

Spring 2010 Honors Seminars

Honors Seminars - Humanities

<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Ref. #</i>	<i>Professor (Department)</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit</i>	<i>Time Day</i>
HUM 2937-2	05316	Benjamin Koen (Music)	Introduction to the Bahá'í Faith	3 W	MW 2:30-3:45 KMU 0340
HUM 2937-3	05317	Denise R. Von Glahn (Music)	Composing Places Music, Nature, Values, and Identity:	3 W	TR 2:00-3:15 KMU 0340
HUM 29370-4	07298	Nancy DeGrummond (Classics)	I, Claudius	3 W	TR 2:00-3:15 Dodd 0205I
HUM 2937-5	08086	Francois Dupuigrenet Desrouss (Religion)	Christianity and the Modern State	3 W	TR 9:30-10:45 LAN 101
HUM 2937-6	09440	Valliere Richard (Film)	History of Animation	3 W	T 2:00-5:00 LAN 101
HUM 2937-7	09889	Sumner Twiss (Religion)	Human Rights and Crimes Against Humanity	3 W,X	F 9:00-12:00 LAN 101

Honors Seminars - Social Science

<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Ref. #</i>	<i>Professor (Department)</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit</i>	<i>Time Day</i>
ISS2937-1	01960	Kaji Ueno (Sociology)	Deviance and Social Control	3 W	MW 2:00-3:15 BEL 517
ISS 2937-2	07395	Brad T. Gomez (Political Science)	American Public Opinion	3 W	TR 12:30-1:45 HCB 212

ISS 2937-3	08915	Alan Lang (Psychology)	Addictive Behaviors	3 W	TR 11:00-12:15 PDB A0105
ISS 2937-4	08916	Ralph Radach (Psychology)	Mysteries of Human Perception and Cognition	3 W	TR 12:30-1:45 PDB A0105

Honors Seminars - Natural Science

<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Ref. #</i>	<i>Professor (Department)</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit</i>	<i>Time Day</i>
ISC 2937-1	01916	Robert Campbell (Medical)	Honors Medical Seminar	3 W	TR 3:00-4:15 MSR 1202
ISC 2937-2	08016	Laura Keller (Biology)	Living Green	3 W	MW 1:25-2:40 BIO 307
ISC 2937-3	08463	Simon Ostrach	The Impact of Technology on Society	3 W	MW 1:25-2:40 LAN 101
ISC 2937- 4	08738	Harold Kroto (Chemistry)	Science in the 21st Century	3 W	TR 2:00-3:15 HTL 218

HUM 2937 - Humanities Seminars

Introduction to the Bahá'í Faith: Drawing primarily from the scriptures and authoritative writings of the Bahá'í Faith, this course explores the religion's primary teachings, beliefs, purposes, and practices. We will learn about the early history of the Bahá'í Faith in the Middle East, its current presence in the world, and explore such topics as the oneness of humankind, harmony of science and religion, education of children, equality of women and men, elimination of prejudice, music and the arts, progressive revelation, and the concept of covenant within and between religions.

Composing Places: Music, Nature, Values, and Identity: From Niagara Falls to New York City, from the woods of New Hampshire to botanical gardens in the mid-west, and from the Grand Canyon to the desert southwest, physical places have inspired American composers. Whether they document the actual sounds of a place in their music or use a place as an abstract resource for a statement

on the environment, composers have composed "place pieces" to understand where they fit in their surroundings and the relationships they have to those surroundings. We learn about a composer's own values, ambitions, and identity, but even more we gain insight into the culture and values of the larger nation. This seminar explores a number of American composers and their works, and considers the ways music inspired by place speaks to our individual and collective relationships to our environment.

I, Claudius: This seminar focuses on the lives of the Roman emperors Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius and Nero and their families, as depicted in the novel "I, Claudius" by Robert Graves and in the BBC video series based on Graves. Assignments include readings from Roman historians such as Suetonius and Tacitus and studying the authentic clothing, art and architecture of the period.

The History of Animation: This seminar is designed to offer students an opportunity to explore the medium of animation. It will enable students to identify and define the various types of animation and the basic production process involved in each type by examining the work of specific animators such as Norman McLaren, Ralph Bakshi, and John Lassiter. In-class exercises on direct method animation and stop motion will provide students with a "hands-on" exploration of this creative medium.

Christianity and the Modern State: The aim of the course is to examine the doctrinal debates in Christian thought, from Dante to Thomas Hobbes and the Founding Fathers of the United States, about the conflicting ideals of the Christian Commonwealth or the Christian Republic, as defined by the Father of the Church Gregory the Great, and of the Christian Nation during the late Middle Ages and the early modern period which saw the birth and affirmation of the modern state in Europe. Starting with the XIVth century and the debates which accompanied such crucial events in European history as the exile of papacy in Avignon, the Great Schism or the Hundred Years War, it will examine in particular the confrontation of the Christian state with the Ottoman empire, the strongest European power of early modern Europe, the birth of protestant states in the XVIth century, the treaties of Westphalia in 1648 that put an end to the European religious wars and established the principle of the coexistence between conflicting Protestant and Catholic states, to end with the American and French Revolutions of the XVIIIth century and totally new conceptions of the state. Mixing religion, politics and culture, it will envisage in their historical context key issues of our contemporary debate like the meaning of tolerance, the relations of Church and State or the role of Christians in politics.

