Honors Fall 2018 Seminars

Cross-Cultural Awareness

Social Science

Literature/Non-literature

Science and Technology in Society

Elective/Other
religion/ 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.

This class will give students an understanding of the policies and priorities of Russia from the fall of the Soviet Union to the regime of Vladimir Putin. It will do so by taking a broad historical approach, examining the impact of the Russian past on the present. It will also place other aspects of Russian society in historical context, from economics and culture to foreign policy. We will read some great books and analyze some remarkable films.

Instructor
Professor Steven Marks
Day & Time
R 12:30 - 3 PM
Course | Section | CRN
HON 2220 | 1 | 84014

Frankenstein at 200

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's pioneering science fiction novel Frankenstein. Shelley’s "hideous progeny" created a sensation in 1818 and continues to fascinate—and terrify—its modern audiences. In this course, we will explore why Frankenstein remains relevant today.

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
HON 2210 | 4 | 89239
MW 12:30 - 1:45 PM
Course | Section | CRN
HON 2210 | 1 | 80139

Instructor
Professor Peter Cohen
Day & Time
TR 9:30 - 10:45 AM
Course | Section | CRN
HON 2030 | 2 | 85413

Putin's Russia

Instructor
Professor Melissa Makala
Day & Time
Course | Section | CRN
HON 2210 | 1 | 80139

HON 2210 | 4 | 89239
TR 3:30 - 4:45 PM
Literature

Young Adult Literature
This Honors College Seminar will focus on reading young adult literature and discussing how various social constructs (i.e., youth, identity, race) are represented through characters and story elements. Students will be required to read certain texts and books (e.g., *House on Mango Street* and *The Hate You Give*) and then provided choices for selection for certain weeks. Additionally, we will conduct virtual book clubs with a local high school to interact with senior book club students, regarding the books we all are reading. 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 using YA lit in classrooms.

Instructor: Professor Rachel Savitz | Day & Time: M 5:45 - 8:30 PM | Course: HON 2210 | Section: 3 | CRN: 88856

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 - 3:15 PM | Course: HON 1930 | Section: 1 | CRN: 82734

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: R 2 - 2:50 PM | Course: HON 2090 | Section: 2 | CRN: 86248

Cross-Cultural Awareness
In Europe, World War II continues to be a frequent point of reference in contemporary politics, as politicians from all parties share a basic consciousness of its relevance and trauma. Using the recent appearances of World War II in the political rhetoric of multiple European nations, this class will explore how and why the war remains such an important point of reference nearly three-quarters of a century after it ended.

**Instructor:** Professor Stephanie Barczewski  
**Day & Time:** TR 3:30 - 4:45 PM  
**Course:** HON 1920 | Section: 1 | CRN: 80128

**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 - 3:15 PM  
**Course:** HON 2020 | Section: 1 | CRN: 80008

**Wisdom of the Moderns**

We today live in a fast-moving, highly technological, liberal, democratic, globalized world. Why then would we wish to study classic works in modern philosophy and literature from the last century let alone from centuries before that? The answer here is that it has long been claimed that these works are an essential component for coming to a full consciousness of what it means to be both a human being and a citizen irrespective of time and place. Hence this course is designed to expose the student to those modern writers who have considered most thoughtfully the meaning of the 'good life' and the demands it places upon the character of individuals if it is to be pursued.

**Instructor:** Professor Colin Pearce  
**Day & Time:** MWF 9:05 - 9:55 AM  
**Course:** HON 2020 | Section: 3 | CRN: 87607

**Environmental Law and Policy**

Examines environmental law and policy from an economic perspective. Investigates the relationship between property right structures, economic incentives, and regulation. Modern and historical cases reveal the challenges of allocating environmental resources among competing uses.

