

Colloquium

Kate McPherson

HONR 1000R-001: Listening

Description: HONR 1000R will explore the theme Listening in Spring 2026. Expect class sessions on topics as diverse as politics, anthropology, interfaith engagement, cosmology, poetry, artificial intelligence, music, and interpersonal communication. Students will complete an ethnographic listening assignment in addition to choosing from a huge variety of events funded by Honors.

Tiffany Nez

HONR 1000R-Z09: NYC Excursion

Description: Attend New York City with Honors during Spring Break and earn credit for the Colloquium requirement. **Departmental Approval required;** preference given to JR and SR. Fee \$1850. Prior application required.

Independent Study/Research with Honors Faculty Fellow

Dr. Ruhul Kuddus

HONR 300R: Special Topic: Impact of Transplantation Medicine in the 21st century

Description: Organ transplantation is the only effective method of treating terminal organ failure. Although the first human organ was successfully transplanted in 1954, widespread use of the procedure was impeded until effective immunosuppressive drugs were developed in the 1960s and 1970s. The rapid progress in surgical and medical procedures has since created 'shortages of donor organs' as the new principal obstacle to the field of transplantation medicine. Vital human organs can only be extracted from a deceased person of good health. Non-vital organs (such as one of the two kidneys and part of the skin or liver) can be obtained from a healthy live individual. Thus, organ donation has always been a subject of intense ethical and legal scrutiny. The supply gap has created a significant waiting list, leading to increased morbidity, mortality, and economic losses. It has also contributed to various social, cultural, and financial issues, such as illegal organ trade and human trafficking, while simultaneously inspiring new research on stem cell creation for organs and the use of animal organs for transplantation. The current course examines the scientific, ethical, legal, social, and economic implications of transplantation medicine in some developed and developing nations.

Course format

The course will be designed as a hybrid course with one 75-minute face-to-face session per week. The course will be centered on 14 recent review articles (1 article/week) featuring different aspects of the implications of transplantation medicine. The instructor

will summarize the subject area of the article of the week in every face-to-face session of the course. In addition, one or more students (based on class size) will have a 20-minute slot to present a part of the article of the week. The instructor will involve students in collecting data on some aspects of transplantation medicine in the United States, analyzing the data using statistical tools, and writing a research manuscript (based on the analysis) to be submitted for publication. Additionally, the instructor will organize a field trip for students to meet with organ procurement coordinators, transplant nurses, and physicians at a regional hospital. The grading for the course will be based on student participation, writing/submitting reports, and audiovisual presentation.

(subject to revisions).

Dr. Kuddus is a world expert on this issue, and students will assist in the preparation of a publishable paper on the topic. This class may be substituted for HONR 2000 or HONR 2100 by students with more than 40 credits and who have completed ENGL 2010/2010H

Ancient Legacies

Grant Moss

HONR 2000-001; HONR 2000-002

Description: For this course, we will examine three classic texts—Homer’s *The Odyssey*, Shakespeare’s *Othello*, and Shakespeare’s *Sonnets*—and compare them with modern texts that deal with similar characters and themes. Specifically, we’ll compare *The Odyssey* with Madeline Miller’s novel *Circe*, *Othello* with Keith Hamilton Cobb’s play *American Moor*, and Shakespeare’s *Sonnets* with Marilyn Nelson’s *A Wreath for Emmett Till*. Hopefully, this will help us gain a greater appreciation for the ancient works and see what relevance and influence they have in the modern era. Coursework will include some short essays, an oral presentation, and a research project.

Kristina Gibby

HONR 2000 Ancient Legacies: Heroes and Monsters in World Literature

Description: The hero’s journey is a common theme in world literature dating back to the earliest written works. From the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and the *Odyssey* to *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter*, this theme has captivated humanity on a global scale. What makes this theme so appealing across time and space? How do we relate to heroes and how do their quests illuminate our own life “journey”? These heroes are often foiled by monsters and other villains. What makes these antagonists effective opponents? What must the hero do/become to defeat them? Is there a cost? Is the hero so different from the monster? How do women appear in these texts? How do heroines compare to their male counterparts? What makes a woman “monstrous” in these ancient societies? We will consider these

questions and more as we explore cultures and literatures from around the world, from ancient Mesopotamia to classical Japan to Renaissance Spain through the lens of heroes and monsters.