Human Rights and Crimes against Humanity: A Multidisciplinary Approach

This seminar examines the history and dynamics of crimes against humanity (including genocide) as an introduction to the international human rights movement. It focuses on two historical cases—the Belgian Congo in the early 20th century and the Holocaust at mid-century—both of which spawned a considerable literature of testimony, analysis, resistance, and reform both at the time and subsequently. Materials for study will include works of literature, drama, history, philosophy as well as essays, addresses, letters, and other works by prominent figures in the humanities, arts, social sciences, learned professions (e.g., law) and public life. A major thesis of the course—to be cooperatively tested by us all—is that by focusing on such works we will not only become familiar with human rights thinking and practice but also be encouraged to acquire a critical and imaginative human rights sensibility important for being responsible citizens in the contemporary world.

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Deviance and Social Control: We will discuss various types of behaviors and attributes as forms of deviance (e.g., domestic violence, corporate crimes, mental disorders, obesity). Whether a given behavior or attribute is considered as deviant depends on historical, spatial, and cultural contexts because social norms vary across those contexts. In a diverse society like ours, deviance labels are often contested across social groups and subgroups. Some substantive topics are included to demonstrate this point.

Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior: Public opinion and elections are essential ingredients for the success of a representative democracy. This course is designed to introduce the student to the contemporary study of public opinion and electoral behavior. Regarding the former, we will concentrate our attention on four questions: 1) What is public opinion? 2) What are the forces affecting public opinion? 3) What is the distribution of opinion on major issues and towards government? and 4) What is the impact of public opinion on modern politics? With regard to latter topic, our questions are simple: 1) Who votes? and 2) Why do they vote the way they do?

Addictive Behaviors: Although this course will address the concept of “addiction,” broadly defined to include problems such as eating disorders, compulsive gambling, and certain sexual deviations, it emphasizes behaviors and disorders associated with the use of psychoactive substances, particularly alcohol and illicit drugs. We will discuss the nature of addiction from historical, theoretical, and empirical perspectives, with special attention to relevant public policy issues. This will involve exploration of the etiology, natural history, prevention, and treatment of various forms or subtypes of addictive behavior and the factors that govern them. However, above all, the primary goal of this course is to encourage skepticism and a critical appraisal of available information on addiction.

Mysteries of Human Perception and Cognition: A student reading this passage of text will most likely have the impression that information somehow continuously flows in from the written words and that the surrounding visual world is mentally present in great detail. In our seminar we will prove experimentally that both impressions are little more than powerful illusions. The human mind, rather than reflecting the outside world, actively creates a rather sparse mental representation including only the most relevant aspect of reality. Information is processed at several levels in parallel so that, as an example, the perception of a single tree is both precondition and consequence of seeing the whole forest. We will discuss methods of experimental research that can be used to uncover this and other mysteries of the mind. The class is primarily intended for psychology majors and minors but other students may also benefit. Depending on interest, participants might also visit our laboratory and gradually get involved in some ongoing research activities.

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Honors Medical Seminar: This seminar will cover current issues in medicine such as: health policy issues such as how the US healthcare system works (or doesn't); an avian flu pandemic—are we ready?; psychological impact of chronic disease, obesity, genetic screening, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.; rural health in the U.S; global health issues; how cultural differences impact ideas on disease and illness; caring for the medically underserved. Various faculties from the College of Medicine will participate. The exact content will be outlined by the participants in the first class session and may include other topics than the ones listed. Class sessions will be a mixture of lecture and class discussion. Grades will be assigned based on class participation including brief presentations, as well as a paper on one of the topics covered in class sessions.

Living Green: Theory to Action: In this seminar, we will explore the very broad topic of "sustainability". Most students probably will enter the course with some knowledge of global environmental degradation - what fills our landfills, water quality, global warming, and rainforest defoliation. The class will quickly move from such environmental issues to understanding the three "e"s of sustainability - ecology, equity, and equality - and to investigating ways to integrate sustainability into building techniques, infrastructural details, and social structures. The goal is not to persuade students to recycle, but to help identify what will have to change so that everyone recycles, or so that our ways of life change to make is less trash in the first place. Grades will be based on two papers, homework assignments, and student participation in class readings and discussions, Earth Day at FSU, and the design and implementation of a class project. This course should appeal to non-biologists with interests in

sustainability as well as to serious biologists with a wide variety of non-biological interests.

The Impact of Technologies on Society: The course will give an understanding and appreciation of how the spread of technologies has led to economic, social, and political changes on a global scale. The 20th Century's greatest engineering innovations will be identified and their development will be discussed. Their impact, both good and bad, will be examined. The global issues of the present era will be discussed and the role that engineering can play to help resolve them will be explored.