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HONORS SEMINARS
A Good Person Speaking Well: Public Speaking from a Classical Tradition

Want to speak masterfully? Many of our world’s great orators were classically trained, using educational models from the Greeks and Romans. You don’t need to be a great speaker to take this class, because you will learn how to speak well using a blend of ancient speaking practices and contemporary research on speaking effectiveness.

Instructor: Professor Elizabeth Gilmore | Day & Time: TR 9:30 - 10:45 AM | Course: HON 2230 | Section: 1 | CRN: 85501

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: MW 2:30 - 3:45 PM
Course: HON 2020 | Section: 1 | CRN: 80008

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: 3 | CRN: 89410

2020 Elections

President Trump will face reelection in November, likely against former Vice President Biden. The entire House and 35 Senate seats will be contested as well. These races will affect whether the next president can achieve his policy & political goals. In this course, we’ll discuss how elections work, what shapes their outcomes, and why the results matter.

Instructor: Professor Jeff Fine
Day & Time: TR 2:00 - 3:15 PM
Course: HON 2200 | Section: 1 | CRN: 80126
Who is a monster? What makes something monstrous? In the twenty-first century, American culture and popular entertainment seems to be obsessed with monsters – not only ghosts, zombies, vampires, scary clowns, and predatory aliens, but also figures closer to the real world such as serial killers, cult leaders, stalkers and rogue terrorists. According to Jeffrey Cohen’s second thesis of monster culture “the monster always escapes,” while his sixth thesis hypothesizes that “fear of the monster is really a kind of desire.” If the monstrous is really an expression of cultural desires which are nevertheless ever elusive, then the current fascination with the monster in popular films, television and literature is an aspect of contemporary culture which is well worth investigating. This seminar will explore the monster in literature and culture – both its beginnings and current expressions in contemporary media – through the lens of Cohen’s seven theses of monster culture as well as from the perspective of recent theories of cultural memory. Over the course of the semester we will interrogate the definition of the monstrous and look particularly at how the monster materializes in texts outside of the traditional horror genre such as mystery novels and superhero films. In doing so, we will seek to uncover what these manifestations of the monstrous tell us about who we are as a society.

Instructor: Professor Mary Nestor
Day & Time: MWF 2:30 - 3:20 PM
Course: HON 2210 | Section: 1 | CRN: 80128

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 Pelt
Day & Time: MW 3:35 - 4:50 PM
Course: HON 1900 | Section: 1 | CRN: 80095
When asked about LGBTQ political issues, most people's first thought will be of marriage equality, with perhaps some additional thoughts about workplace inclusion and hate crimes laws. Yet these are only a small part of the history and reach of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer movements and communities in the USA and beyond. This course will explore the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer writers with an aim to better acquaint students with the struggles of LGBTQ people in America from the mid-20th century through today. Examining queer fictional and non-fictional texts will reveal how sexual orientation and non-binary gender influence authors' creative interpretations of themselves, their culture, and the world at large. Themes of growing up queer, coming out, families, relationships, communities, homophobia, loss, and identity formation are explored. Using interdisciplinary approaches that incorporate race, class, gender, and nation as analytical categories alongside sexuality, the course looks at the tools that LGBTQ studies offers for understanding power and culture. Students will learn to think more critically about human differences of gender and sexuality, and why understanding LGBTQ perspectives is important for their academic studies, careers, and lives. The course offers an opportunity to propose, present, and/or attend a free-of-cost national conference on queer studies at the University of Maryland, College Park—its annual queer studies symposium held each April. Students will learn how to develop strong academic arguments that utilize queer theory, propose their ideas for a panel presentation, attend the conference, and interact with leading queer theorists and scholars in the field.

**Instructor:** Professor Gregory Chwala

**Day & Time:** TR 12:30 - 1:45 PM

**Course:** HON 2210 | Section: 2 | CRN: 86360

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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 web comics, 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:** Professor April Pelt & Professor Keri Crist-Wagner

**Day & Time:** TR 3:30-4:45 PM

**Course:** HON 2210 | Section: 3 | CRN: 87141
These groups have been blamed for unspeakable actions. We will look to see if any truth can be found to substantiate these wild, and even terrifying rumors. If you've ever wondered about the moon landing; Knights Templar; New World Order; the deaths of the Kennedys; Marilyn Monroe, Black Dahlia, Houdini...; and what happened at Roswell, this class is for you.

Instructor: Professor Peter Cohen | Day & Time: TR 9:30 - 10:45 AM | Course: HON 2030 | Section: 2 | CRN: 84718

**Religion/ Cults/ Secret Societies**

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.

Instructor: Professor Steven Marks | Day & Time: R 6:15 - 9:00 PM | Course: HON 2030 | Section: 3 | CRN: 89337

**World Societies through Great Films**

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.

