

HONORS FORUM COURSES SPRING 2013

****If you take an ADD ON, you must be enrolled in the parent course**

HF 200.001 The Arts of South Asia S. Waraich
ADD ON to AH 251N The Arts of South Asia
Tues 5:10-6:05
1 Credit

This One-Credit Honors add-on will debate a specific issue tied to the study of the arts of South Asia. In the parent course, AH 251N: The Arts of South Asia, we will be examining material from 2500 BCE to the present and approaching the material in its own historical context. In the add-on, students will be encouraged to consider how the scholarship they are reading in the parent class has been informed by larger political debates and concerns of the 19th and 20th centuries. Thus, the add-on explores the consequences of history and heritage in modern South Asia. Here, history refers to recent reconstructions of the past while heritage considers the visual and cultural remnants from the past. By analyzing how discussions and debates over history continue to occupy contemporary life, this course considers history and heritage as sites where performances of identity and power are continuously enacted.

The class will be divided into two teams and each team will argue for one side of a given debate every other week. These debates will be structured upon actual debates in history and in the field and will ask students to engage as historic or contemporary figures with very real stakes involved. This class will alternate between sessions devoted to readings/discussion/preparation one week and an in-class debate between teams about the material the following week. Students in the add-on course will also debate in front of the parent class at the end of the semester, demonstrating knowledge and skills gained during the semester as well as modeling the kind of creative engagement with critical topics we hope to foster in all our students.

HF 200.002 Cutting It Out: Fashion from Paper P. Jolly
ADD ON to AH 268 Ad/dressing the Body
Wed 9:05-10:00
1 Credit

Students will produce a historically-based fashion show and present it to the rest of the AH268 class. After determining the thesis for the show, students will design and make the fashions by working only with paper and tape, a limitation designed to keep students' costs affordable and inspire invention and creativity. The group will present the completed fashions to the AH268 class, offering a well-crafted verbal commentary explaining the show's thesis and how their designs express it; this commentary will be turned in to me in written form. Additional readings will serve to direct weekly class discussions, and students will attend and write an analysis of a

special exhibit, *Fashion and Technology*, held at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City in Spring 2013.

HF 203.001

Student Citizenship

R. Rotheim

T/TH 3:40 – 5:00

4 Credits

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 273

**Sex, Gender, and Civic Engagement:
A Group Independent Study**

J. McDonald

Time TBD

1 Credit

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

**Inside the Renaissance Home: Domestic Arts in
Renaissance Italy**

P. Jolly

ADD ON to AH 342 Art of Early Renaissance Italy

Mon 1:10-2:05

1 Credit

This add-on focuses on domestic art and architecture in Renaissance Italy in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. We'll consider how Renaissance middle-class and upper-class people lived: their homes and furnishings, their dress and body hygiene, and how they shopped and acquired goods. Whether secular fresco cycles for bedrooms, small-scale bronzes for the new room called "the study," conversational pieces to impress visitors or apotropaic works intended to ward off demons and assist in childbirth, private domestic art played significant roles in the lives of everyday Renaissance men and women.

HF 300.002

On Time

A. Finegold

ADD ON to AH 351N Art and Time in Ancient Mesoamerica

Mon 9:05-10:00

1 Credit

This one-credit add-on to Art and Time in Ancient Mesoamerica will focus on time as a topic of interest to philosophical, anthropological, and art historical inquiry. What are the ways in which time is experienced; to what extent are these experiences universal or culturally determined; how is time made visible in the material remains of a culture; are objects and artworks able to bridge time and thus make the past present to us, or does historical distance present an insurmountable barrier to interpretation? Through weekly readings and discussions that address these and related issues, students will be encouraged to explore the nature of time from a variety of different perspectives.

HF 300.003

Music in South Asia

G. Thompson

ADD ON to MU 309 Music in South Asia

Time TBA

1 Credit

This Add-on provides students enrolled in “Music in South Asia” an opportunity to delve more deeply in issues of form and theory covered in this course.

