

HONORS FORUM COURSES

Fall 2015

HF 200.001 **Writing About Music** **1 Credit**

Add on to MU 241 & 242

Deborah Rohr

F 12:20-1:15

This course can be added to any of the required music theory courses for music majors. The students will learn that writing is, like music, a craft that requires continuous, thoughtful practice, and that writing can deepen and enrich their understanding of music theory. Assignments will be weekly or bi-weekly short essays, as well as peer critique and revisions. The order of topics will follow the syllabus for the accompanying music theory course.

HF 200.002-.005 - HF Science Literacy Clusters

HF 200.002 **Aquacalypse** **1 Credit**

C. Kopec, M. Raveret Richter, N. Atalan-Helicke, C. Domozych

Tues. 3:40-5:00

The aquacalypse* underway in our oceans vividly illustrates the radical transformations that humans, juggernauts of the sixth extinction, have wrought upon Earth's ecosystems and the biota therein. Perceiving the oceans as infinite, we have treated them at cross purposes: harvesting food as if it were limitless while at the same time consigning our waste to oceanic oblivion, assuming that dilution is a solution. For eaters, the connection is intimate: we literally join a marine ecosystem when we eat seafood and the ecosystem, in turn, becomes part of us, heart-healthy W-3 fatty acids and biomagnified mercury alike. This cluster will examine human relationships with oceanic ecosystems from biological, social and corporate perspectives. In addition to participating in discussions, you will collaborate with students from other disciplines to design and create your own interdisciplinary group projects.

HF 200.003 **Obsolescence** **1 Credit**

C. Hill, E. Halstead, M. Eckmann

Thurs. 12:40-2:00

For technology, obsolescence means extinction. In this course we will explore the effect of obsolescence on science, scientific theory, technology and society. Students will participate in a group project of their selection that uses scientific methods and statistical and data analysis to explore obsolescence and extinction. Students will also visit NanofabX at SUNY Polytechnic, where the technology that makes your phones and computers obsolete is currently being developed.

HF 200.004 **One Fish, Two Fish** **1 Credit**

M. Estapa, R. Roe-Dale, H. Hurst

Thurs. 1:00-2:00

In this seminar, we explore the theme of extinction as it relates to fishing and fisheries. Unlike agriculture, fish resources are uniquely dominated by non-domesticated species. Our use and interaction with these wild animals have been vital to human development, yet this relationship is at a point of dramatic change. We will discuss simple mathematical models to describe fish

populations as well as the effects of stocking and harvesting on the fish population and environmental carrying capacity. We will also examine the effects of oceans and fish on human populations and survey a diversity of cultural practices towards marine resources. We will discuss how human activities and natural climate cycles affect the physical environments and ecosystems that support fisheries in the global ocean. Through analysis of historical fisheries data, we will confront the challenges faced by scientists and policymakers who must draw conclusions from often-imperfect and infrequent observations. Students will participate in an interdisciplinary project that applies and explores the concepts presented throughout the course.

HF 200.005 **Bees, Bats, Birds, Butterflies** **1 Credit**
M. Hofmann, A. Frappier, B. Garbin, E. Schielke
Wed. 4:30-5:20

Students in this one-credit Honors Forum course will explore the topic of extinction in relation to the specificity of four animal groups, namely bees, bats, birds and butterflies. Students and faculty will engage in conversations about common readings in order to approach the topic from scientific along with other disciplinary perspectives.

Specifically, students will learn about the “White Nose Syndrome” that is decimating the native bat populations across North America, the rapid decline of monarch butterflies, and how international movements such as the Italian-born Slow Food foundation for biodiversity are working with local farmers to protect and sustain native breeds and local plants at risk of extinction.

In general students will explore the history of species extinctions on Earth, and our position as people as super predators: are we safe at the top of the food pyramid?

