Clemson Honors
Spring 2019 Honors Seminars
Maps are easy to imagine as objective, impartial objects: but they’re not so simple. This class will question the history of maps and mapping to think critically about how the maps we are familiar with came to be, and what maps are missing. How does cartography communicate power, visual culture, or coloniality? We will attempt to answer these questions, and pose new ones, as we research existing maps and create our own.

*Satisfies a STS requirement and non-literature requirement*
I’m Here for the A Grade: An Exploration of Motivation and Learning; What motivates you to come to class? To take the courses that you do? What is the drive behind your learning? In this course we’ll explore the science of learning, forms of motivation and their application, and ultimately determine how you can harness this research to provide a catalyst for your own learning. We will also discuss the impact of motivation theory on human values and the environments we live, study, and work within. This course takes on a project-based approach that combines metacognition and your own passions to develop new ideas and approaches to highly motivated learning.

*Satisfies a social science requirement*
HON 2020 – World-building Game of Thrones

CRN: 17495     Meets: TR 11:00am-12:15am

Professors Nafees Khan and Mindy Spearman

Effective storytellers build imaginary universes through the process of world-building. This course is for anyone interested in creatively designing contexts for fictional worlds—e.g. authors, directors, game designers, concept artists. We’ll explore the world-building process through G. R. R. Martin’s A Song of Ice and Fire and the HBO adaptation, Game of Thrones. The creativity of Martin’s vivid world will come to life as we engage with his decisions related to culture, race, geography, history, religion, sociology, economics, government, power, science, and more.

*Satisfies a social science requirement
HON 2020 - Hamilton and Jefferson
CRN: 20289    Meets: TR 2:00pm-3:15pm
Professor Lee Wilson

How does a bastard, orphan, son of a whore and a Scotsman, dropped in the middle of a forgotten spot in the Caribbean by providence, impoverished, in squalor, grow up to be a hero and a scholar?

Set to a rousing hip-hop score, the question that opens Lin Manuel Miranda's smash Broadway hit, Hamilton (2015), is a serious one. Indeed, Miranda invites audiences to shed their preconceived notions about early America, and instead to view the political, cultural, and social world of the eighteenth century from the perspective of those who shaped it. Framed around the lives of Alexander Hamilton and his archrival, Thomas Jefferson, this course presents students with a similar challenge, asking them to reckon with early America on its own terms. Over the course of the semester, students will travel from the sugar plantations of the British West Indies to the slips of colonial New York, and from the streets of Williamsburg to the slave quarters at Monticello. They'll witness the birth of a new nation, the ideas that grounded it, and the bitter conflict over its meaning. Along the way, students will also have an opportunity to peer into parlors, examining the evolution of domestic relations, sexuality, and marriage in the nation's formative decades. Finally, they'll recover the lives of the enslaved people who generated early America's wealth, and follow the rise of antislavery movements that began to question the morality of property rights in people. By the end of the semester, students will have acquired a more nuanced view of Hamilton and Jefferson's world, a fragmented and often-contradictory place where liberty and slavery flourished, a place of unparalleled opportunity and unmitigated cruelty, a place that continues to influence the world we live in today.

*Satisfies a social science requirement
HON 2030 - Religion/Cults/Secret Society

CRN: 10581       Meets: TR 9:30-10:45 am

Professor Peter Cohen

‘Cults’, ‘Secret Societies’, and ‘Conspiracy Theories’ have been mentioned and blamed by the media and masses for countless unspeakable actions (especially due to their relationship with religious communities). We will try to sift through the many accusations made about them, be they on the web or elsewhere, and try to see if any definitive truth can be found to substantiate these wild, strange, and often even terrifying groups. So, if you’ve ever wondered about the efficacy of the moon landing (and other NASA missions); the Knights Templar (and their treasure); The New World Order; the truth behind the assassinations of John and Bobby Kennedy, Malcolm X or Martin Luther King, Jr.; the deaths of Marilyn Monroe, The Black Dahlia, Harry Houdini (and others); or even what happened at Roswell, New Mexico, this course is for you.

*Satisfies a non-literature requirement
Vladimir Putin and the Russia he helped forge have confounded the world and defied attempts at understanding. In 2013, the Forbes magazine named Putin the most powerful man in the world, but contemporary historians agree that the façade of power rhetoric camouflages weakness and insecurity. While looking at Putin’s rise to power, we will go beneath politics to explore the ways in which real people in today’s Russia experience his State. We will engage with literature, film, visual arts, TV, and pop culture.

*Satisfies a non-literature requirement
HON 2050 - Architecture: Ideas & Practice

CRN: 16417  Meets: W 6:15-7:05pm

Professor Tim Brown

An introduction to contemporary architectural ideas and practices during a period of radical transformation in the way we think about and make our buildings.

