Spring 2020 Honors Seminars
Draft 1 - 8/30/2019

Notes: this is very definitely still a draft and there may be significant changes in the seminars available before it is time for you to register so please look for updated documents as the semester progresses.

You'll notice that some courses have an ! next to the general education code (e.g. [H!]). This means that this course is currently under review by the general education curriculum committee and we hope – and I stress hope - that they will be approved before you register. We need to be clear that there is no guarantee that this will necessarily happen. We will keep you updated on the fate of all those courses that have the!


This 1-hour honors seminar presents an intellectual framework for understanding the economic and ethical implications of the forces that promote or hinder the creation of value in society. In particular, students will engage in readings, discussions, and periodic interactions with guest lecturers, related to topics such as: individual liberty and responsibility, economic freedom, fairness and equality, scarcity and property rights, intellectual property, competition and anti-competition, cronyism and despotism, and globalization and free trade. The aforementioned topics will be examined and discussed within the context of governments, institutions, business entities, and consumers, and their collective impact on innovation, entrepreneurship, and advances in societal well-being. This seminar should be of interest to students from diverse majors and backgrounds. There are no pre-requisites.


Autobiography by Women - This seminar concentrates on selected autobiographical texts from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries that show the multiplicity of women's lives and voices from different parts of the world, as well as the revised discourses they fashion to express the realities of their lives.


This course is designed to expose upper-level students to the complexities of parenting across the lifespan, with special emphasis on the bi-directional and systemic nature of the parent-child relationship. Thus, parenting will be viewed as being affected by individual child characteristics.
as well as being embedded in larger family, school, neighborhood, workplace, and community systems. This is a General Education "S" course.

**Flash Fiction: A Tiny Genre with a Big Impact**

**HONR 1000 CRN 21623 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [DH!] Credit Hours [3] Stephanie Miller**

TR 1400 - 1515

Flash fiction is a subgenre of the short story characterized primarily by brevity: typically, the term refers to compositions of 1000 words or less. We'll read contemporary examples of the form by practitioners from diverse backgrounds and explore scholarly criticism on the genre, examining its intersections with related short forms and its ability to engage with complex social issues. Specifically, we'll look at flash fiction that negotiates issues pertaining to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and class in American society. A widely accessible genre with far-ranging content, flash fiction invites a large and varied readership; accordingly, this class welcomes students from all majors, assuming no prior experience of literature and assessing student learning via required posts to a course blog rather than through formal essays. The course will also be skills-based, cultivating analytical ability of use to students in all areas of study. Grades will be based on regular quizzes, homework, and classwork; the course blog; a presentation; a flash fiction composition; class participation; and a final exam.

**Future of Veterinary Medicine: Honors**

**HONR 1000 CRN 21608 - Honors Area STEM Gen Ed Code - if any [!] Credit Hours [1] Christopher Ross**

T 1400 - 1450

Future of Veterinary Medicine This seminar will focus on career opportunities for veterinarians in the 21st century. Veterinarians from several career areas will discuss with students the opportunities and training programs available to prospective veterinarians. Contemporary issues facing the profession will also be discussed.

**Global Warming and Human Use of Earth: Honors**

**HONR 1000 CRN 30333 - Honors Area STEM Gen Ed Code - if any [N!] Credit Hours [3] Stephen Hallgren**

MWF 0930 - 1020

The course uses scientific analysis to focus on recent phenomena that suggest accelerated global warming is caused by human intervention in natural processes and mechanisms. Thorough discussion of the scientific method prepares the student to critically analyze new knowledge about global warming presented throughout the course. Students learn to use the language, concepts, methodologies and models of science to critically analyze the physical and biological components of the Earth system and how they have interacted since its origin until present to create the Earth that is ours. Students learn the mechanisms and consequences for human caused changes in the atmosphere, biological diversity and terrestrial vegetation that can lead to global warming. This information informs students about human impacts on the natural environment, predictions of future global change, the scientific bases for global change assessments, and policy measures.

