Honors Fall 2019 Seminars

Literature/Non-literature

Cross-Cultural Awareness

Social Science

Science and Technology in Society

Elective/Other
Religious cults/secret societies

‘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.

World societies through great films

This course will involve watching, discussing, and reading about important films from around the world. The emphasis will be on analysis of content revealing social relations (especially gender, but also race, class, the impact of war and colonialism, social inequality, etc.), and material conditions in different times and places. The point will be to show that films are not only artistic masterpieces, but also consciously and unconsciously display the values and conditions of life in the periods when they were made. By its nature, this course is interdisciplinary: the films are works of art that can be interpreted like novels – hence the intellectual kinship with English. But the emphasis on values and material conditions will also combine elements of analysis from the disciplines of Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology. The course will be valuable for anyone interested in learning more about the world as reflected in global cinema.

Views of history in the ancient world

We will examine the two types of view of history: the linear and the cyclical, the two patterns in the cyclical group: the "uniform rotation" in the Indo-Hellenic tradition and the "chain of seamless links" in the Chinese one, and the relationship between the linear and the modern notion of "progress." Also, it explores important topics in historical understanding: nature and freedom, fact and meaning, past and future, etc. All readings and discussions are in English.
**Imaginary Friends in Fiction**

Imaginary friends have proven an enduring, endearing figure in everything from picture books to horror films. In this course, we'll identify recurring tropes and themes in texts about imaginary friends and discuss how these texts influence perceptions of people with imaginary friends. More broadly, we'll discuss the roles the imagination plays in the continuing development of the self.

**Instructor:** Professor April Peit  |  **Day & Time:** MW 3:35 - 4:50 PM  
**Course:** HON 1900 | **Section:** 1 | **CRN:** 80098

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**The Cultural Work of Comics**

Comics have a rich history of both reflecting and subverting mainstream society, toeing the line between endorsing dominant cultures while also giving voice to marginalized populations. In this course, we'll examine comics in a variety of forms, including superhero and action-adventure comics, serialized comic strips and webcomics, and indie and alternative comics. In so doing, we'll not only discuss the affordances and constraints of publishing in a sequential medium, but we will also examine the role that comics have played in shaping national discourses on a variety of topics, including patriotism, race, gender, sexuality, and social justice movements.

**Instructors:** Professors April Peit and Keri Crist-Wagner  |  **Day & Time:** TR 3:30 - 4:45 PM  
**Course:** HON 2210 | **Section:** 6 | **CRN:** 91123

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**Young Adult Literature**

This Honors College Seminar will focus on reading and analyzing various social constructs presented within young adult literature (i.e., youth, identity, race). Students will be required to read four books (e.g., The Hate You Give) and will choose from pre-determined lists five additional books. Young adult literature will be examined, analyzed, and discussed through different lenses. Students will develop an understanding of the complexities of YA literature and understand the need and purpose for reading YA to learn about life, racism, and ways to make positive changes in your own communities.

**Instructor:** Professor Rachel Savitz  |  **Day & Time:** M 5:45 - 8:30 PM  
**Course:** HON 2210 | **Section:** 7 | **CRN:** 91125

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**Harry Potter: Literary Forms and Authorial Control**

This course will explore the portrayal of authorship and literary structures within the Harry Potter series and the ways that the series itself has affected, reflected, and challenged genre constructions and authorial control. With a particular focus on the relationships of canon, fandom, and participatory culture, the course will address cultural ideologies about race and ethnicity, technology, gender, sexuality, and education itself. We'll analyze a range of literary forms (novel, film, play, video and board game) through a selection of Potter texts, their adaptations (both "official" and fan-produced). Relevant literary theory around adaptation, reproduction, and authorship will support the critical exploration of the primary sources. Our analytical discourse and course experience will extend beyond traditional assignments through creative, multimedia analyses and experiential learning in our own House Cup competition.

**Instructor:** Professor Megan MacAlystre  |  **Day & Time:** MWF 10:10 - 11:00 AM  
**Course:** HON 2210 | **Section:** 8 | **CRN:** 91126
**Diplomacy in Crisis**

The number of hot spots threatening 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. Though America is in possession of unparalleled military and economic power it cannot solve these problems alone. It needs alliances and cooperation of other powers. 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.

**Instructor:** Professor Vladimir Matic  
**Day & Time:** TR 2:00 - 3:15 PM  
**Course:** HON 1930 | Section: 1 | CRN: 82532

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**French Conversation**

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. 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.

**Instructor:** Professor Kenneth Widgren  
**Day & Time:** W 11:15 AM - 12:05 PM  
**Course:** HON 2090 | Section: 1 | CRN: 85054

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**Spanish Conversation**

HON 2090 is a one-hour course open exclusively to Honors students in SPAN 2010 and above. 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.

**Instructor:** Professor Adrienne Fama  
**Day & Time:** W 2:30 - 3:20 PM  
**Course:** HON 2090 | Section: 4 | CRN: 91122
Who Decides What's Cool?

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. 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.