HF-215.001 **Peer Health Education** **3 Credits**
J. McDonald
TBD

This course builds on concepts covered during Peer Health Education by guiding students through the process of promoting health and wellbeing among the Skidmore student body. The course is student-driven and allows the opportunity to further delve into specific areas of study that are of particular interest to each student. Students will design, implement, and evaluate programs and outreach education in a variety of topics relevant to the lives of college students including alcohol and substance use and abuse, sexual assault, eating disorders, stress, mental health, sexuality, and other topics commonly addressed by peer counselors and health promotion professionals. In addition, students will continue to build on leadership and communication skills by serving as peer counselors on the Skidmore campus.

HF-273.001 **Sex, Gender-Civic Engagement** **1 Credit**
J. McDonald
TBD

This group independent study provides an opportunity for students to obtain intensive training in the areas of sexual misconduct, sexual health, sexuality, and gender and to apply their knowledge and skills through service learning experiences. The semester will begin with a weekend-long training designed to prepare students to work within the Center for Sex & Gender Relations and

suited to the selected organization, learn the basics of grant writing, and collaborate with one or several non-profit organizations to execute the project throughout the semester. This will constitute a significant portion of your time devoted to this course. We will not just learn about these women, we will integrate praxis with theory and follow in their footsteps.

AN-346R.001 **Rethinking Materiality: The Anthropology of Stuff** **3 Credits**
S. Silva

MW 2:30-4:20 PM, Bolton 281

An exploration of the importance of material objects in human life and the ways in which cultural anthropologists and other scholars have contributed to the study of materiality, a highly interdisciplinary field of research. In this seminar, drawing on case studies from different times and places, students learn to recognize the importance of material objects in the social world and their own lives. How do objects help people define their identity, structure their lives, remember the past, and facilitate action? What personal and collective stories do objects tell? Do we control the objects around us, or do those objects control us? Among the types of objects studied in this course are sentimental objects, collectibles, memorials, protest art, and technology.

Prerequisites: AN-101 or permission of instructor.

CH-385.001 **Research Methods in Chemistry** **4 Credits**
K. Frederick
Fri 8:00-8:55

An opportunity for students to engage in chemical research in collaboration with a faculty member. Emphasis is on the development of analytical and technical expertise in chemical research. Students meet weekly for one hour of discussion and work independently with their individual faculty mentors in pursuit of their research. Each student gives a formal presentation of their results.

Prerequisites: Agreement by a faculty member to serve as mentor and permission of the instructor.

Note(s): Students who intend to seek advanced degrees are particularly encouraged to take CH 385 and/or CH 371. Nine to twelve hours of work under the supervision of individual faculty mentor in addition to the one-hour weekly group meeting. Two semesters of 300-level research in chemistry (CH 385 and/or CH 371) are required for consideration for honors in chemistry. Must be taken for a letter grade.

CS-275H.001 **Computer Science Research** **1 Credit**
D. Vella
TBA

An introductory exploration of research in computer science. The students, in collaboration with a faculty mentor, will participate in a research project in a particular area of computer science. The research projects may, for example, include designing new algorithms for computational problems, surveying the research literature, implementing existing algorithms from the research literature, or performing computational experiments.

Prerequisites: permission of instructor. Students may only take four CS275H courses in their careers and may take no more than two in any given semester. If two are taken in a single semester, each must be a different section.

CS275H may not be counted toward the CS major. Must be taken S/U.

