

PMH 302

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 Fyodor Dostoyevsky (whose *Underground Man* is sometimes considered a proto-existential absurdist), Samuel Beckett, Franz Kafka, Italo Calvino, Lewis Carroll, Donald Barthelme, Haruki Murakami, and Flann O'Brien, among others. We will see the absurd as brought to us onscreen by such directors as Luis Buñuel, Spike Jonze, Terry Gilliam, and Stanley Kubrick, and Monty Python will add pointed silliness to our proceedings.

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 an 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.

HI 110H.001**The British Empire****4 Credits****T. Nechtman****M/W/F 10:10-11:05****TLC 301**

An introductory survey of the British Empire from its earliest beginnings in the sixteenth century through decolonization in the post-World War II era. Students will focus on the political, economic, cultural, and ecological causes and consequences of British overseas expansion. Topics include the ecological and biological impact of British imperialism; Elizabethan commercial expansion; the plantings of Ireland; early settlements in the New World and the impact on indigenous peoples; the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the plantation system in the Caribbean; the American Revolution and the end of the first British Empire; the ideologies of the British Raj in India; the “New Imperialism” of the late nineteenth century and the “scramble for Africa”; the transfer of technology and culture; and decolonization and the contemporary legacy of empire.

HI 116H.001**Sea Changes: A History of the World's Oceans 3 Credits****T. Nechtman****Time/Location: TBA**

A survey course in global history that takes the world's oceans as its subject. Students will explore themes ranging from naval history to legal history, from environmental history to zoological history, and from the history of exploration and adventure to the history of imperialism and conquest. Students will work with primary and secondary sources and develop their analytical and writing skills as they ask questions about the field of history itself. What assumptions have historians made when they focus on nations and continents? What institutions and categories have they privileged with their focus? What have we missed because we look only at the history of land? How and why does history's narrative shift when we undertake a "sea change" in our perspectives?

MA 126H.001**Hon: Problem Solving****1 Credit****R. Hurwitz****W 4:00-5:20**

ADD-ON to EN 213

M. Greaves

M/W 12:20-1:15

PMH 304

The Honors Add-On for Poetry provides motivated students with the opportunity to engage more deeply with the study of poetry and poetics from the fourteenth century to the present day. The additional work would consist of four components: 1) further readings in poetry and poetic theory, including a volume of poems by a contemporary poet; 2) an annotated bibliography of five essays on poetics written by poets we study in the parent course; 3) a review of a prize-winning volume of poetry published after 1990, with a brief presentation on the volume to the class; and 4) group meetings two Friday afternoons per month to discuss our readings. This Add-On will also give students the opportunity to add rigor to assignments completed for the parent course. For instance, a student might incorporate work on lyric theory into her close reading papers, using her outside readings to expand and deepen the implications of her poetry explications.

HF 200.002

Social Psychology

1 Credit

ADD-ON to PS 205

C. Moss-Racusin

F 10:30-12:30

Art 201

Social psychology is the scientific study of how people think about, influence, and relate to one another—the investigation of human beings as deeply complex, inherently social creatures. Together, we will examine how our *social contexts*—our relationships, our different identities, and our significant others—powerfully shape our lives. This Honors Forum add-on will give you the opportunity to read, analyze, and discuss both classic and cutting edge research on social psychological themes such as reconstructed memories, obedience, gender bias, and the bystander effect. We will use this psychological research as a scientific tool to help us understand everyday life by applying the journal articles we read to events in the world around us.

NOTE: Students must be registered for Social Psychology (PS 205 section 001 or 002) during the Spring 2016 semester in order to register for this honors forum add-on seminar.

HF 200-003

Dance & Society 1700-1960

1 Credit

ADD-ON to DA 230H

A. Osterweis

Time/Location: TBA

The Honors Add-On for Dance & Society 1700-1960 provides motivated students with the opportunity to engage more deeply with the topics presented in Dance & Society 1700-1960. The additional work would consist of three components: 1) further reading on one dancer, choreographer, or company as well as further reading in critical dance studies to inform 2) the expansion of the final paper to raise the page count to 20-25 pages total, and 3) meeting together as a collective two Friday afternoons per month to discuss our readings and research. This Add-On can also function as a generative space for those students who include an improvisational or choreographic practice-as-research element in their final papers. For example, a student who is a practicing choreographer can include an auto-ethnographic component to her final paper, applying theory/history we read in (and beyond) class to the embodied (and/or mediated) experiences of practicing dance.

HF 200-004

Feminist Performance Art

1 Credit

ADD-ON to DA 274

A. Osterweis

Time/Location: TBA

The Honors Add-On for Feminist Performance Art provides motivated students with the

opportunity to engage more deeply with the topics presented in Feminist Performance Art. The additional work would consist of three components: 1) further reading on one artist or a group of artists as well as further reading in gender studies, performance studies, dance studies, transnational, and/or critical race studies to inform 2) the expansion of the final paper to raise the page count to 20-25 pages total, and 3) meeting together as a collective two Friday afternoons per month to discuss our readings and research. This Add-On can also function as a generative space for those students who include a practice-as-research element in their final papers. For example, a student who is a practicing performance artist can include an auto-ethnographic component to her final paper, applying theory we read in (and beyond) class to the embodied (and/or mediated) experiences of practicing performance art.

HF 200-005

Bible & Literature

1 Credit

ADD-ON to EN 230

M. Marx

Time/Location: TBA

The Honors Forum Add-On to EN 230 “The Bible as Literature” will focus on “The Bible *And* Literature.” Students will read texts from British and American literature to explore the various ways in which the Bible has shaped literature. Depending on the background and interest of the students, readings may include two selections from early literature, such as the medieval poem “Pearl,” selections from seventeenth-century Protestant poet George Herbert’s book of lyrical poetry *The Temple*, selections from the poetry of Milton and one novel from contemporary fiction such as Chaim Potok’s *My Name is Asher Lev*, David Maine’s *The Preservationist*, Anita Diamant’s *The Red Tent*, and Geraldine Brooks’ *The Secret Chord*. Students in the add-on will give oral presentations on these individual texts to the EN 230 class, highlighting how the authors have used the Biblical source material. As a group, they will create an annotated bibliography of literature influenced by the Bible.

HF 200-006

Women & Literature

1 Credit

ADD-ON to EN223

W. Lee

Time/Location: TBA

The regular course will explore a range of twentieth-century and contemporary American characters and authors who have been cursed (or is it blessed?) with their perceived status as “difficult women.” Students enrolled in the one-credit Honors Forum add-on will read additional interdisciplinary criticism and theory that will deepen and enrich their engagement with the genres and female figures explored in the class. This additional reading will take the form of 6-7 scholarly articles or book chapters over the course of the semester. Students will meet bi-weekly with the instructor to discuss supplementary readings. Assignments might include short essays, an annotated bibliography, or the integration of supplementary readings into longer essay assignments.

HF 200-007

Critical Theory

1 Credit

ADD-ON to EN228

A. Bozio

Time/Location: TBA

Since its inception in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, what scholars call “theory” has transformed the way that we interpret literature and culture. In this course, we will study major movements within theory, focusing upon structuralism, post-structuralism, Marxism, the Frankfurt School, psychoanalysis, gender studies, queer theory, postcolonialism, disability theory, and the digital humanities.

Students who sign up for the Honors Forum Add-On will deepen their understanding of the debates within theory by reading additional works that challenge or extend the arguments

