



Spring 2020 Honors Courses

**Dr. Michael Hartsock,
Honors Director**

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This document is broken up in to three groups: Honors Writing Studio II, 200 level seminars, and 300 level colloquia. All first year honors students need to take an Honors Writing Studio II & a 200-level seminar in the spring. All honors students are welcome to take any of the 200 or 300 level courses, whether you “need” them or not!

Honors Writing Studio II (HN151):

This course is designed to position you as a successful writer, reader, and researcher as you move into advanced coursework in your major and in the Honors Program, with an emphasis on undertaking critical inquiry and writing in increasingly sophisticated ways for a variety of rhetorical contexts. You will spend the majority of the semester working in a workshop setting to carry out the intensive research-based writing project you proposed in HN 150, in consultation with your professor, your peer writing group, and your assigned librarian. After completing a polished, written version of your writing project, you will remix that project for different audiences using multiple modes and media. The semester will conclude with the Honors Writing Studio Showcase, at which you will present and reflect on the remixed versions of your intensive writing project to an audience of peers, faculty, and community members.

*Note: All Honors Writing Studio II courses (HN151-01 – HN151-06) have the same course description.

Honors Writing Studio II (HN151-01)
Dr. Michael O’Conner
CRN: 30068
Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

Honors Writing Studio II (HN151-02)
Dr. Michael O’Conner
CRN: 30069
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Honors Writing Studio II (HN151-03)
Dr. Anne Matthews
CRN: 30070
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Honors Writing Studio II (HN151-04)
Dr. Anne Matthews
CRN: 30071
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1:00 PM – 1:50 PM

Honors Writing Studio II (HN 151-05)
Dr. Tony Magagna
CRN: 30072
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Honors Writing Studio II (HN151-06)
Dr. Tony Magagna
CRN: 30073
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM

200 Level Honors Seminars:

Comic Books from Page to Screen (HN 202-01)

Eric Hector

CRN: 30074

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

An in-depth exploration of the comic book medium and the current domination of comic books as a primary source material for popular film and television. Students will explore different comics and their migration from printed illustrations and text to motion pictures. From the earliest comic films to “Avengers End Game” the highest grossing movie of all time, students will discuss the history of a myriad of comic book properties and their transitions from page to screen. From obvious comic book adaptations like Christopher Nolan’s “The Dark Knight” to more obscure offerings like “A History of Violence,” students will examine and explore the reasons for the current success of comic book movies and television. Finally students will choose a comic or graphic novel and perform a detailed dissection of the story’s voyage from printed pulp to final film. The class will be led by Eric Hector. Eric has worked in the entertainment industry for over 26 years working in both comic books and film for clients including Archie, Dark Horse, DC, Disney, Image and Marvel.

Honors Seminar: American Film (HN 203-01)

Dr. Dr. Michael O’Conner

CRN: 30075

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 2:00 PM – 2:50 PM

This three-credit film studies honors seminar is essentially an introduction to viewing film as an aesthetic art form, with some emphasis on cinema terminology and technique, the history of film, and the relationship between film and literature. A significant theme running throughout the course will be "the American Dream, the American Nightmare," or an examination of how cultural and national identity, including our hopes and fears, are reflected in the films we make and watch in the United States. These films often include examinations of issues of race, class, or gender. Influential and award-winning films used in the past have included Birth of a Nation, The Gold Rush, Citizen Kane, Stagecoach, Its a Wonderful Life, The Godfather, The Maltese Falcon, Do the Right Thing, American Beauty, War of the Worlds, Singin’ In the Rain, Juno, and others. Fulfills a humanities honors seminar requirement for Honors Students. If Honors student does not continue on as a JMS student, can fulfill the College of Arts & Sciences literature course requirement, and/or can count as an IN250 requirement.

Reacting to the Past (HN203-02)

Dr. Brian Mullgardt

CRN: 30076

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1:00 PM – 1:50 PM

In this *Reacting to the Past*TM course students relive key points in United States history through elaborate role-playing games. Divided into teams students, informed by primary and secondary historical texts and guided by the instructor, compete in simulation games to advance their agendas and “win” each game. During the spring course students will play roles in games addressing United States history after the Civil War.

Video Games & Digital Literatures (HN 203-03)

Dr. Tony Magagna

CRN: 30077

Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

When one thinks of literature, the foremost image that comes to mind is, of course, a book—the printed word. But as new media and digital technologies have proliferated and evolved in the last decade or so, storytellers have begun to explore new ways of crafting narratives. While much of the world of digital culture is missed often as mere distraction or entertainment, artists and authors have increasingly embraced these new forms as a means both to weave tales that sweep us away, and to engage us with complex themes. Most exciting, digital tools have allowed the most innovative of these storytellers to craft narratives in ways not possible in printed form, immersing audiences in their works—and in their themes—as never before. In this course, we will explore these intersections

of digital technology and literature. We will examine contemporary literature that experiments with the new forms and techniques made possible through digital media, including video games, interactive app-based fiction, and social media narratives. We will apply the traditional tools of literary study to investigating these artifacts as *texts*, as tales not only worth reading, but worth studying closely. Ultimately, we will come to consider the ways in which our work as readers and writers in the 21st century can evolve and expand to engage with these digital literatures.