HF 300.004

Psychology of Religion

M. Rye

ADD ON to PS 312 Psychology of Religion

T/Th 11:10-12:30

1 Credit

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 read in excerpt form in “parent” course by authors offering starkly different views.

HF 300.005

Chaucer and the Classical World

K. Greenspan

ADD ON to EN342R Chaucer and the Classical World

M/W 4-5:20

1 Credit

The Middle Ages looked back on the classical world with mingled admiration and disgust, more than a tinge of envy, and a tigerish appetite for stories. Reshaping what they knew of Greek and Roman mythology, literature, philosophy and science in their own Christian-inflected image, medieval poets built up a heroic world that complemented, complimented, and criticized their own. Few poets could match Chaucer in his greed for classical tales, his skill in reconceiving the Middle Ages in their terms, and his powerful imagining of a fresh, bright and marvelously ahistorical Golden Age of gods and heroes. We will sample some of Chaucer’s shorter classical delights—dream visions (The House of Fame and The Parliament of Fowls), selected Canterbury Tales (the Monk’s, the Knight’s and the Squire’s Tale), short poems (“Complaints to Mars,” “Venus and Fortune,” and the Ovidian Legend of Good Women)—before sitting down to the main course, Chaucer’s great romance, Troilus and Criseyde.

We will read Chaucer's poetry in the original Middle English. Don't be intimidated: you will find his language easy to learn, and the effort required to master it will be repaid ten times over by the surprise and delight his works afford.

Requirements include regular attendance and participation, daily reading aloud, an oral presentation, and a substantial research paper, to whose development we will give considerable attention throughout the semester.

COUNTS TOWARD THE EARLY PERIOD REQUIREMENT

342 can be taken twice for credit.

* It is recommended (but not required) that you take this class alongside Professor Wright's EN362: Shakespeare and His Medieval Sources*

HF 300.006 Debating South Asian Art S. Waraich
ADD ON to AH 351N Asian Pop!

Tues 5:10-6:05

1 Credit

This One-Credit Honors add-on will debate a specific issue tied to the study of the arts of South Asia. In the parent course, *The Arts of South Asia*, we will be examining material from 2500 BCE to the present and approaching the material in its own historical context. In the add-on, students will be encouraged to consider how the scholarship they are reading in the parent class has been informed by larger political debates and concerns of the 19th and 20th centuries. Thus, the add-on explores the consequences of history and heritage in modern South Asia. Here, history refers to recent reconstructions of the past while heritage considers the visual and cultural remnants from the past. By analyzing how discussions and debates over history continue to occupy contemporary life, this course considers history and heritage as sites where performances of identity and power are continuously enacted.

The class will be divided into two teams and each team will argue for one side of a given debate every other week. These debates will be structured upon actual debates in history and in the field and will ask students to engage as historic or contemporary figures with very real stakes involved. This class will alternate between sessions devoted to readings/discussion/preparation one week and an in-class debate between teams about the material the following week. Students in the add-on course will also debate in front of the parent class at the end of the semester, demonstrating knowledge and skills gained during the semester as well as modeling the kind of creative engagement with critical topics we hope to foster in all our students.

BI 120H Food, Disease, Sex, Sleep: Human biology and medical decisions E. Larsen

Lecture Tues/Thurs 11:10-12:30, M 4:15-5:15, Lab 11:15-1:15 OR 2:15-4:15

4 Credits

We share many fundamental biological processes with other living things: sexual reproduction, needs for food and sleep, and defense against disease organisms, but we as

humans also have the ability to gain and organize information to make evidence-based decisions about our health and our lives. This course will examine a range of topics in biology (physiology, cell biology, genetics, and neuroscience), and how information is obtained and used to draw conclusions about human biology and health. This course does not assume any prior exposure to college level science classes, and covers different topics from BI105/106. It is appropriate for non-science majors, including those who may be pre-med students. BI120H is also appropriate for students who are interested in bioethics and understanding evidence-based medical decision making. Prerequisite: QR1. Three hours of lecture, two hours of lab per week (plus 1 hour of discussion for 120H). (Fulfills natural sciences requirement.)

CS 275H Computer Science Research G. Effinger
1 Credit

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.

