

HONORS FORUM COURSES SPRING 2014

HF 200.002 **Social Psychology** **C. Cook**
ADD-ON to PS 205 Social Psychology
Credits: 4
Time: 3:00-4:00
Location: TLC 207
A survey of theory and research on the nature and causes of individual behavior (thoughts, feelings, actions) in social situations.
Prerequisites: PS 101 .

HF 200.003 **Debating Current Events** **J. Delton**
ADD ON to HI 223 American and the World
Credits: 1
Time: Wednesday 11:15-12:10
Location: TLC 307
HI-223 is a history of American foreign policy. This add-on seminar would meet once a week to discuss current American policy in the context of the history we are studying in class. Students would be assigned weekly readings from a variety of news sources and magazines. Sources would include *The New Republic, the Nation, National Review, Commentary, The American Conservative, the Weekly Standard, Tikkun*, as well as select blogs and websites. The point would be to get a sense of the many positions that can be debated. Debates about foreign policy have never been as simple as hawks versus doves. The learning goals would be: 1) to identify recurrent patterns or themes and analyze them in a historical context 2) to introduce students to current political debates and positions with regard to foreign policy today.
Students would keep a journal of their readings and write a short analytical paper (5-7 pages) on the different views that animate our foreign policy debates.

HF-200.004 **Music & Mao: Music and Politics in Communist China**
L. Bryant
ADD-ON to MU-205 Music & Mao: Music and Politics in Communist China
Credits: 1
Time & Location: TBD
In the parent course, students utilize the interdisciplinary lens of ethnomusicology to examine Music and Politics in Communist China. In this Honors Add-On, students will apply their own particular disciplinary expertise and interests to the parent course topics for a more advanced study of the subject. The course will comprise of individually designed research projects including an annotated bibliography and class presentation, small group discussion, and regular participation in the add-on course.

HF 200.005 **Writing About Music** **D. Rohr**

ADD-ON to MU-241 Materials and Structures of Western Music I

Credits: 1

Time: Friday 12:20-2:10

Location: Zankel 208

This course can be added to any of the three required 200-level music major theory courses. The students will learn that writing is, like music, a craft that requires continuous, thoughtful practice, and that writing can deepen and enrich their understanding of music theory. Assignments will be weekly or bi-weekly short essays, as well as peer critique and revisions. The order of topics will follow the syllabus for the accompanying music theory course.

HF-203

Student Citizenship

R. Rotheim

Credits: 4

Time: Tuesday/Thursday 3:40-5:00

Location: Library 213

Citizen Studentship is the first course in Skidmore's history to be designed by students. The course gives students the chance to break down traditional educational structures of authority, thus offering an alternative method of education that emphasizes participation and responsibility as a member of the academic community. Students will challenge each other, generating their own assignments for which they must think, speak and write critically. Citizen Studentship will culminate in the design and fulfillment of a class project that will help students to find their potential for making a meaningful contribution to the intellectual environment of the campus and the community at large.

HF-215 001

Peer Health Education

J. McDonald

Credits: 3

Time: Monday 12:20-2:20

Location: Bolton 101

This course builds on concepts covered during Peer Health Education by guiding students through the process of promoting health and wellbeing among the Skidmore student body. The course is student-driven and allows the opportunity to further delve into specific areas of study that are of particular interest to each student. Students will design, implement, and evaluate programs and outreach education in a variety of topics relevant to the lives of college students including alcohol and substance use and abuse, sexual assault, eating disorders, stress, mental health, sexuality, and other topics commonly addressed by peer counselors and health promotion professionals. In addition, students will continue to build on leadership and communication skills by serving as peer counselors on the Skidmore campus.

HF 273

Sex, Gender, and Civic Engagement:

A Group Independent Study

J. McDonald

Credits: 1

Time: Wednesday 8:40-10:00

Location: Ladd 207

This group independent study provides an opportunity for students to obtain intensive training in the areas of sexual misconduct, sexual health, sexuality, and gender and to apply their knowledge and skills through service learning experiences. The semester will begin with a weekend-long training designed to prepare students to work within the Center for Sex & Gender Relations and to serve the campus community as anonymous peer-to-peer sexual misconduct reporting resources. Additionally, students will build their knowledge related to sexual health, sexuality, and gender identity and will develop the skills necessary to begin the service learning component of the course. The course adds to the Honors Forum offerings with its challenging material and leadership opportunities.

HF-300.001 **Psychology of Religion** **M. Rye**
ADD ON to PS 334 Psychology of Religion
Credits: 1

Time & Location: TBD

The Honors Add-On for Psychology of Religion provides you with the opportunity to further explore the relationship between science and religion by reading and discussing two books by authors offering starkly different views.

