Clemson Honors
Spring 2020 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 non-lit requirement
HON 2020 – Technology and Culture: Global Challenges

CRN: 16789  Meets: MWF 10:10-11:00
Professor Alexander Billinis

This course is designed to fuse the cognitive and contextual benefits of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) Course with a Global Challenges Curriculum that will incorporate a global perspective. The course will focus on the Car in Culture and Technology, comparing the United States Car Culture with that of Europe, particularly Germany. The course will consider historical, regional, geographic, environmental and industrial policy issues in comparing US and European attitudes towards the automobile, and its future use.

* Satisfies an STS requirement
‘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 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-lit requirement*
HON 2030 – Communist Modernity: Politics and Culture of Soviet Utopia

CRN:17573       Meets: TH 11:00 -12:15
Professor Olga Volkova

The Soviet Union perished, but the communist horizon is not lost, and its legacy continues to shape the modern world. Originally conceived as an ideological, socio-political, economic, and cultural alternative to capitalist crises, communism was founded on the premises of common ownership, equality, and universal brotherhood. But the attempt to build a new utopian world on these premises turned out costly and brutal. Discrepancies between utopian visions and their specific applications became quickly apparent: common ownership extinguished proprietary instincts; equality morphed into uniformity and lack of individuality; and brotherhood evolved into a stratified system presided by the watchful Big Brother.

* Satisfies a non-lit requirement
HON 2050 – Social Entrepreneurship

CRN:
Meets: Professor John Hannon

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.

*Satisfies a Social Science requirement*
HON 2050 – Architects Doing Architectures
CRN: 15906          Meets: W 6:15-7:05
Professor Timothy Brown

What is it that architects actually do? And how do they do it? What motivates them? What worries them? What challenges does designing today's built environment pose? This seminar will offer a look into the field of architecture as it rapidly, and radically, changes.

*Satisfies an honors “other” requirement
How is ethical knowledge like and unlike "scientific" knowledge of the world around us? Are ethical judgments responses to ethical facts out there in the world, or merely records of our own biases and preferences? In this course we'll consider how knowledge of the natural world around us ("scientific" knowledge) is like and unlike ethical knowledge. We'll also look at the ways that science can change or improve ethical knowledge, and the ways that ethics can improve and expand scientific knowledge. This course will examine these interrelated questions by focusing on the nature of ethical knowledge. How is ethical knowledge like and unlike other knowledge, including knowledge of the natural world (i.e. scientific knowledge)? How, if at all, can knowledge of the natural world contribute to ethics? How can ethics contribute to knowledge of the natural world?

* Satisfies an STS requirement
How The Struggle For The Impossible Led To New Possibilities

Throughout history, people have struggled with math problems, from squaring the circle and trisecting an angle, to solving polynomial equations and understanding infinity. Some major problems turned out to be impossible. While this might be seen as a bad thing, it has often led to new discoveries. We'll explore how struggling with the impossible has inspired creativity and new discoveries.

*Satisfies an STS requirement*
HON 2070 – Deep Work: Productivity and Critical Thinking Theory and Practice

CRN: 13802         Meets: TR 11:00-12:15
Professor Andrew Pyle

Students in this course will empirically test the claims in the productivity research literature by implementing "Deep Work" strategies in their own lives. Students will study the literature and implement best practices for one semester. This work will include data collection and analysis, followed by research reports based on their experiences in productivity. Results will be shared in white papers and Honors College presentations, with the possibility of one or more conference presentations and research articles.

*A Creative Inquiry and Problem Solving Class*
HON 2090 – French Discussion Group

CRN: 14076       Meets: 10:10-11:00
Professor Kenneth Widgren

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.

* Satisfies a CCA requirement
HON 2200 - Tomboys, Jocks, and Drama Queens
CRN: 13570  Meets: MW 4:00-5:15
Professor Megan Che

(Trans)Gender Construction in Schools: 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 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 – Middle Eastern societies through Film

CRN: 10723            Meets: T 9:30-12:00

Professor Amit Bein

The course examines societies in the Middle East through films produced by local filmmakers in their vernaculars, for consumption by local audiences. Focusing on Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, and Israel and the Palestinian Territories, topics addressed include women’s rights, poverty and privilege, religious vs. secular influences, and relations and tensions between ethnic groups. The aim is to have an inside look on how these topics are addressed from within Middle Eastern societies, while placing them in the broader context of the history of modern Middle East in general, and each society in particular.