*Counts towards honors “other” requirement (will need to take an HON 2050 course three times to fulfill group)

*This is a one-credit hour course
HON 2050 - Social Entrepreneurship

CRN: 18481       Meets: T 6:00pm-7:00pm

Professor John Hannon

Who is suited to being an entrepreneur? How are entrepreneurs changing America? How are Entrepreneurs changing the world? What technologies will be dominating our lives in 10, 20, 50 years? This seminar will explore the exciting, wild, and wacky world of entrepreneurs and the companies they start.

*Counts towards honors “other” requirement (will need to take an HON 2050 course three times to fulfill group)

*This is a one-credit hour course
HON 2060 – Intro to Nanotechnology

CRN: 10582     Meets: TR 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Professors Chris Kitchens & Thompson Mefford

Nanotechnology represents one of the fastest growing fields in science and technology. Applications of nanotechnology range widely from advanced electronics to energy storage and conversion to biomedical uses including drug delivery and imaging. In this course we will explore the history of the field, the tools used to characterize these unique materials, and discuss the implications for future development on science and society. Focus will be given to the production of these materials, including in-class hands-on synthesis of gold nanoparticles and characterization by electron microscopy and other methods. Specific attention will be given to the environmental and ethical considerations for nanomaterials in consumer products.

*Satisfies an STS requirement
HON 2060 – Why We Eat What We Eat

CRN: 13173       Meets: TR 11:00 am - 12:15 pm
Professor Elizabeth Durrance

What are the forces that drive us to choose one food over another? What impact does social media, news, government, taste, perception, and our culture have on our breakfast decisions? With so many food trends and choices, how do we decide what we want at the grocery store? By examining all of these questions, this course will focus on answering the question, “Why do we eat what we eat?”

*Satisfies an STS requirement
HON 2060 – The Great Problems in Math

CRN: 15579    Meets: MWF 12:20pm - 1:10pm
Professor Neil Calkin

In recent years there have been some stunning advances made, and some stunning claims made of advances to solving great problems in mathematics. In this class we'll discuss the great problems of mathematics from an historical perspective, and will learn to appreciate some of the more approachable problems. This course is aimed at all students with a comfort level with calculus, not just math majors.

*Satisfies an STS requirement
The number of the hot spots threatening the America’s security and global position has increased in the past few years. Ukraine crisis and the refugee crisis threaten to destabilize Europe and Brexit is adding to problems and divisions. We are focused on Syria and Iraq, and of course Islamic State and its terrorism while ISIS in Libya, civil war Yemen, fragmentation of Iraq, Taliban in Afghanistan do not get enough attention of the international community. There is no political settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict despite enormous American mediation efforts. North Korea keeps threatening the peace in East Asia. Can the United States handle these historic changes and challenges by diplomacy only? In the past few years diplomacy didn’t work in Ukraine crisis, in Syria, and Yemen. How is the current set of crisis affecting America’s global position? If diplomacy doesn’t work shall we be tempted to resort to use of military power or withdraw to isolation? Let us try to find the answers.

A combination of lectures and seminar format will ensure active participation of students and will help hone your research, writing and presentation skills along with critical analysis, creative thinking, and tolerance for different approaches and views.

*Satisfies a cross cultural awareness requirement
HON 2090 – French Discussion Group

CRN: 14383  Meets: T 11:00-11:50 am
Professor Ken Widgren

The French section of Modern Languages and the Honors Department are pleased to announce HON2090, a one-hour course open exclusively to Honors students in FREN 2010 and above. This course will take the place of an honors contract you would otherwise have in your French class. Together we will explore and discuss a wide range of subjects concerning French culture, history, art and literature as a way to enrich your understanding of France and the Francophone world. Class will consist primarily of group discussion (mainly in French, but in English when appropriate), allowing you to practice speaking beyond the normal classroom setting and thus developing your linguistic competencies even further. Short supplemental readings will also help you to improve your vocabulary and reading skills.

*Counts toward CCA req. (will need to take three times to fulfill a group)
*This is a one-credit hour course
HON 2090 – Spanish Conversation

CRN: 15602  Meets: R 9:30am to 10:20 am

Professor Adrienne Fama

HON 2090 is a one-hour course open exclusively to Honors students in SPAN 2010 and above. This course will take the place of an honors contract you would otherwise have in your Spanish class. Together we will analyze short stories, current events, films and other authentic texts from the Spanish-speaking world. Class will consist primarily of group discussion in Spanish, allowing you to practice your speaking, think critically, expand your cultural knowledge, and explore your interests. No textbook is required for this course. Grades are based on preparedness and participation.