HF-300.002 **The Mughals & Modern Mass Media**
K. Gulbransen
ADD ON to AH 351N The Taj Mahal and Beyond: The Art of Mughal India
Credits: 1

Time: Thursday 4:00-5:00

Location: Filene 117

Explores the varied and numerous references to Mughal India in contemporary popular culture. Students will examine and question the ways in which Mughal art, architecture, and culture has been adapted into a variety of mass-produced art forms, questioning the veracity of modern depictions. The course is designed to encourage students to think critically about perceptions of Mughal India in South Asia, the United Kingdom, and America today. Although the class focuses on contemporary pop culture, British descriptions of Mughal India from the colonial period will also be considered. Bollywood films will figure prominently in the class, particularly the films *Jodhaa Akbar* and *Mughal-e-Azam*. Advertisements and prints featuring the Taj Mahal, moralizing folk tales starring the emperor Akbar and his advisor Birbal, and comic book depictions of Mughal leaders will also be explored. Weekly writing assignments and creative projects will allow students to examine these topics in greater depth.

HF-300.003 **Chaucer** **K. Greenspan**
Credits: 1
Time & Location: TBD

An honors seminar for more advanced students centered on a topic, research project, or other academic activity pertinent to one of the academic disciplines.

Prerequisites open to junior and senior Honors Forum students and other highly motivated students with advanced standing, appropriate course background, or permission of the instructor.

HF-315.001 **Adv. Peer Health Education** **J. McDonald**
1 Credit

Time & Location: TBD

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 **Computer Science Research** **G. Effinger**
Credits: 1

Time: Independent Study

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.

EN-105H.001 **Writing Seminar II: Honors** **M. Marx**
Credits: 4 **What is Sustainability**

Time: MWF 11:15-12:10

Location: PMH 302

In this second decade of the twenty-first century, the buzzword is sustainability. We are all aware of and concerned about *sustainable energy*, but what about *sustainable mobility* or *sustainable manufacturing*? What does it mean when we talk about *sustainable Skidmore*? Is “sustainable,” as an adjective, the new “green,” a marketing ploy attracting lots of attention and admiration but signifying nothing? Or is sustainability a broader concept transcending the “triple bottom line”—environment, economics, and social justice—to point the way to survival in the new millennium?

In “What is Sustainability?” we will use the power of writing to interrogate the concept of sustainability. We will analyze competing definitions of sustainability and attempt to develop a definition of our own; we will analyze examples of sustainability to see how they respond to the ideal of the “triple bottom line”; and we will examine centers of sustainability on the Skidmore campus. Short exercises and formal paper assignments will be supplemented by readings from across the disciplines and supported by peer

critiquing to enhance the revision process and to develop and refine our individual writing process and voice.

EN-105H.002

**Writing Seminar II: Honors
The Land of Absurdity**

M. Wiseman

Credits: 4

Time: MW 4:00-5:20

Location: PMH 304

This course will take us into the land of absurdity, as mapped by fiction writers, filmmakers, poets, and playwrights. We will venture into regions of dark humor, charged outrage, searing satire, and profound silliness, with the aid of such guides as Fyodor Dostoyevsky (whose *Underground Man* is sometimes considered a proto-existential absurdist), Samuel Beckett, Franz Kafka, Italo Calvino, Lewis Carroll, Donald Barthelme, Haruki Murakami, and Flann O'Brien, among others. We will see the absurd as brought to us onscreen by such directors as Luis Buñuel, Spike Jonze, Terry Gilliam, and Stanley Kubrick, and Monty Python will add pointed silliness to our proceedings.

Sinister, ludicrous, surreal, irreverent, or all of the above, these portrayals and explorations will help us to think about, and especially to write about, the absurdity we might find in our own lives. We will ask, how do these visions illuminate our own dilemmas? How, in other words, can an absurd perspective help us to live? How does an appreciation of paradox deepen and free our thinking? How can chaos and incoherence be shaped—how is incoherence made coherent? Thus, the relationship between certainty and chaos, the disjunction between seeing and knowing, the blurred distinctions among sense, senselessness, and nonsense, the uses of satire, and the mingling of the sublime and the ridiculous will serve as catalysts for our writing as well as for our discussions. Our writing practice will emphasize understanding and developing our own writing processes. Students will write frequent short papers of several types—personal, analytical, persuasive, reflective—and three substantial essays, submitted first as drafts and then in careful revision.