This is a service-oriented course to prepare students to become leaders in the Science and Engineering Fair program for the state of Oklahoma. Not a science major? Not a problem. Students learn the history of regional and state science fair competitions which serve as pipelines to the prestigious Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). The course prepares students to serve as judges for the seven regional fairs in Oklahoma and as lead event-staff volunteers for the Oklahoma State Science and Engineering Fair competition. Join a team that makes a difference in the lives of academically oriented students across Oklahoma!


Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences - College of Osteopathic Medicine's (OSU-COM) mission is to educate and train physicians, research scientists and other health care professionals with an emphasis on serving rural and underserved Oklahoma. This seminar will focus on the medical profession, research development and how OSU-COM is making a difference in the lives of patients and the health care field. Students will learn about new developments in medicine, technology advancements, and the current health care issues Oklahomans face in rural and urban settings. Students will interact with medical students, physicians and faculty from OSU Center for Health Sciences to broaden their view and understanding of medicine. This class is suitable for any student interested in pursuing a career in medicine.


Science and the Movies - There have been numerous movies that pose interesting questions about the intersection of science with society. We will view some of these movies (e.g. Inherit the Wind, 2001-A Space Odyssey, etc.) and examine the issues they raise. Students will be expected to write brief reaction papers to each of the seven or eight movies we watch.

Science and the Movies: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 30758 - Honors Area Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1] Udaya Desilva M 1430 - 1720 [Note: CRN 30758 meets only for the first half of the semester. Students wishing to take this seminar for two credit hours should enroll in HONR 1000 CRN 62988]

Science and the Movies - There have been numerous movies that pose interesting questions about the intersection of science with society. We will view some of these movies (e.g. Inherit the Wind, 2001-A Space Odyssey, etc.) and examine the issues they raise. Students will be expected to write brief reaction papers to each of the seven or eight movies we watch.

This seminar will examine the United States Supreme Court in terms of its development into a powerful institution, the historic contributions of several individual Justices, and selected areas of constitutional law. The judicial selection process and the internal workings of the Court will be explored along with some of the struggles between the Court and the larger political system. In addition to textbook readings about the Court, you learn how to brief some edited decisions of the Court and also make use of some of the basics of law library research.


This Honors course will focus on the relationship between the U.S. Presidency and the media, starting from the Roosevelt administration. The course also examines the unique communication opportunities Presidents (and those seeking the office) can utilize, from news conferences to debates. Special consideration will be given to the impact of new and social media and whether it is diminishing the impact of television on coverage of the office. The course will also cover the role of polling in coverage of the modern presidency and how students can become more "poll literate" about the avalanche of polling results, particularly in election years. The course concludes with an examination of how Presidents (real and fictional) are part of the entertainment realm of media.


Demographic factors tell us that the number of adults age 65 and older will nearly double by 2030. A holistic and proactive approach to providing positive outcomes in aging requires integrated strategies focusing on providing environments and organizational structures to support this demographic shift. Active aging is a framework first developed by the World Health Organization in order to optimize opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. Active aging allows people to realize their potential for physical, social and mental well-being throughout the life course. In this honors seminar you will acquire a great deal of information on a wide range of topics in order to build your personal understanding of the relationships between Longevity, Independence, Fitness and Engagement for active aging. This will require the overlapping of several domains such as environmental psychology, cognitive science, sociology, physiology, architectural and interior design, human geography, assistive technology, nutrition and physical and cognitive fitness. This course will include selected readings for each module topic; web-based tools and resources that can be used beyond the course; short experiential leaning activities; group discussions via message boards, short reflective writing assignments and a final team project.
As one can see by reading this sentence, the human mind is a powerful tool, capable of filtering situational to provide meaningful perceptions. But what happens when those filters cloud the true nature of reality? Can we trust our own eyes and ears? Through a biopsychological approach we will explore the human mind at the levels of sensation, perception and reflection. The Mind will equip students to understand how their own biological and psychological predispositions affect their perceptions of the world. The course will empower students to confront biases as social and natural scientists, as well as informed citizens in a world increasingly subject to misperceptions and manipulations. Learning outcomes include: 1) understanding how genes and the environment entwine to shape the evolution and development of sensory systems, neurophysiology and neuroanatomy; 2) developing awareness of the students' own metacognition to develop as successful learners, able to see how self-perception affects success and performance and 3) fostering healthy skepticism about the role of the 'human instrument' as a tool for measuring phenomena and interpreting scientific output.

