Honors Fall 2016 Seminars

Cross-Cultural Awareness

Social Science

Literature/ Non-Literature

Science and Technology in Society

Elective
Humans have sought answers to enduring questions of our time through sometimes creative, imaginative avenues approaching the strange-to-dangerous. This course will investigate how this sometimes has been connected to the development of and relationship (perceived, or otherwise) between religious traditions, new religious movements, secret societies and conspiracy theories.

Instructor
Colin Pearce
Day & Time
MWF 11:15-12:05
Course | Section | CRN
HON2200 | 2 | 83480

Religion, cults, secret societies & conspiracy theories

Romanticism was a reaction to an escalating industrialization and the Enlightenment, both considered by some as a serious danger to humanity. However, the influence of the intellectual movement is not without any problems itself. The movement’s fervent anti-rationalistic allowed political movements to establish their agendas without reason, consistency, or coherence. On the right, we saw the rise of a dangerous naturalism and nationalism that eventually lead to nationalistic and imperialistic tendencies all over Europe in the 19th century, and worse to fascism and national socialism in the 20th. On the left, it provided Bolshevism and Stalinism with a historical-national fantasy based on the utopian necessity for a single-class society in the future. And it endowed both extremes and their respective audiences to disregard argument, scientific facts, consensus, or rational judgment. In politics today, we can again sense the rise of anti-rational demagogy. The fantastic as an artistic concept may be confusing, at best it is beautiful; as a political ideology, it is most dangerous, because it makes the impossible seem possible. This discussion-based, seminar-style course will center on literature, non-fiction, art, music, and film to discuss how the Age of Romanticism left its mark, even today.

Instructor
Professor Johannes Schmidt
Day & Time
T R12:30-1:45
Course | Section | CRN
HON1910 | 1 | 87811

Music and Politics: Blues, Jazz, and Early Rock & Roll

Almost Human: Doubles, Doppelgängers & Replicants

What if there was another you? Would it terrify you to discover that you are not unique? Challenge your belief that you possess a coherent identity? Would it be an opportunity for self-discovery? Would you be afraid of what you might find out about yourself? Haunting and humorous, doubled characters have remained a widespread motif throughout history and across national cultures as they force us to reexamine our understanding of self and other. In this course we will examine what Doppelgängers can teach us about the nature of identity, with a particular focus on time, bodies, gender and technology, work, capitalism, oppression, hetero- and homosexual desire, mental health, public versus private selves, artistic production, as well as personal and collective memory.

Instructor
Gabriela Stoicea
Day & Time
T R 2:00-3:15
Course | Section | CRN
HON2220 | 1 | 84709

Instructor
Eric Lapin
Day & Time
T R 9:00-10:45
Course | Section | CRN
HON2030 | 1 | 85953
Businesses want you, and people of your age group, to connect with their brands, because a young customer today may become a loyal consumer for decades. As an essential part of this strategy, companies have been marketing to you for years, telling you what's cool even before you were old enough to realize it. To appeal to your demographic, marketers pull out all the stops: they show celebrities using their products to convince you to become one of their customers, and they encourage you to post their content in social media, making you a part of the marketing machine. Marketers also do their best to ingrain their brands into your daily lives in subtle ways. Using Malcolm Gladwell's “The Coolhunt” as its point of departure, this class unpacks the ways that companies market themselves to appeal to you. During the course of the semester, we will examine marketing practices, founded in psychological and economic theories, to better understand consumer behavior and its relationship to marketing strategy.

Who Decides What's Cool?

Instructor
Amanda Fine

Day & Time
T R 2:00-3:15

Course | Section | CRN
HON2020 | 1 | 80008

Imaginary Friends in Fiction

Instructor
Professor April Pelt

Day & Time
T R 11:00-12:15

Course | Section | CRN
HON2210 | 1 | 80158

Culture and Capitalism is a interdisciplinary course that investigates how the political economy has impacted cultural production in the United States from the fin-de-siecle of the 20th century to our current day.

Instructor
Austin Gorman

Day & Time
MWF 10:10-11:00

Course | Section | CRN
HON 2200 | 4 | 88345

Art in an Era of Endless War

This course asks how artists address the prospect of endless war in the twenty-first century. Looking to earlier wars and decolonization movements as well as to the imagined futures in post-apocalyptic narratives, we'll examine a wide range of contemporary literary and visual art, theories of literary and artistic strategies, as well as cultural and political theory. In doing so, we'll also study the wide-ranging and stunningly disparate effects of militarized conflicts on people, environments, including the very way we imagine, for example, violence and injury or community and refuge. We will read with special attention to writers and conflicts involving the United States in relation to the Americas and the Middle East. The course will consist of intensive reading and frequent writing, with a possible collaborative project. Book list TBD.

Who Decides What's Cool?

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Imaginary Friends in Fiction
This course will examine how martial arts evolved and how we can apply martial art traditions in our daily lives. We will read about the samurai traditions in Japan and discuss our readings in class. To provide students with experience training in a martial art, all students will be required to register concurrently in a Leisure Skills class for Karatedo Doshinkan Beginners Non-competitive Karate class (LS 1000 006: Beg. Non-competitive Karate 88130). By the end of the semester, students will have learned not only more about the martial art tradition in Okinawa and Japan but also have trained in a traditional Okinawan/Japanese school of karate that balances the physical techniques with eastern philosophy. Students will first register for the Honors seminar and will then be provided with an override for the Leisure Skills class. Please contact Dr. Pilcher for the override into LS 1000 section 6.