Instructor: Professor Yanming An | Day & Time: TR 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM | Course: HON 2030 | Section: 4 | CRN: 89767

**Views of History in the Ancient World**

Cultural Theory & Popular Culture

What is popular culture, and why should we study it? Why does something become popular, and how can it be tied to societal (in)equality? From music, movies, and video games to clothing, toys, and advertisements, popular culture shapes the way we think about ourselves and the world around us; it contains messages about a society’s hopes, fears, and expectations. In this course, students will learn the fundamental theoretical approaches to the study of popular culture and apply them to the consumption of popular culture in everyday life. Topics covered in this course will include: semiotics, ideology and hegemony, political economy, taste, globalization, genre theory, audience and fandom studies, and representation.

Instructor: Professor Briana Pocratsky | Day & Time: W 4:00 - 6:45 PM | Course: HON 2030 | Section: 5 | CRN: 91172

Traffic lights, a hashtag, the clothes you wear, every word you read: these are all signs. But why do they mean what they mean? This is the domain of semiotics, a discipline that brings together many fields, such as linguistics, sociology, marketing, and many more. You will learn to think critically about how we create sense and meaning in the world around us.

Instructor: Professor Kenneth Widgren | Day & Time: MWF 1:25 - 2:15 PM | Course: HON 2030 | Section: 1 | CRN: 84368
Gender, Race, Pimples and Politics: The Historic Battle for "Clean Skin"

Yeast. Arsenic. UV rays. Sulphur. Bleach. All were used in attempts to blast away pimples and pigment over the course of the twentieth century. This class will examine the many narratives that have surrounded “desirable” and “undesirable” skin in the twentieth century. How does one achieve “clean skin”? What does “clean skin” allow one to achieve in society? More broadly, what do obsessions with obliterating pigment, oil and dirt tell us about race, gender and political norms at the time?

Instructor: Professor Rachel Moore
Day & Time: TR 9:30 - 10:45 AM
Course | Section | CRN
HON 2220 | 1 | 83522

Diplomacy in Crisis

Though America is in possession of unparalleled military and economic power it cannot solve international problems alone. It needs alliances and cooperation of other powers. Diplomacy is crucial for the security of the United States and it seems to be in crisis and not sufficiently effective. If diplomacy doesn’t work shall we be tempted to resort to use of military power or withdraw to isolation or maybe combine the two? A combination of lectures and seminar format will ensure active participation of students and satisfy their intellectual curiosity while they study the developments in the world today.

Instructor: Professor Vladimir Matic
Day & Time: TR 2:00 - 3:15 PM
Course: HON 1930 | Section: 1 | CRN: 82392

French Conversation

This course is open exclusively to Honors students in FREN 2010 and above and will take the place of an honors contract you would otherwise have in your French class. We 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: R 9:30 - 10:20 AM
Course: HON 2090 | Section: 1 | CRN: 84768
Public transportation is a key component of a modern society. Attitudes, customs, politics, and economics all play a key role in determining what kinds of public transportation are provided, and which sectors of society avail themselves of these services. This course is designed to fuse the cognitive and contextual benefits of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) Course in a global perspective. The seminar will compare public transportation in the United States with selected countries. The course will consider historical, regional, geographic, and industrial policy issues in comparing US and global attitudes towards public transportation. Student input, both as to the countries discussed and as to the topics of emphasis, is key both to the student’s performance and to overall seminar success.

**Instructor:** Professor Alexander Billinis  
**Day & Time:** MWF 10:10 - 11:00 AM  
**Course:** HON 2060 | Section: 2 | CRN: 80124

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Clemson University is fortunate to “own” a 17,500 acre managed forest surrounding the campus. The Clemson Experimental Forest (CEF) is a place full of history, multiple uses and a place for recreation and relaxation. The forest is used as a laboratory, a revenue source, and an oasis in an increasingly developed region. It is here because of a combination of hard times for farmers, government intervention, the vision of a Clemson College Agriculture Professor, and the diligent forest management by Clemson University. This is a true example of the intersection of science, technology and society.

**Instructor:** Professor Knight Cox  
**Day & Time:** T 2:00 - 6:00 PM  
**Course:** HON 2060 | Section: 1 | CRN: 80123

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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 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.

**Instructor:** Professor Charles Beard  
**Day & Time:** TR 8:00 - 9:15 AM  
**Course:** HON 1940 | Section: 1 | CRN: 80122

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Public transportation and culture: U.S. and selected countries

Public transportation is a key component of a modern society. Attitudes, customs, politics, and economics all play a key role in determining what kinds of public transportation are provided, and which sectors of society avail themselves of these services. This course is designed to fuse the cognitive and contextual benefits of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) Course in a global perspective. The seminar will compare public transportation in the United States with selected countries. The course will consider historical, regional, geographic, and industrial policy issues in comparing US and global attitudes towards public transportation. Student input, both as to the countries discussed and as to the topics of emphasis, is key both to the student’s performance and to overall seminar success.

