

HONORS FORUM COURSES Spring 2019

HF 200.001-005 - HF Food Project Clusters E. Bastress-Dukehart

HF 200-001 Cluster I **From Plot to Plate: Reckoning with the Efficiency and Sustainability of Food Production** **1 Credit**

M. Emerson

M. Estapa

E. Halstead

S. Mulligan

W 4:00-5:15/Dana 276

In this course, we will take an interdisciplinary tour through some of the many processes involved in bringing food to our plates. What ideas, chemical processes, and corporate agendas determine what people eat? Grounding ourselves in fundamentals of global biogeochemistry, we will explore how people have redirected energy and water resources for food production. Drawing from the methodologies of math and physics, we will explore energy efficiency and usage of food distribution systems. Taking a page from the international business world, we will consider ways in which corporate decision-making, industrial farming and global trade have co-opted the food production and distribution system. Combining approaches from the humanities and the sciences, we will ask what we mean when we want our food to be “natural” and investigate the costs and benefits of more “natural” systems of food production for our bodies, our societies and our planet.

HF 200-002 Cluster II **What’s for Dinner?: Why Food Choices Matter** **1 Credit**

A. Ernst

C. Jorgensen

R. Overbey

V. Rangil

J. Swanson

W 2:30-3:50/Bolton 103

How do we decide what to eat for dinner? Food stands at the intersection of the personal, the environmental, and the political. Our food choices have a history, and our decisions have consequences. What are the nutritional needs of developing children and what role does culture, tradition, and demographics play in meeting those needs? What environmental consequences result from various food choices? How do religions like Buddhism shape the food choices of their adherents? When chefs cook food from another culture, what is the line between appreciation and appropriation? What can we learn from indigenous women of the Americas and their foodways? In this course we explore food choices in all their complexity, from the perspectives of nutrition, environment, religion, and culture.

HF 200-003 Cluster III **Food Choices and Consequences** **1 Credit**

N. Atalan-Helicke

K. Baustian

M. Korre

M. Raveret Richter

Thurs. 12:40-2:00/Bolton 380

By 2050, there will be two billion more people on earth, and the question of which diets are best has taken on new urgency amidst growing concerns about the incompatibility of the global, industrial, and agribusiness based modern diets with the health of our bodies and sustainability of the earth. Course participants will examine the evolution of the human diet (e.g., how the

environment provided access to certain food, the transitions of diets in line with agricultural domestication and scientific innovations) and the physical, environmental, psychological and cultural consequences of these transitions. Students will reevaluate their food choices through the lens of biological predisposition to food, cultural practices and traditions, economic policies and histories as well as environmental sustainability implications. While the course will discuss some diets being more in sync with human physiology, it is not a course about dieting and nutrition. By providing an interdisciplinary lens, the course critically engages with questions about healthy food choices.

HF 200-004 Cluster IV

Putting Food on the Map

1 Credit

E. Bastress-Dukehart

J. Chohnoky

J. Dym

M. Hofmann

Tues. 3:40-5:00/GIS Center

In this one-credit Honors Forum course we will explore how foods traveled across time, space, and oceans to transform cultures, cause social conflicts, and ultimately change history. We will discuss the Columbian Exchange—what foods sailed East and what sailed West in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; we will invite students to think about food as an edible and mobile resource, drawing from how it is represented on maps from the 18th-to the mid-20th centuries. We will talk about the technologies sailors and explorers needed—from knowledge of winds, ocean currents, and geography to sextants and early GPS systems—to find new lands and foods. Throughout the course we will utilize the GIS Center to map these travels.

HF 200-005

Children’s Literature Today

1 Credit

Add-On to EN 229

C. Golden

Time/Location TBA

This add-on complements “Children’s Literature: A History,” an exploration of children’s literature as it evolved over the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. In “Children’s Literature Today,” students will learn how to evaluate and interpret children’s literature that appears on today’s bookshelves with particular attention to picture books of the 21st century. We will examine trends in children’s picture books including but not limited to the repackaging of classic children’s stories (board books, coloring books, pop-up books, sound stories, games, etc. of *Peter Rabbit*, *Alice*, and *Babar*); kiddie lit classics (e.g. Cozy Classics adaptations of novels by Austen, Bronte, Montgomery, and Dickens); and new series that relate to our multicultural world. As in the parent course, we will examine these texts from a range of disciplinary perspectives; these books, in turn, will teach us much about gender, race, religion, and ethnicity in our world today. Meetings will be held twice a month, mainly on Friday afternoons in various bookshops or libraries in Saratoga Springs and on campus.

HF 215-001

Peer Health Education

3 Credits

J. McDonald

W 10:10-12:00/Ladd 106

Thurs. 5:40-6:30/Ladd 106

An introduction to the concepts, principles, theory, and practice of health education, health promotion, and peer-based education. Students will engage with a variety of topics surrounding health, wellness, community health promotion, theories of behavioral change and leadership skill building through readings, class discussions, and opportunities for experiential learning. Throughout the semester students will research, plan, execute and evaluate educational

outreach materials and programs on various health and wellness topics relevant to college-aged students. Not for liberal arts credit.

HF 315.001-007

Adv. Peer Health Education

1 Credit

J. McDonald

M 12:00-12:50/Tisch 201

M 3:40-4:30/Emerson Auditorium

An expansion of concepts covered in Peer Health Education by allowing students to fine tune their health promotion and peer counseling skills. Students will select specific areas of interest and will work closely with other Peer Health Educators and the instructor to plan, implement, and rigorously evaluate outreach programs on campus. The course will focus on building leadership and communication skills and on deepening the expertise of the students on college health related issues.

Prerequisites HF 215 and permission of the instructor.