*Satisfies an Social Science requirement*
The tiny-house movement in America is nothing new; in 1845 Henry David Thoreau, the transcendental philosopher and “father” of small living, built a 150 square ft. home in the woods because he wished to live “deliberately.” Since then, many groups and individuals have embraced the small living concept. Proponents of the 21st century version of the tiny-house movement often use the words “new” and “revolutionary” when describing small living, but is that accurate? How does the most recent incarnation of the tiny-house movement differ from previous efforts? This course will explore the many myths and realities surrounding the tiny-house movement and its impact on the American housing landscape.

*Satisfies a Social Science requirement*
Critics often demean fantasy & science fiction as escapist, but American grandmasters of speculative fiction, following Tolkien and Lewis, defend it as a place to preserve wonder and mystery in our scientific world. Their defenses rise from different religious points of view. (Religion & Literature)

*Satisfies a Literature requirement*
HON 2210 – Reading Sexual Violence and White Supremacy

CRN: 12290        Meets: TR 9:30-10:45
Professor Maya Hislop

This course examines a selection of theory, literature, and historical archival material surrounding the issues of sexual violence and white supremacy. The literary works under examination are by and about black women and will be read through a critical rape-race studies lens. Students who are excited by interdisciplinary work will be able to apply that excitement to the history unit at the center of the course. During the history unit, students are asked to read and analyze primary sources in the University archives of Special Collections. Students investigate Clemson as a site (like most U.S. universities and public institutions of learning) at which the contentious issues of sexual violence, white supremacy, and national identity collide. This history will hopefully allow students to not only contextualize their reflections on the literary and theoretical materials but also conduct comparative analyses of a variety of sources, genres, and pathways towards accessing this history. Throughout the course, students will learn how to extend and deepen their skills as critical analysts, to think and speak creatively, and to write compellingly. Written work includes a short analysis, a longer analytic essay, and a research project with optional creative/digital component.

*Satisfies a Literature requirement
The spy novel has been a staple of Anglo-American literature at least since the publication of Erskine Childers’s *Riddle of the Sands* in 1903. Spy novels appeal to a broad readership because they provide adventure, romance, exotic locales, high-stakes conflict, and glimpses into organizations and institutions that are otherwise shrouded in secrecy. But spy novels function as much more than entertaining “airplane” books. They combine fantasy and reality, telling (or mis-telling) important narratives about history and present-day politics. They function as propaganda, at times supporting and at times undermining national or international policies. And they provide us with insights into how (and how well) the government works, and whether, in the end, espionage is truly compatible with the ideals of democracy.

*Satisfies a Literature requirement*
HON 2210 – Building Imaginary Worlds
CRN: 13534 Meets: M 4:40-7:25
CRN: 17731 Meets: W 4:40-7:25
Professor April Pelt

Worldbuilding—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 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*
HON 2210 – Hybrid Literature

CRN: 13136         Meets: TR 2:00-3:15

Professor Lee Matalone

“Conventional fiction teaches the reader that life is a coherent fathomable whole that concludes in a neatly wrapped-up revelation. Life, though— standing on a street corner, channel surfing, trying to navigate the web or a declining relationship, hearing that a close friend died last night— flies at us in bright splinters” — Lance Olsen

The poet Charles Simic defines collage as “the art of reassembling fragments of preexisting images in such a way as to form a new image.” This course centers around the notion of literary collage, an artform of reassembling fragments of preexisting and new texts in such a way as to form a new text. Emerson dubbed such an inclusive work a panharmonicon, a form in which “everything is admissible— philosophy, ethics, divinity, criticism, poetry, humor, fun, mimicry, anecdote, jokes, ventriloquism— all the breadth and versatility of the most liberal conversation, highest and lowest personal topics.” In a panharmonicon, Emerson continues, “all are permitted, all may be combined into one speech.” In this class, students will read and write literature that integrates everything— lists, letters, statistics, aphorisms, jokes, images, poems, fiction, nonfiction— and interrogate why and how these forms do what they do. Why not write a more traditional narrative? What greater truth(s) do collage and fragmentation seek to uncover? Literary forms such as flash fiction, the nonfiction novel, autofiction, the mini-essay, and the lyric essay, as well as the weird, funky, and uncategorizable, will be examined. In the course, students will write 2-3 short works of literary analysis and one extended creative work of literary collage.

*Satisfies a Literature requirement*
HON 2240 – Diplomacy in Crisis

CRN: 13535       Meets: TR 3:30-4:45
Professor Vladimir Matic

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.

*Satisfies a CCA requirement