:15, Peters. This course will involve a three-part study: first, we will explore the history of Buddhism in general and Zen Buddhism in particular; second, we will investigate the central concept of anatta, along with attendant Buddhist concepts, and critically examine the Zen claim of ‘immediacy’ – that is, the intimacy of Buddha-nature; third, we will experimentally engage in dharma practices employed in Zen. (Religious/Philosophical) (7VI, 7GC)

**HON 340: Social Justice: Mirage or Oasis?** M/W, 1-2:15, B. Wilson. Prerequisite: the disposition to be challenged and to wrestle with new ideas. This course attempts to clarify our understanding of the pervasive and yet obscure concept of social justice in the modern world. F.A. Hayek contends that the concept, despite well-meaning intentions, is meaningless, incoherent, and harmful to the prosperity of a free society. David Miller argues that when considered contextually the principles of desert, need, and equality can be used to delineate a theory of social justice as a viable political ideal. (Religious/Philosophical; OR Social/Historical) (7SI, 7VI)
HON 342: The Digital Archive: Memory, Media, Image. *MWF, 12-12:50, K.Fuery.* What is the contemporary relationship between image and memory? How are they shaped in terms of cultural experience? Using a variety of approaches, we explore cinema, photography and digital media asking, has our recent dependence on visual archiving changed the way in which culture experiences memory? *(Arts/Letters; OR Social/Historical) (7AI, 7SI)*

HON 347: Listening to Time: Area Studies in Ethnomusicology. *MWF, 11:11:50, Heim.* This course examines various musical traditions from non-western cultures. Topics are approached with an emphasis on the sociohistorical climate at the time of each tradition’s inception and throughout the path of its evolution. *(Arts/Letters) (7AI, 7GC)*

HON 415: Globalization: Currents of Change and Challenge. *T/Th 4-5:15, Babst.* A seminar-style, reading and discussion-based, intensive course that interrogates practices associated with globalization, and presents conceptual tools to understand them. Situates globalization, both in theory and practice, in historical time and in the context of political narratives of progress, democracy, justice, and human rights, and obstacles to their realization. *(Social/Historical) (7SI, 7GC)*

HON 498: Honors Capstone Seminar. *T/Th, 11:30-12:45, Peters.* Each senior Honors student is required to complete the Honors capstone. For this capstone, students will complete an interdisciplinary version of their departmental senior projects using the methodology (and, if possible, the content) of other relevant disciplines.