TWO IMPORTANT NOTES: 1) this course requires that all students enrolled have everyday access to a laptop or tablet device; 2) there will be no traditional texts to purchase for the class; however, the course will require some expenditures for personal copies of software or online subscriptions (apps, video games, etc.). At most, these expenditures should amount to no more than \$80 total; however there will be ways that such expenses can be reduced or avoided by utilizing shared or borrowed media/technology, or through online sales/discounts.

Existentialism (HN203-04)

Dr. Eric Roark

CRN: 30078

Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:15PM

This course will survey the most influential traditions within existentialism with focus toward the ideas of: Sarte, Camus, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche. Topical issues will to be discussed will include theories of being, responsibility, and freedom.

Biology of Spiders (HN204-01)

Dr. Marianne Robertson

CRN: 30079

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

The goal of this course is to develop an appreciation of biology in general, using spiders as a learning tool. We will examine structure and function as a background to understanding the ecology and behavior of these animals. Lectures require class participation by all students!! Laboratory work will emphasize spider natural history and identification. This course counts as your Natural Science with lab requirement, so there is a significant laboratory component representing performance learning in action! My class motto is: **Bring Your Enthusiasm!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Entrepreneurship Infused Digital Fabrication (HN204-02)

Dr. Kyle Knust

CRN: 30080

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

An Entrepreneurship infused honors seminar to introduce digital fabrication technologies and their diverse applications. Through a combined lecture and laboratory approach, the operating principles for digital fabrication technologies such as 3D printing, laser cutting, and computer numerical control (CNC) milling will be studied. Students will use computer-aided design (CAD) software to generate models. Hands-on experience operating fused deposition modeling (FDM) and stereolithography (SLA) 3D printers will be provided during laboratory work to demonstrate the application and limitations of these technologies. Student teams will employ an entrepreneurial mindset to complete a series of projects utilizing digital fabrication to convert ideas into physical solutions addressing real-world problems. The course will culminate with a team-developed project to prepare a prototype that creates financial or social value.

Evolution & Interpersonal Communication (HN206-01)

Dr. Amy Delaney

CRN: 30081

Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

An evolutionary approach to communication scholarship merges the social sciences with biology and physiology, considering how one's biology and social environment are intricately tied. For example, several communication behaviors such as conflict, affection, and emotional expression have significant biological links. In this course, we examine associations between physiological processes, interpersonal communication, and individual/relational outcomes. We will consider research from a variety of disciplines, including

communication, but also human development, health psychology, and evolutionary biology. We will investigate ways that physiological processes affect communication and ways that communication impacts mental and physical health outcomes.

Money and Generosity (HN206-02)

Dr. Jorge Chavez-Rojas

CRN: 30082

Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

This course introduces students to the understanding of the interplay between people's appeal for money and the impact it may have on their generous behavior.

Generosity is not new to human societies; in fact, it is deeply embedded in many religious beliefs and human traditions. The study of generosity is important because it is a concept that rests deep in our value system that influences the decisions we make.

Money facilitates market exchange, but the social significance of money goes beyond its obvious importance in modern market economies. We will explore how money can create tensions between our consumerism habits and the desire of becoming a generous person. We will also analyze some assumptions about the concept of money that may undermine some pro-social values.

The Signal and the Noise: How Data Affects our Lives (HN207-01)

Dr. Emily Olson

CRN: 31123

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Data and its subsequent analysis influence domains as wide reaching as baseball, weather, finance, politics, and national security. Given the ubiquity of data-driven technology in our world, it is essential to consider the influence and ethical ramifications of human biases in the use of data. Through Nate Silver's *The Signal and the Noise*, Cathy O'Neil's *Weapons of Math Destruction*, and other readings, this course explores the use of data-driven mathematical predictions in modern society.

300 Level Honors Colloquia

Hemingway and 20th Century World (HN300-01)

Dr. Dan Monroe (HN300-01)

CRN: 30083

Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Hemingway and the American Century

Course Description: The most important American writer of the 20th century was Ernest Hemingway. As a young, expatriate newspaper columnist in Europe, Hemingway wrote fiction that was characterized by simple declarative sentences and scant use of adjectives and adverbs, a distinct contrast to the flowery verbiage typical of 19th century fiction. Yet, though devoid of adjectives, Hemingway's stories still conveyed tremendous emotion and intellectual power, and his unique style was quickly recognized, celebrated, and imitated. A generation of young writers emulated Hemingway's hard-boiled prose, if not the stylistic force and power conveyed in his fiction. He became a national celebrity whose movements about the world were chronicled in major dailies.