**Instructor:** Professor Reed Watson  
**Day & Time:** MW 2:30 - 3:45 PM  
**Course:** HON 2200 | Section: 2 | CRN: 82977
public pole of private wealth

At first glance, nonprofit organizations in the United States—from the Sierra Club and the American Red Cross to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—might seem to be rather uncontroversial, benevolent actors serving the public good. As nonprofits, they are neither representing the profitseeking motives of the private sector nor the perceived inefficiencies of the public sector. From this perspective, nonprofit organizations might appear to incorporate the best of both the private and public realms. And yet, as we will discuss in this seminar, Americans long have debated the democratic value of these organizations. After all, U.S. nonprofits—much like governments at the local, state, and federal levels in the U.S.—aim to shape public policies. Unlike their public analogues, however, these private institutions are largely unaccountable to their publics. The U.S. public, for example, does not elect the staff and trustees at these organizations nor does it have access to these organizations’ decisionmaking practices: forms of public accountability that Americans expect from their public institutions. Adding yet another layer of stress to the public role of these private organizations in democratic life, Americans long have questioned if some of these nonprofits—particularly wealthy philanthropies such as the Gates, Ford, and Rockefeller foundations—overpower individual citizens’ presumed equal right to shape public life. Taking a historical lens to the complex role of these wealthy philanthropic organizations in the U.S. since their genesis in the Gilded Age, we will continuously return to the central question of this seminar: Have elite philanthropies—and nonprofits more generally—furthered or undermined democratic life in the United States throughout the past centuries?

Instructor: Professor Maribel Morey  Day & Time: TR 12:30 - 1:45 PM  Course: HON 2200  Section: 1  CRN: 80136

This November, every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives will be up for grabs, along with 35 seats in the U.S. Senate. These elections will have a large impact on American politics, shaping the issues and policies that will be addressed in the last two years of President Trump’s current term in office. A record number of women are running for a seat in Congress in 2018, and we have seen some indications that youth engagement may be higher this year than in recent midterm elections. These factors and more can have an important effect on election outcomes and the landscape of Washington. In this course, we will tackle a variety of questions relating to congressional elections in general, and specifically the 2018 midterm elections. Among them: Who runs for Congress and why? What role does money play in congressional elections? Why are there so many negative ads and what effect do they have? How do the 2018 elections compare to other landmark elections? What makes a voter cast a ballot for one candidate over another? How do the media influence elections? How are social media sites (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) changing the landscape of elections in America?

Instructor: Professor Jeffrey Fine  Day & Time: TR 12:30 - 1:45 PM  Course: HON 2200  Section: 3  CRN: 86431

Businesses are a ubiquitous fixture of modern life in America and globally. Like it or not, we live in a “commercial” society where transactions comprise a large portion of all interpersonal interactions. What are the implications of this commercialization? Is business activity inherently greedy, corrupt, and uncaring? Can we trust businesses to “do the right thing”? From a variety of perspectives including economics, law, and philosophy, this course will explore a range of questions related to the role of business in our daily lives.

Instructor  Professor Brad Hobbs  Day & Time  MW 9:05 - 10:20 AM  Course: HON 2200  Section: 4  CRN: 86568
pioneered

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 - 9:15 AM
Course: HON 1940 I Section: 1 I CRN: 80132

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.)

Instructor: Professor Knight Cox
Day & Time: T 2 - 6 PM
Course: HON 2060 I Section: 1 I CRN: 80133

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.

Instructor: Professor Jonathan Maier
Day & Time: MWF 1:25 - 2:15 PM
Course: HON 2060 I Section: 2 I CRN: 80134

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.

Instructor: Professor Marilyn Reba
Day & Time: TR 11 AM - 12:15 PM
Course: HON 2060 I Section: 3 I CRN: 80135
**Architecture: Ideas & Practice**

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

*This is a one-credit hour course.

**Instructor:** Professor Tim Brown  
**Day & Time:** M 6:15 - 7:05 PM  
**Course:** HON 2050  
**Section:** 1  
**CRN:** 87423

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**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:** HON 2050  
**Section:** 3  
**CRN:** 88650

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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 - 7 PM  
**Course:** HON 2050  
**Section:** 5  
**CRN:** 89923

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