Daniel Horns

HONR 2000 SECTION 005: The Legacy of Mount Vesuvius

Description: Mount Vesuvius, in what is now Italy, produced a catastrophic eruption in the year 79 AD. The eruption buried several Roman towns, most famously Pompeii and Herculaneum. While the eruption killed thousands of people and was clearly a major disaster, it also preserved buildings, artworks, food, jewelry, and even people and animals in a way that provides a unique glimpse into a 2,000-year-old culture. In this class we will learn some of the science of volcanoes and why that eruption was so explosive, and we will explore many of the elements of Roman culture that have been revealed by excavating the remains of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Brendan McCarthy

HONR 2000 SECTION X01: Sports and History

Description: This section of Ancient Legacies will investigate the role of sports in societies throughout history and the way scholars use modern sports to better understand the past. We will focus on art and literature, modern and ancient, as we explore major issues like creating communities through competition, using competition to establish social hierarchies, and the physical effects of life on the human body.

Modern Legacies

Ashley Nadeau

HONR 2100 001: Detective Fiction

Description: Detective stories, procedural dramas, and true crime narratives are mainstays of contemporary literature, film, tv, and podcasts. This course will explore the evolution of the genre which spawned this (sometimes ghoulish) form of entertainment. In doing so, it asks what the "art of deduction" teaches us about critical analysis and what crime fiction has to say about culture and society. As a class, we will survey the history of detective fiction, from Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes to Rian Johnson's Benoit Blanc. In addition to reading classic and modern detective fiction, we'll also examine film

and audio iterations of this genre. Ultimately, we will explore detective fiction's relationship to modern conceptions of community, knowledge, and justice.

Leslie Simon

HONR 2100 002: "HEAPS!"

Description: Charles Dickens's novels are packed with heaps of objects. There is a too-muchness about the worlds he depicts – too many things, too many people, too many sights and sounds, crammed into (some would say) too many pages of text – that is singular to Dickens's writing. This too-muchness, however, is not singular to his experience as a Victorian. London, the urban-industrial epicenter of the nineteenth-century world, would have felt crowded, exuberant, and tense in an entirely modern way.

This class will take a virtual tour of the heapy spaces of Victorian London. We will be cultural spelunkers, exploring the materials environs – people in crowds, objects in shops and museums, clutter in homes, refuse in the river and street – that likely inspired the pervasive imaging of the heap in the Victorian media. We will also look at intellectual trends that adopt the heap as a philosophical or aesthetic model – in the arts and sciences, as well as mathematics (see: the heap paradox and innovations in Victorian logic). And we will turn to Dickens to see how he – more than any other novelist of the period – represents objects and people, space and time, sounds, moods, and images, even novels themselves, -in and as heaps. We will discuss how the heapiness of his writing 1) offers insight into Victorian concerns over material accumulation and loss and social relations between individuals and groups; and 2) influences the way we do storytelling – through immersive description, world-building, and serial formatting – today.

Robert Carney

HONR 2100 003; HONR 2100 004: Futuristic fiction: paranoia or prophecy?

Description: "Do you think, then, that we should attempt such a survey? For it is, I assure you, too big a task to undertake without thought."

"We know what we are in for," returned Adeimantus, 'go on.'" (58)

—Plato, *The Republic*

The questions raised by Plato are some that we will pursue all semester. They're foundational. The States and possible futures built on that foundation are too many to list, so we'll focus on a few renowned and lesser-known works in the dystopian genre and ask, "Futuristic fiction: paranoia or prophecy?" This is fun, of course, but not as easy as it sounds. There's a lot of academic attention paid to these works, and many scholars liken dystopian authors to Old Testament prophets speaking out in the predominant form of our age. Another way to think of it is this: These fictive works are philosophy and social critique

done as demonstration rather than discussion. We'll be doing a little bit of both as we interpret novels, short-stories, philosophy, and film and do some discussing, group presenting, and writing.

Michaela G. Sawyer: HONR 2100 X01: Description: TBA