



Millikin University Honors Program
Dr. Michael Hartsock,
Honors Director

MILLIKIN
UNIVERSITY®

Fall 2020 Honors Course Descriptions

200 Level Honors Seminars:

Global Haiku Traditions (HN202-01)

Dr. Randy Brooks

Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 PM – 3:15PM

CRN: 10451

Global Haiku Traditions examines the origins and spread of Japanese poetics from Japan around the world, with a special focus on the adaptation of haiku into other cultures and languages. This course explores the role of haiku as a social literary art—both the art of reading and art of writing haiku emphasize the importance of shared collaborative aesthetic experiences (shared acts of the imagination). There is a very active global haiku community of writers, editors, scholars and associations celebrating participation in this literary art. A special feature of the course is that students will study leading international poets, editors and scholars of contemporary haiku. We will study the history of haiku and related poetics in Japan, and then examine the contemporary internalization of haiku in various cultures. Students complete both an analytical study of a contemporary haiku poet or issue in the haiku community as well as various creative projects connecting haiku to other arts.

Political Liberalism (HN203-01)

Dr. Robert Money

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

CRN: 10452

Patrick Deneen characterizes political liberalism as a political philosophy originating around 500 years ago. Political liberalism:

conceived humans as rights-bearing individuals who could fashion and pursue for themselves their own version of the good life. Opportunities for liberty were best afforded by a limited government devoted to ‘securing rights,’ along with a free-market economic system that gave space for individual initiative and ambition. Political legitimacy was grounded on a shared belief in an originating ‘social contract’ to which even newcomers could subscribe, ratified continuously by free and fair elections of responsive representatives. Limited but effective government, rule of law, an independent judiciary, responsive public officials, and free and fair elections were some of the hallmarks of this ascendant order...” (p.1-2).

In this course, we will examine the historical roots of political liberalism in the political philosophies of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Mill. We will also examine contemporary defenses of political liberalism in the political philosophies of Rawls and Nozick. Finally, we will examine Deneen’s critique of political liberalism and critically assess his contention that “liberalism has failed—not because it fell short, but because it was true to itself...[while liberalism] was launched to foster greater equity, defend a pluralist tapestry of different cultures and beliefs, protect human dignity, and, of course, expand liberty, in practice [it] generates titanic inequality, enforces uniformity and homogeneity, fosters material and spiritual degradation, and undermines freedom” (p.3).

Frankenstein's Progeny (HN203-02)

Dr. Anne Matthews

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

CRN: 10453

Frankenstein is an ur-text of English literature. Only 18 when she wrote it, Mary Shelley introduces to the canon a flesh-and-blood treatment of pregnancy and motherhood, as well as a concern about the conflict between family bonds and the (male) will. Her Gothic tale deals with, among other things, the figure of the "monster"—an "other" engendered and rejected by its willful creator—and the figure of the artist/creator as a visionary overreacher who trespasses on the divine, dabbles in forbidden knowledge, and neglects ordinary human ties. Other writers have drawn (in many cases, quite explicitly) on Mary Shelley, such as Rhys, Kafka, Camus, and Lessing, who treat the ties between family and society and the "monster" they create in their own image.

Pandemic Psychology (HN206-01)

Dr. Melissa Scircle

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12:00 – 12:50 p.m.

CRN: 10472

Fears of widespread disease can have noticeable impact on human behavior. We'll study prejudice, discrimination, social distance, and stress and coping during a pandemic, as well as media coverage of the disease and how that impacts human response. This course will have a heavy focus on the COVID19 pandemic but will discuss other pandemics as well.

Sport and Social Change (HN 206-02)

Dr. Joel Blanco

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

CRN: TBD

While sports is an arena that often reinforces and conforms to social norms regarding issues such as race/ethnicity, social class, and gender, sports and athletes have also served as agents of social change, many times challenging sociology and critical theory; this class assesses the use of sports and movements that impacted politics and culture. The class will focus on international sports such as the Olympics movement and the World Cup as well as events unique to American Culture. Students will apply critical theories to mediated sports events and athletes to understand their impact and gain perspectives on how sports may be utilized to enact positive social change.

300 Level Honors Colloquia

American Cuisine (HN 300-01)

Dr. Brian Mullgardt

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

CRN: 10473

This interdisciplinary course examines the United States, past and present, through the lens of food. We will examine various cooking styles, techniques, ingredients, and dishes across time to better understand the United States and food's place in it. Additionally, we will research important recipes in American culture...and prepare themselves. Those who don't know anything about cooking will learn to cook, and those comfortable as chefs can hone their skills!

J. R. R. Tolkien: Race, Gender, & the Environment (HN300-02)

Dr. Michael Hollis-George

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

CRN 10474

You've seen the Lord of the Rings' films. You've seen the 3-part film of The Hobbit. You might have even heard about Amazon's planned Lord of the Rings prequel. Now study the literature. This course will explore Tolkien's representation of gender, race, and the environment in The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, and The Silmarillion. You will be introduced to a variety of literary and cultural theory—feminism, critical race theory, queer theory, ecocriticism—as well as issues with which these theories deal. We will read Tolkien's work through the lens of these theories, culminating in an article-length, professional-quality, research project.

International Film (HN350-01)

Dr. Michael O'Conner

Tuesday & Thursday 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

CRN: 10475

Though HN 203 American Film is not a prerequisite for HN 350 International Film, it does naturally pick up where American Film leaves off. This course will utilize William V. Costanzo's textbook, World Cinema through Global Genres, and follow its pedagogy of teaching world cinema through genre, comparing and contrasting international films to popular American ones. Major genre comparisons include "the warrior hero," "the wedding film," the "horror film," and "the road movie." There are "deep focus" sections on the films of China, India, Japan, and Latin America. Overall, the course will be an introduction to the global traditions of film, emphasizing the universal nature of cinema while at the same time examining regional-based cultural differences. It will include an examination of the language of film analysis along with a survey of developments in world-wide cinema. Films will be analyzed not just culturally, but through universal lenses such as post-colonialism, feminism, and Marxism. Many films will be non-English, accompanied with English subtitles. The course will include studies of award-winning international directors like Lee, Del Toro, and Kurosawa. Possible films may include: The Magnificent Seven, Seven, Samurai, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; My Big Fat Greek Wedding, Monsoon Wedding, Wedding in Galilee, Halloween, Ring, The Devil's Backbone; Thelma and Louise, The Motorcycle Diaries, and perhaps a few others.

Fast Fashion (HN350-02)

Jana Henry Funderburk

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

This course will examine the production cycle of the garment industry and its impact on the environment. Who is doing well and who could be doing better? How do we as consumers improve? How can we step out of the cycle and still express ourselves through our clothing?