This seminar will center on major Supreme Court decisions interpreting the U.S Constitution and selected federal statutes in the areas of racial equality, gender equality, the status of Indian tribes and tribal members in relation to the authority of federal and state governments, and selected rights of religious groups. You will learn how to draw principles from these decisions and statutes and then apply them to hypothetical case situations while at the same time subjecting them to close analysis (that may well lead to differing opinions among the members of the class). In this seminar you will learn how to read and brief appellate judicial decisions and also master some of the fundamentals of legal research. The course will be taught primarily by the Socratic method used in law schools.

In 1892, Lizzie Borden was accused of killing her father and stepmother with an axe. She was eventually acquitted, but her story had captured the American cultural imagination. This course will take a chronological approach to the history of the Lizzie Borden story as it evolves from news reports contemporaneous to the case through broadsides and early true-crime takes to fictionalized versions in the form of short stories, poems, novels, plays, a ballet, an opera, and multiple film versions. Specifically, we will consider how changing concepts of gender shape the way in which the story gets told in different media and in different moments in American history. Ultimately, we will ask what it says about American culture that - for better or for worse - we simply cannot let Lizzie go!
Magic Rings Symbol and Allegory (H) HONR 2303 CRN 30326 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H] Credit Hours [3] Christopher Weimer TR 1030 - 1145

Magic Ring Allegories - This course will explore philosophical and moral allegories created by the presence of magic rings in two thousand years of Western art and thought. Works studied will include Plato's Republic, the medieval chivalric romance, the four operas comprising Richard Wagner's Ring Cycle, twentieth-century "high fantasy" (J.R.R. Tolkien, Stephen R. Donaldson), and the contemporary graphic novel. Weimer (3 credit hours)

Honors Romanticism to Postmodernism: 19th & 20th Centuries (H) HONR 2443 CRN 30331 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H] Credit Hours [3] Doren Recker MWF 1130 - 1220

Interdisciplinary study of art, history, philosophy and literature from the 19th century to the present. Team-taught by faculty from appropriate disciplines in a lecture and discussion format. For the Honors student. May not be used for degree credit with HONR 2223. Previously offered as HONR 1043. Prerequisite(s): Honors Program participation.


This course will use an examination of a wide range of pseudoscientific ideas and beliefs as a way of understanding what the difference is between true scientific endeavor and non-scientific belief systems (and hopefully have a certain amount of fun in the process). The course takes as its basic premise that there is a real difference in the type of knowledge associated with a true scientific endeavor and those associated with pseudoscientific belief systems. We will investigate how pseudoscientific beliefs systems try to utilize that vocabulary and some of the methodology of the sciences in an attempt to validate their beliefs systems. Pseudoscientific topics covered will include (but are by no means limited to) Homeopathic medicine, Bermuda triangle, vaccination denial, moon landing denial, and Creationism.


Works of Jane Austen - This seminar will examine the tensions between personal fulfillment and family responsibility as seen in four novels of Jane Austen (Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Mansfield Park, and Persuasion) and show how a deeper view of marriage emerges from this collision. Jones (3 credit hours)

Contemporary Cultures of the Western World: Honors: Germany (HI) HONR 3023 CRN 30266 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [HI] Credit Hours [0] Richard Frohock F 1030 - 1120

Travel to Germany for Spring Break and earn OSU credit! Arrive in Berlin, where you'll see sites such as the Brandenburg Gate and the Alexanderplatz (in former East Berlin). Take a stroll through the shopping district of Kurfürstendamm and the arts district, as well as visits to the
Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Holocaust Memorial, and Museum Island...just to name a few!

**Biology, Race, and Gender: Honors (DH) HONR 3053 CRN 21642 - Honors Area**

Critical interdisciplinary investigation of relationships between biological theory (especially Darwinism) and social and ethical issues. Attention to views of alleged biological aspects of perceived racial and gender differences and attempts to implement these views socially, legally, and medically in the United States and elsewhere. This class is restricted to students with Junior or Senior standing Honors College.