In November, voters will elect the next President of the United States, and this year’s election is expected to be the most expensive and negative in history. On the congressional side, every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives will be up for grabs, as will 34 seats in the U.S. Senate. In this course, we will tackle a variety of questions relating to presidential and congressional elections in general and the 2016 elections in particular. Among them: Who runs for political office and why? What role does money play in elections? Why are there so many negative ads and what effect do they have? How do the 2016 elections compare to other previous elections? What makes a voter cast a ballot for one candidate over another? How do the media (including social media sites like Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube) affect the landscape of elections in America? What impact might the elections have on domestic and foreign policy?
This course will focus on the dramatic ongoing multiple crises in the world and their impact on America's global position and national security, and on our lives. The world keeps changing rapidly. The end of the Cold War left the United States as the only superpower in the world. However the United States faced enormous challenges despite its military and economic strength, and sometimes was simply unable to reach its set goals. The number of the hot spots threatening the America’s security and global position has increased in the past few years. Military conflicts in Ukraine and Russia-West threaten to destabilize Europe and also broader global order. Today we don’t talk about the Arab Spring but about resurrection of authoritarian rule in Egypt, tribal conflicts in Libya, civil wars in Syria and Yemen, fragmentation of Iraq and the establishment of a radical Islamic state ruled by a new kind of terrorists on the territory of Iraq and Syria. There is no political settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on sight despite enormous American mediation efforts, and negotiations with Iran to prevent its developments of nuclear technology which could result in building of weapons complicates US relations with Israel. As American troops are withdrawing from Afghanistan we see the Taliban taking control in some provinces. North Korea keeps threatening the peace in East Asia, and confrontation between China and Japan is growing. We don’t know what the world will look like in 3 or 5 or 10 years. Some fear a new cold war. Can the United States handle these historic changes? How is the current set of crisis affecting America’s global position? May increased terrorist threats endanger our democracy? Let us try to find the answers.

SPAN HON 2090 is a one credit course designed to practice spoken Spanish using a variety of resources and perspectives to facilitate communication. The student will analyze short stories, news, contemporary events, and films from different Hispanic countries as well as the Latino Communities in the USA. The class will emphasize in the following: improving verbal skills, argumentation skills, critical thinking, expanding vocabulary, and exploring students’ personal interests about the Hispanic cultures, and their own cultures as well. No textbook is required for the course. The student will be graded by coming prepared to class and by his/her active participation during class. The student must have completed SPAN 2020 in order to register for this course. This class does not fulfill any of the languages requirements for minor, mayor or Spanish requirement. All lectures are conducted mostly in Spanish.

The French section of Modern Languages and the Honors Department are pleased to announce HON2090. This course is open exclusively to Honors students in FREN 2020 and above and 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.
**Alien Life**

We will soon have to confront fundamental questions raised by the existence of alien life. This may seem like a far-fetched claim of the sort one only sees in speculative science fiction, developments within a number of scientific fields are now forcing us to start thinking about it seriously. For example, NASA's chief scientist recently announced: “I think we’re going to have strong indications of life beyond Earth within a decade, and I think we’re going to have definitive evidence within 20 to 30 years.” Synthetic biologists are racing to create life from pre-biotic components that qualify as living and have produced systems that satisfy many of the traditional criteria for life. Computer scientists have created programs that evolve in response to changing circumstances in ways their creators did not anticipate, leading some to argue that it is only a matter of time before they can be considered alive in their own right. These developments pose fundamental questions going far beyond science, which we will explore in this seminar. For example: What exactly is life? If we find or create it, what ethical obligations do we have towards it? What implications

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**The Clemson Experimental Forest: What, Where, Why?**

Clemson University is fortunate to have a 17,500 acre green space on its doorstep. You will learn about the following: the history of the Clemson area, how Clemson University has acquires and restored the Clemson Experimental Forest, and inhabitants of the Forest (both plants and animals). You will visit waterfalls, historic cemeteries, beaver ponds, old cotton field terraces, wetlands, house sites from the 1700’s, and more. Finally, you will also be able to discuss a wide variety of ideas regarding the future of the Forest. (On the Tuesday field experience students must be willing to carpool and arrive at designated lab sites on time if vans are not available.)

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**Puzzles, Problems, and Paradoxes**

Prepare for some surprises and challenges to your intuition! Statistics, probability, logic, and graph theory are fields that can help us understand and analyze a wide range of commonly encountered situations: mapping shortest routes using a GPS system, searching and interpreting DNA sequences, analyzing common voting systems and their fairness, decoding the gridlock in Congress, dating archaeological finds, among others. Such real-world scenarios will be interwoven with puzzles and mind-benders. The focus of this course is on evolving a rational, systematic approach to dealing with complex problems and on understanding why our intuition can often be misleading. This approach enables us to move from a possibly vague, convoluted or paradoxical statement of a problem to a rational method or algorithm for its solution.
The Public Face of Architecture

What is the relationship between the Public and the Profession of Architecture? How does the Public view Architecture and how does Architecture view the Public? What is the field of operation of the discipline, the practice, and the profession of architecture. And, most important, does architecture matter? This seminar will explore the public terrain of a field that is undergoing radical transformation.

Instructor
Dr. Timothy Brown

Day & Time
M 6:15-7:05

Course | Section | CRN
HON2050 | 1 | 89711

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Special Topics in Entrepreneurship

This course is to be taken by Honors students (in conjunction with ENTR 1010, Section 1 CRN 89564) who are curious about entrepreneurship. It’s a “stick your toe in the water” kind of course. We will explore many dimensions of new venture creation and growth. We will have successful alumni entrepreneurs and others come in as guest speakers. The ultimate goal is to help you learn how to start and run a successful business by yourself or with others so you can: utilize your gifts, become financially independent, and give back to society.

Instructor
John Hannon

Day & Time
F 10:10-11:00

Course | Section | CRN
HON2050 | 2 | 90160

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Check out all Honors Course sections in iROAR or on the Guidebook Clemson Events app.