The course considers Hemingway's stylistic innovation through reading representative works, allowing students to weigh the importance of his contribution to American letters. Hemingway's handiwork also reflected the historical period in which it appeared, and consequently, provides a window for discussion of American culture and life in each decade of Hemingway's life. Hence students will also investigate and discuss the historical context of Hemingway's greatest novels and short stories as a window into each respective period. In the 1920s, a time of sober reflection if not outright disillusionment among American writers and intellectuals, Hemingway wrote *The Sun Also Rises*, "Big Two-Hearted River," and "Soldier's Home," fiction that neatly captured the prevailing

sense of despair and malaise that afflicted the post-World-War-One intelligentsia. During the Depression, Hemingway wrote *To Have and Have Not*, "Wine of Wyoming," and other stories and novels that reflected the ethos of the economic crisis. He was savagely criticized by the political left for writing about bullfighting and marlin fishing instead of contributing articles on the ongoing class struggle, criticism that Hemingway rejected, in strong language, yet may also have internalized, based on his work after 1935. His politics amounted to a strong libertarianism, a suspicion of and distaste for government at all levels, and a fierce determination to remain independent as an artist. He savagely criticized the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration and the New Deal for creating a dependency culture, and he disparaged the federal government for criminal incompetence in failing to evacuate WPA workers, most of whom were veterans of the Great War, who were building a railroad to Key West when killed in the historically massive hurricane of 1935. In the 1940s, Hemingway labored as a war correspondent; he had warned of the coming of World War Two in his novel, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, published in 1940. He had advocated for the repeal of the Neutrality Acts and for American rearmament. His subsequent experience as a war correspondent, he landed in Europe soon after D-Day, is represented in his short story, "Black Ass at the Cross Roads," and in the novel *Across the River and Into the Trees*. With the Cold War as a backdrop in the 1950s, Hemingway wrote his classic short novel *The Old Man and the Sea* and a number of works that were published posthumously that were experimental in nature, e.g., *The Garden of Eden*. His later work suggested Hemingway's continuing willingness to challenge convention in both style and subject.

Global Science Policy (HN350-01)

Dr. Laura Zimmerman

CRN: 30084

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

This course will discuss how science policy is created, analyzed, and put into action as well as its impact and importance across the globe. The role of players such as scientists, politicians, the government, industry, media and the public will be discussed.

Global Graphic Novels

Dr. Ngozi Onuora (HN350-02)

CRN: 30085

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

This course is an examination of graphic novels that focus on historical, cultural, or social issues from countries other than the United States. Students will use literary criticism to analyze specific graphic texts and research a global issue related to the required readings

Magic, Realism, and Metafiction (HN 350-03)

Dr. Anne Matthews

CRN: 30086

Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

We will read some of the most challenging fiction from the 20th century – not just stories, but stories about telling stories, stories that use magic and the supernatural to get at some fundamental truths about identity, family, community, memory, history. Possible authors include Juan Rulfo (Mexico), Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina), Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Colombia), Toni Morrison (US), Isabel Allende (Chile), Amos Tutuola (Nigeria), Salman Rushdie (India), Italo Calvino (Italy), Angela Carter (England), Margaret Atwood (Canada), and Helen Oyeyemi (Ghana/England).

Your Brain on Music (HN 350-04)

Anna W. Alex

CRN: 31124

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

You know that feeling you get when someone is playing the piano and they hit a wrong note in one of the chords? You instantly recognize the mistake and find it unpleasant, even if the song is completely new to you. But why do we have such a visceral response, it's just one wrong note? What is it in our brains that makes us detect and react the way we do to "clashing" notes in chords? How much of these reactions are cultural or taught to us and how much is rooted in something deeper in our brains? Furthermore, why are certain melodies pleasant to some cultures but classified as noise in others? Questions like this will be discussed and analyzed through research, readings, and class discussions throughout the course

In these courses, Honors Students showcase and discuss their capstone Honors Projects with their Honors Program peers and faculty. Students must be able to communicate fundamental and essential aspects of their capstone project to their Honors Program Peers. This will include a clear articulation and defense of the nature and significance of the project, its method or media, and its results or outcomes. This course should be taken during the semester in which the student plans to complete their Honors Capstone Project (usually first or second semester of their Senior Year). **If you have completed an Honors Capstone Contract and plan to graduate in May 2020, you must enroll in this course.**