*Counts toward CCA req. (will need to take three times to fulfill a group)

*This is a one-credit hour course
HON 2100 – Experiencing the Arts

CRN: 15452    Meets: MW 11:15 am-12:05 pm
Professor Mark Spede

What is Art? What is Beauty? What makes great art or music move us? Focusing on music, but incorporating the visual, dramatic, and design arts, the class will react to the arts through the lens of aesthetics. A major component of the course will be developing critical thinking skills, attending artistic events in the Brooks Center and other venues, and reacting to them. The course fulfills a non-literature humanities requirement. The lab portion are the evening performances.

*Satisfies a non-literature requirement
HON 2101 – Experiencing the Arts Laboratory

CRN: 15454

Live performances
Gender is one of the most salient aspects of our lives, and our society is currently grappling with gendered experiences and constructions that do not fit neatly into dichotomous, biologically-centered categories of male and female. Schools have long been conduits for imposing social norms, values, and expectations upon young people, and gendered norms are hardly an exception. In this course, we will learn about a variety of views of gender and their origins, as well as the role of society, and specifically schools, in perpetuating particular notions of gender. Through these explorations, we will seek to develop our understandings of tensions around status quos and social change.

*Satisfies a social science requirement*
HON 2200 – Europe in the Age of Dictators

CRN: 13830   Meets: TR 9:30 am-10:45 am
Professor Amit Bein

The seminar examines the causes and consequences of the emergence and proliferation of dictatorial regimes in Europe in the period between the two world wars, and their significance for past and present historical developments in Europe and beyond.

*Satisfies a social science requirement
HON 2210 – Building Imaginary Worlds

CRN: 10589    Meets: M 4:40pm-7:25pm
CRN: 12445    Meets: R 5:00 pm-7:45 pm

Professor April Pelt

World-building—the act of creating and populating a complex, fully realized fictional world—is at the heart of science fiction and fantasy. In this course, we will map the physical, political, historical, and socioeconomic landscapes of multiple imaginary worlds. In so doing, we will not only examine how these authors and filmmakers construct their fictional worlds, but we will also explore how and why these imaginary worlds both emulate and deviate from the world we inhabit.

*Satisfies a literature requirement
In this course we will think carefully and adventurously about the complexities of love, as they have been described and imagined in particular moments over the past two and a half millennia. The word love is sometimes felt to be “worn out and debased,” as Emmanuel Levinas once noted. From a certain viewpoint, there is nothing new to say about love. Yet we often hear that love is just the thing that words never adequately describe. What makes it so easy, and so hard, to talk about love? We will approach questions like this one by closely reading a series of literary and philosophical accounts of love, comparing them with each other and testing them against our own ideas and experience. Our historical range will be broad, running from seventh-century BCE Greek poems to a late twentieth-century American novel. Through intensive class discussions and writing assignments, students will acquire and develop the skills needed to closely read and interpret literary and philosophical texts, and to craft compelling arguments about them. Authors will include Sappho, Plato, Plotinus, Paul of Tarsus, William Shakespeare, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Emily Dickinson, Friedrich Nietzsche, Anton Chekhov, Pablo Neruda, Toni Morrison, and Anne Carson.

*Satisfies a literature requirement*
Time is an essential building block of cinema. Movies as a medium are about the perception of time, the manipulation of time, the control of time. Using the films of five-time Oscar-nominated writer and director Richard Linklater as a framework and a leaping-off point, this class will examine cinema as a time-based medium. We will engage with auteur and star theory, as well as adaptation, genre, sound, and animation studies.

*Satisfies a literature requirement
HON 2210 - Moving Crisis: Exiles, Migrants, and Refugees in World Literature

CRN: 13788    Meets: MWF 9:05am-9:55am

Professor Lucian Ghita

Migration is one of the major forces shaping the world today, with more than 60 million displaced people. The course explores how literature, film, and travel narratives reflect and illuminate the histories and experiences of migration and displacement from The Odyssey to contemporary refugee crises. Drawing on narrative histories and artistic expressions of transnational movement/migration, the course animates questions and debates surrounding the relationship between memory, place, home, and belonging. How do cross-cultural travel and border-crossing experiences problematize concepts of nationhood and ethnic identity? How do race, gender, religion and class intersect in the experience of migration? How is immigrant and ethnic identity constructed as “different” by “normative” cultures and how do film, literature, and theater reflect this process of “othering”? This class provides students with a foundational understanding and critical engagement with key theories and concepts in literary, cultural, and film analysis. It also explores a series of important and timely questions.

*Satisfies a literature requirement
HON 2220 – Women and Opera

CRN: 12426    Meets: MWF 11:15 am - 12:05 pm

Professor Alison Mero

This course will explore the various ways women relate to opera throughout the 400 year history of the art form, whether as performers, characters, composers, or consumers. Although organized chronologically, the focus will be on historical context and gender issues as manifested in the most prestigious musical and dramatic genre in Western Europe, rather than on the development of repertoire. If funding is approved, the class will also include a trip to see a live opera performance.

*Satisfies a non-literature requirement