EN-229H Introduction to Medieval English Literature

K. Greenspan

Credits: 4

Time: Wednesday/Friday 12:20-1:40

Location: PMH 300

From the saintly to the sinful: a sampling of the treasures of medieval English literature, presented in the context of the rich material and intellectual culture of the 12th through the 15th centuries. Our recurring theme, "Visions of Life and Death," will lead us to examine such topics as resurrection and immortality, heaven, hell, and purgatory, penance and pilgrimage, death, relics, and remembrance, ghosts and otherworld journeys. We will read all works in their original dialects, giving enough attention to Middle English grammar and vocabulary to make the readings easily accessible. Written work will include six short essays (2-3pages) and a final paper (8-10 pages).

MA-126H .001

Hon: Problem Solving (Fr)

R. Hurwitz

Credits: 1

Time: Wednesday 4:00-5:20

Location: Harder 202

Students 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 acknowledgement and possible publication. Problems are taken from all areas of specialty within mathematics. During the fall semester, students will have an opportunity to compete in the annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. Introductory (125H, for first-year students), intermediate (225H, for sophomores) and advanced (325H, for juniors and seniors) levels will meet concurrently. The course will meet 1-2 hours per week; grades will be on a S/U basis. MA125H prerequisite: QR1, MA225H, MA325H prerequisite: Qr2.

MA-226H .001

Hon: Problem Solving (So)

R. Hurwitz

Credits: 1

Time: Wednesday 4:00-5:20

Location: Harder 202

Students 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 acknowledgement and possible publication. Problems are taken from all areas of specialty within mathematics. During the fall semester, students will have an opportunity to compete in the annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. Introductory (125H, for first-year students), intermediate (225H, for sophomores) and advanced (325H, for juniors and seniors) levels will meet concurrently. The course will meet 1-2 hours per week; grades will be on a S/U basis. MA125H prerequisite: QR1, MA225H, MA325H prerequisite: Qr2.

MA-275H .001

Mathematics Research

G. Effinger

Credits: 1

Time: Independent Study

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. MA275H may not be counted toward the MA major. Must be taken S/U. *Prerequisites:* permission of the instructor.

MA-326H .0001

Hon: Problem Solving (Jr/Sr)

R. Hurwitz

Credits: 1

Time: Wednesday 4:00-5:20

Location: Harder 202

Students 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 acknowledgement and possible publication. Problems are taken

from all areas of specialty within mathematics. During the fall semester, students will have an opportunity to compete in the annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. Introductory (125H, for first-year students), intermediate (225H, for sophomores) and advanced (325H, for juniors and seniors) levels will meet concurrently. The course will meet 1-2 hours per week; grades will be on a S/U basis. MA125H prerequisite: QR1, MA225H, MA325H prerequisite: Qr2.

PS-376H Senior Research Project II S. Solomon

Credits: 4

Time: Tuesday 6:30-8:30

Location: TLC 204

Students will work with an individual faculty member to complete a major research project developed in Senior Research Project I. A final project will be submitted in thesis form to the faculty supervisor as well as the faculty research coordinator for the program. This final project must be submitted at least two weeks before the end of the term. Students are also expected to present their research findings to the Psychology faculty and student participants in the program. In preparation for the completion of this thesis work, students will also attend weekly one-hour seminar meetings to discuss issues related to their research (e.g., problems in data collection, options for data analysis, etc.), to critique one another's thesis drafts, and to prepare for formal presentations at the end of the semester.

Prerequisites: PS 375. This course may not be taken concurrently with PS 378H.

Note(s): Senior Research Project II may be used to fulfill the thesis requirement for departmental honors in psychology.

PS-378H Senior Seminar H. Hodgins

Credits: 3

Time: Friday 10:00-12:00

Location: TLC 202

Students work with course instructor to complete a major, written project. The project can be a synthesis of the literature in a particular topic area of psychology, or an original theoretical formulation. The final project should demonstrate a conceptual integration of the material, and should demonstrate both originality and independence of work. In addition to the written project, each student will make an oral presentation summarizing the project. The written version of the project will be submitted at least two weeks before the end of the fall semester.

Prerequisites: completion of one Experimental Methods II course.

Note(s): This course may be used to fulfill the thesis requirement for departmental honors in psychology. May not be taken concurrently with PS 376H.

SO-211H Sociological Imaginations J. Brueggemann

Credits: 4

Time: Tues/Thurs. 12:40-2:00

Location: TLC 207

A review of “great works” that have made an impact in the field of sociology. This course will examine a number of classic and contemporary social scientific books. Students will investigate the content and perspective of sociology, the defining questions of the discipline, and the “sociological imagination.” This will entail exposure to important sociological ideas and arguments as well as some sense of the intellectual history of the field. This course will emphasize informed and engaged discourse about the big ideas of these great works.

Prerequisites one sociology gateway course (SO 101 or SO 201 or SO 202 or SO 203 or SO 204), and permission of instructor.