Not for liberal arts credit. May be repeated for credit.

CS 275H.001-006

Computer Science Research

1 Credit

C. Dufour

M. Eckmann

T. O'Connell

A. Prasad

D. Read

C. Reilly

Time/Location TBA

An introductory exploration of research in computer science. The students, in collaboration with a faculty mentor, will participate in a research project in a particular area of computer science. The research projects may, for example, include designing new algorithms for computational problems, surveying the research literature, implementing existing algorithms from the research literature, or performing computational experiments. Students may only take four CS 275H courses in their careers and may take no more than two in any given semester. If two are taken in a single semester, each must be a different section. CS 275H may not be counted toward the CS major. Must be taken S/U.

EN 105H-001

Writing on Demand

4 Credits

L. Hall

Tues/Thurs 9:40-11:00/PMH 301

When the essayist Joan Didion was in her twenties, she wrote editorial copy for Vogue magazine on a wide range of subjects. In her forties, she noted that it is “easy to make light of this kind of ‘writing,’ [but] I do not make light of it at all: it was at Vogue that I learned a kind of ease with words... a way of regarding words not as mirrors of my own inadequacy but as tools, toys, weapons to be deployed strategically on a page.” Inspired by Didion’s on-the-job apprenticeship, this course will ask you to undertake the work of a professional copywriter or ghostwriter. What might you be asked to compose? The introduction to the documentary “extras” for a television series. The “Our Story” blurb for the website of a local restaurant. A capsule biography for a mayoral candidate. A C.E.O.’s response to a request from Forbes: “Tell us about the biggest mistake you ever made as a leader.” The instructor will furnish you with material; with her guidance, you will shape it into publishable or, as the case may be, presentable prose. Expect frequent short assignments, most of them graded. (Fulfills expository writing requirement. This is an Honors course.)

EN 105H-002

Land of Absurdity

4 Credits

M. Wiseman

M/W/F 9:05-10:00/PMH 304

This course will take us into the land of absurdity, as mapped by fiction writers, filmmakers, poets, essayists, and playwrights. We will venture into regions of dark humor, charged outrage, searing satire, and profound silliness, with the aid of such writers as Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Samuel Beckett, Franz Kafka, and Lewis Carroll and such film directors as Stanley Kubrick, Spike Jonze, and Terry Gilliam. (And don't forget Monty Python.) -- Sinister, ludicrous, surreal, irreverent, these portrayals and explorations will help us to think about and especially, to write about ways that seeming incoherence can be made coherent. We'll reckon with the limits of reason and our terror of uncertainty; we'll discover that an appreciation of paradox can deepen and free our thinking. Our writing practice will emphasize understanding and developing our own writing processes. Students will write frequent short papers—personal, analytical, persuasive, reflective—and three to four substantial essays, submitted first as drafts and then in careful revision. (This course fulfills the all-college requirement in expository writing.)

EN 229H-001

Stories of English

4 Credits

K. Greenspan

Tues/Thurs 12:40-2:00/Tisch 204

When the 11th-century preacher Wulfstan composed his Sermon to the English, whom did he imagine he was addressing? The key word here is “imagine”—for in this course we will study the ways in which the English have imagined themselves, linguistically and culturally, from the Anglo-Saxon period (5th-11th centuries) through the mid-18th century, when Samuel Johnson composed his great Dictionary. Because English has always been a “mongrel tongue,” historically absorbing far more from other languages than any other Western vernacular, and because the British count among their forbears Picts, Celts, Norsemen, Saxons, Romans, and French, (to name only the most prominent), neither linguistic nor racial and cultural distinctions suffice by themselves, as they may in other lands, to define the English. Moreover, although the British Isles are separated physically from the rest of the continent, they nourished some of the earliest and most prolific contributors to and consumers of European Christian culture in the Holy Roman Empire. So in what ways have the English defined themselves as uniquely English? -- In this course we will seek for answers in both the history of the English language from its earliest development through its rise in status as a literary language and the history of English literary imaginings of the English nation, enquiring into the roles literature has assumed in forming national identity. This course counts toward the "Early Period" requirement for the English Major; and counts as a “Language and Literature in Context” course.

MA 126H-001 (Fr), 226H-001 (So), 326H-001 (Jr./Sr.)

Honors Problem Solving

1 Credit

R. Roe-Dale

W 4:00-5:20/Harder 203

Students at all three levels will work collaboratively on problems posed in various undergraduate mathematics journals and other sources. Solutions to journal problems will be submitted to the journal editors for acknowledgment and possible publication. Problems are taken from all areas of specialty within mathematics.

Prerequisites: QR1.

May be repeated for credit. Must be taken S/U.

MA 275H.001-011

Mathematics Research

1 Credit

S. Baland

M. DiMaio

J. Douglas

S. Ederer

M. Hofmann

R. Hurwitz

L. Oremland

R. Roe-Dale

C. Szabo

R. Trousil

D. Vella

Time/Location: TBA

Exploration of a research topic in mathematics. The students, in collaboration with a faculty mentor, will participate in a research project in a particular area of mathematics which may be related to the faculty member's research program. Students may only take four MA 275H courses in their careers and may take no more than two in any given semester. If two are taken in a single semester, each must be a different section. MA 275H may not be counted toward the mathematics major. Must be taken S/U.

PL 205H-001

Modern Political Thought

3 Credits

R. L'Arrivee

Tues/Thurs 11:10-12:30/Ladd 106

Political thought of the Early Modern period to that of the mid nineteenth century. Selected thinkers include Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Tocqueville, Marx. Particular emphasis will be placed on the aspirations of classic liberalism and the successive criticism these aspirations inspired. Provides foundation for upper division work in political theory.