**Instructor:** Professor Alexander Billinis  
**Day & Time:** MWF 10:10 - 11:00 AM  
**Course:** HON 2060 | Section: 2 | CRN: 80124

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**University - Industry Connection**

This seminar provides information on the important features of the industrial companies and typical engineering jobs in industry such as process and quality, R&D, marketing and sales. Electronic components, building blocks of all electronic devices, and implantable cardio defibrillators (ICD), life-saving electronic devices, will be used as examples, and tour of the local facility of the global KEMET Electronics Corporation will be provided. Dr. Yuri Freeman, the instructor, is Vice President / Technical Fellow at KEMET Electronics with career experience in industry. The seminar will help students to get right job in industry, adjust quickly to the industrial environment, and progress there.

*This is a one-credit hour course.

Instructor: **Professor Yuri Freeman**
Day & Time: **W 11:15 AM - 12:05 PM**
Course: **HON 2050 | Section: 3 | CRN: 87054**

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**Emblems of Culture: Crests in Residential Colleges**

Within the context of a residential college, the crest stands as an emblem of community that connects members past, present and future. The crest is a visual representation of the values and stories of the residential college and its residents. All parts of the crest are intentionally selected and included to be a part of the storytelling of the space. This course will create an interdisciplinary space where students will be able to develop a community crest for the Honors Residential College and articulate its role in the continued development of the culture of the community.

*This is a one-credit hour course.

Instructor: **Professor Yolande Graham**
Day & Time: **M 3:00 - 5:00 PM**
Course: **HON 2050 | Section: 1 | CRN: 86271**

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**Social Entrepreneurship**

Examination of a current issue or set of issues from a variety of academic perspectives. Learn, then utilize, a combination of scientific, business, and leadership skills to make a difference in the world through social entrepreneurship. This course has changed the life trajectories of numerous previous Clemson Calhoun Honors Students.

*This is a one-credit hour course.

Instructor: **Professor John Hannon**
Day & Time: **T 6:00 - 7:00 PM**
Course: **HON 2050 | Section: 5 | CRN: 87714**

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**The World of Color**

Color is all around us, but what do we really know about it? Much of what we are taught is either wrong or not backed by real evidence. Take an educational trip through the world of color to learn the physics, history, art, and psychology of color.

Instructor: **Professor John Seymour**
Day & Time: **TR 2:00 - 3:15 PM**
Course: **HON 2070 | Section: 1 | CRN: 91134**
This seminar asks what difference literature makes in a world formed and sustained by inequity. We will study literary texts as works of art that grapple with how to think about injustice and how to respond to the potential for redress. We will consider texts that invent fictional or lyrical worlds as well as texts that explicitly invoke and confront the world in which the authors and we live now. Our study of literature will be informed by readings from the study of history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, and law. One touchstone for our reading list will be Sophocles’ 4th century BCE tragedy Antigone and recent adaptations into drama, poetry, comics, non-fiction, and cross-genre writings. Broad concerns include the politics of life and death; mourning and survival; incarceration and liberation; contested rights of migration, emplacement, detention, and expulsion; embodiments of race, class, gender, and sexuality; linguistic, aesthetic, and cultural translations; and the meaning of violence. Possible authors include Sophocles, Anne Carson, Sara Uribe, Griselda Gambaro, Athol Fugard, Kamila Shamsie, Mahmoud Darwish, and Octavia Butler. This course will involve intensive reading, writing, and conversation. Meets General Education Literature requirement.

First-Year Intercultural Communication

In this course, students will be introduced to “the process of communication between and among individuals from different cultures or subcultures. The course emphasizes the effect of cultural practices within various communication relational contexts such as interpersonal, small group, and organizational communication.” The course includes the following objectives:

1. Develop perspectives about the influence of culture on the sending and interpreting of messages
2. Discover the complexity of communication in an intercultural communication exchange
3. Become more willing to interact in intercultural message exchanges
4. Develop a reflective process for improving the analysis of intercultural exchanges
5. Recognize the influence of our own cultural situation upon the sending and interpreting of messages

Meets General Education Communication requirement.

Instructor: Professor Andrew Pyle | Day & Time: MWF 2:30 - 5:15 PM | Course: HON 2230 | Section: 2 | CRN: 87378
Check out all 1000-2000 level Honors course sections in iROAR or the Honors College's Canvas workgroup