EN-105H.002

Writing Seminar II: Honors

4 Credits

M. Wiseman

The Land of Absurdity

M/W/F 12:20-1:15

This course will take us into the land of absurdity, as mapped by fiction writers, filmmakers, poets, and playwrights. We will venture into regions of dark humor, charged outrage, searing satire, and profound silliness, with the aid of such guides as Samuel Beckett, Edward Albee, Franz Kafka, Nikolai Gogol, Lewis Carroll, Alfred Jarry, Donald Barthelme, Flann O'Brien, Eugène Ionesco, and the patron saint of serious exuberance, François Rabelais. We will see the absurd as brought to us on screen by Luis Buñuel, the Marx Brothers, Terry Gilliam, and Lindsay Anderson. Sinister, ludicrous, surreal, irreverent, or all of the above, these portrayals and explorations will help us to think about, and especially to write about, the absurdity we might find in our own lives. We will ask, How do these visions illuminate our own dilemmas? How, in other words, can absurd perspective help us to live? How does an appreciation of paradox deepen and free our thinking? How can chaos and incoherence be shaped—how is incoherence made coherent? Thus, the relationship between certainty and chaos, the disjunction between seeing and knowing, the blurred distinctions among sense, senselessness, and nonsense, the uses of satire, and the mingling of the sublime and the ridiculous will serve as catalysts for our writing as well as for our discussions. Our writing practice will emphasize understanding and developing our own writing processes. Students will write frequent short papers of several types—personal, analytical, persuasive, reflective—and three substantial essays, submitted first as drafts and then in careful revision.

EN-303H.001

Hon. Peer Tutoring Project

4 Credits

M. Wiseman, P. Boshoff

M W 4:00-5:20

In this course students will receive the theoretical and pedagogical training to become peer tutors of expository writing. The readings and classroom discussions cover topics in discourse and rhetorical theory, composition pedagogy, and collaborative learning. Students will apply their developing knowledge of discourse theory and tutoring to their weekly meetings with student writers enrolled in EN 103: Writing Seminar I. EN 303H students receive four credit units for three hours of class and for their scheduled meetings with the student writers with whom they work. Course requirements include prepping EN 103 assignments, keeping a record of tutoring experiences, giving in-class reports on classical rhetoric, and writing an extensive term project focused on an area of interest related to peer tutoring, rhetoric, and/or discourse.

After successfully completing EN 303H, students are eligible to apply through student employment for the paid position of Skidmore Writing Center (Lucy Scribner Library 440) tutor. Students wishing to enroll in this course should possess excellent writing ability, knowledge of rules of grammar and punctuation, and effective communication skills. Students seeking enrollment must submit a professor's recommendation and a writing sample to Professor Wiseman; registration is by permission of instructors. Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors in all disciplines and majors.

GO 205H **Modern Political Thought** **3 Credits**

F. Taylor

TBA

Political thought of the Early Modern period to that of the mid nineteenth century. Selected thinkers include Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Tocqueville, Marx. Particular emphasis will be placed on the aspirations of classic liberalism and the successive criticism these aspirations inspired. Provides foundation for upper division work in political theory.

Prerequisites: GO 102 or permission of instructor.

MA-113H.001 **Honors Calculus II** **4 Credits**

D. Hurwitz

TBA

A continuation of MA 111, Calculus I. Together these courses cover most of the traditional topics in single variable calculus. The Honors section of this course includes the addition of two two-week research projects and coverage of more sections of the text. The instructor will maintain high expectations for the students' contribution to their own learning.

MA 125H, 225H, & 325H **Problem Solving in Mathematics** **1 Credit**

D. Vella

TBA

Students at all three levels will work collaboratively on problems posed in various undergraduate mathematics journals and other sources. Solutions to journal problems will be submitted to the journal editors for acknowledgment and possible publication. Problems are taken from all areas of specialty within mathematics.

Prerequisites: QR1. During fall semesters, students will have an opportunity to compete in the annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition.

May be repeated for credit. Must be taken S/U.

MA-275H.001 **Mathematics Research** **1 Credit**

D. Vella

TBA

Exploration of a research topic in mathematics. The students, in collaboration with a faculty mentor, will participate in a research project in a particular area of mathematics, which may be related to the faculty member's research program.

Prerequisites: permission of the instructor. Students may only take four MA 275H courses in their careers and may take no more than two in any given semester. If two are taken in a single semester, each must be a different section.

MA275H may not be counted toward the MA major. Must be taken S/U.