Instructor: Professor Amanda Fine
Day & Time: TR 2:00 - 3:15 PM
Course: HON 2020 | Section: 5 | CRN: 91118

Positively Human

This course is about human nature. We will examine how our growing knowledge of the brain helps us better understand humans, our behaviors, and our choices. Part of our class will discuss human evolution and how viewing humans as adaptive animals can help us better understand human nature. Students will read, reflect on, and discuss different reading materials and other course assignments. There are no tests in this course. Instead, the class will be organized around discussions and course assignments. Reading materials will include 1 to 2 books as well as scientific articles. All students are expected to keep up with all course assignments and to contribute to the class discussions. The students will take turns leading the class discussions. Students will complete regular reflection papers (2 to 3 times a semester) about the readings and course activities. There will be a final assignment that replaces a cumulative final exam where students will create a final summary of the course material and how they can apply that information as they move forward in their life.

Instructor: Professor June Pilcher
Day & Time: TR 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Course: HON 1920 | Section: 1 | CRN: 80121

Evaluating the Sexual Health of Clemson University Students

Students will learn how to draw a stratified random sample, how social desirability and other factors can affect answers to sexual behavior surveys, to critically evaluate published studies of sexual health, and then will create a survey to determine the sexual health of Clemson University students. Both individual and group projects will be assigned. By consent of the instructor.

Instructor: Professor Bruce King
Day & Time: TR 2:00 - 3:15 PM
Course: HON 2020 | Section: 4 | CRN: 90666
Social Science

**Communism and the Berlin Wall**

In 1961, the East German Communist regime erected a wall that separated East Berlin from West Berlin with the aim of permanently sealing off the Communist East from the capitalist West. But a mere twenty-eight years later the Berlin Wall came crumbling down, and with it the entire Soviet system across Eastern Europe. On the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, this course examines the rise and fall of Soviet Communism with the ultimate purpose of asking: What kind of world do we now live in after the collapse of the Berlin Wall? We will explore this and other questions through primary sources in philosophy, history, literature, and film.

**Instructor:** Professor Michael Meng  
**Day & Time:** TR 9:30 - 10:45 AM  
**Course:** HON 2020 | Section: 3 | CRN: 86894

**Why Business: Profit or Progress**

Business is a ubiquitous fixture of modern life. Like it or not, we live in a “commercial” society where business transactions comprise a large portion of all interpersonal interactions. What are the implications of this commercialization? Is the pursuit of profit a selfish and uncaring activity? Or is business a form of services that accelerates human progress? From a variety of perspectives including economics, law, and philosophy, this course examines a range of questions related to the role of business in our daily lives.

**Instructor:** Professor Reed Watson  
**Day & Time:** TR 2:00 - 3:15 PM  
**Course:** HON 2200 | Section: 1 | CRN: 80129

**Why We Eat What We Eat**

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?”

**Instructor:** Professor Elizabeth Durrance  
**Day & Time:** R 11:15 AM - 1:45 PM  
**Course:** HON 2060 | Section: 5 | CRN: 91125

**The History of Brexit**

In June 2016, the voters of the United Kingdom chose to leave the European Union, in a decision likely to have a massive impact on the future of both the UK and Europe. This class will explore the historical roots of Brexit, and provide an up-to-minute analysis as events continue to evolve.

**Instructor:** Professor Stephanie Barczewski  
**Day & Time:** TR 3:30 - 4:45 PM  
**Course:** HON 1920 | Section: 3 | CRN: 90707
**pionspired**

The course theme will be how nature provides inspiration for human-made products. Nature has had a long time to experiment with designs, whereas humans are relative newcomers. The focus will be on insects and their kin and what useful ideas we can get from them. Case studies will be interwoven with discussions of how imitating nature has affected society.

**Clemson Experimental Forest**

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 acquired and restored the Clemson Experimental Forest, and inhabitants of the Forest. You will visit waterfalls, historic cemeteries, beaver ponds, old cotton field terraces, wetlands, house sites from the 1700’s, and more. (On the Tuesday field experience students must be willing to carpool and arrive at designated lab sites on time if vans are not available.)

**Autonomous Vehicles: Perils and Promise**

The development of autonomous vehicles seeks to infuse our daily commutes with artificial intelligence, promising to provide better and safer transportation than human drivers are capable of. But that promise comes with much potential peril. In this course we will take a critical look at the state of the art in driverless cars, taxis, and even pilotless planes and helicopters. By looking at the history of how previous breakthrough technologies have both benefited and harmed society, each student will develop their own predictions for both the promise, and peril, of autonomous vehicles.

**Puzzles and Paradoxes**

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. 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.
**university - industry connection**

This one-hour seminar will introduce students interested in pursuing science and engineering careers to the industrial environment. The seminar will center on the development and manufacture of the most energy-efficient tantalum capacitors - the key electrical component whose miniaturization has led to the development of life-saving cardiac interventions such as the implantable defibrillator. The seminar will also explore differences between academia and industry and collaborations that merge the strengths of both institutions. The seminar will include a tour of KEMET Electronics, a global producer of electronic components headquartered in Simpsonville, SC, where students will see high-tech operations on the production floor, in analytical and testing labs, and in the Innovation Center.

*This is a one-credit hour course.

**Instructor**
Professor Yuri Freeman

**Day & Time**
W 11:15 AM - 12:05 PM

**Course | Section | CRN**
HON 2050 | 3 | 87664

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**Special Topics: Entrepreneurship**

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.

*This is a one-credit hour course.

**Instructor**
Professor John Hannon

**Day & Time**
T 6:00 - 7:00 PM

**Course | Section | CRN**
HON 2050 | 5 | 88498

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**Check out all Honors course sections in iROAR or on the Guidebook Clemson Events app**