EC 104H Honors Introduction to Microeconomics L. Vargha
T/Th 12:40-2:00
4 Credits

This is an introductory course in microeconomics, the branch of economics that studies how households and firms make decisions and how they interact in markets. We will cover topics such as supply and demand analysis, consumption and production choice, government intervention in markets, market outcomes under perfect competition, monopoly and oligopoly, and market failure. Students will also be introduced to several of the traditional applied fields of microeconomics, such as public economics, environmental economics, industrial organization, and international trade.

EN 105H.001 Writing Seminar I: From One Art Into Another J. Rogoff
W/F 8:40-10:00
4 Credits

What happens when a memoir or a novel or a play becomes a movie? When a poem, a fairy tale, or a bible story inspires a ballet? When poems interpret paintings and paintings illuminate poems? When an ancient myth provides matter for a stage play? We will explore the problems and pleasures created by adaptations and transformations of material from one art form to another. We will consider not only questions such as what gets omitted, what gets added, and what becomes changed entirely, but, more important, how these “art transplants” reveal more fully the unique qualities of each of the art forms, as well as some qualities that all the arts seem to share. Required reading, viewing, and listening will include many works of art, both adaptations and their sources, including live performances at Skidmore, as well as a selection of illuminating secondary readings. Our investigations of artistic adaptations and transformations will provide the basis for the course’s main task, creating and revising analytical essays. Regular brief writing

assignments will prepare students to craft four increasingly ambitious essays and revise them.

EN 105H.002 Writing Seminar II: The Land of Absurdity M. Wiseman
M/W/F 11:15-12:10

4 Credits

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, Nikolai Gogol, 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 to four substantial essays, submitted first as drafts and then in careful revision.

EN 228H Victorian Illustrated Book C. Golden
T/TH 2:10-3:30

4 Credits

What was the last book you read with illustrations? Was it a graphic novel, a comic book, or a children's book? All of these types of books have their roots in the Victorian illustrated book, a genre for adults as well as young readers. Illustrations were part of the adult reading experience of the Victorian age. Images did not simply embellish the Victorian illustrated book as we often conceive of illustration today; rather, pictures added meaning, which, in turn, influenced how an audience "read" fiction and poetry. This Honors, writing-intensive course explores the form of the Victorian illustrated book with attention to illustration, critical analysis, and creative practice. The class will focus on illustrated novels, picture-poems, and critical studies in aesthetics and literature to discern how a poem is like and different from a picture (the "*ut pictura poesis*" tradition) or comment upon the collaboration of image and word as an art form. Special attention will be given to the poem and painting pairs of D.G. Rossetti; the illustrated fiction of

Dickens, Carroll, and Potter; the aesthetic ideas of Horace, Plato, and Lessing; analytic writing; and primary research. Students will learn to *read* illustrations like their Victorian audiences once did. We will work in the rare book room and put on a library exhibition on an aspect of Victorian literature and culture. In addition to writing frequent papers, students will become author-illustrators to create their own illustrated texts.

K. Greenspan

T/TH 11:10-12:30

4 Credits

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).

T. Burns

T/TH 12:40-2:00

3 Credits

The world that we inhabit has been substantially transformed over the past 400 years. It is a “modern” world. The transformation has been the result of a self-conscious project led by political philosophers and their followers, a project that is now under attack from thinkers who call themselves postmodern. In its origin, and in the hearts of those who continue to put their faith in it, modernity stood for what we call “progress,” i.e., movement to a commercial society that is not rural, poor, stagnant, superstitious, inhumane, etc., but urban, wealthy, dynamic, secular, and humane. It included a new understanding of nature (as something to be conquered), of justice (as individual rights), of science (as a means to conquest of nature and comfortable self-preservation), of government (as an entity that secures for its citizens a freedom to pursue their goals in a private life rather than an entity that promotes virtue).

This course closely examines key primary texts in the development of modern political philosophy in order to uncover and understand the origins, development, and crises of modernity. The texts we will examine have had a direct impact on the Western World, and now, with globalization, on the whole world. We will read them in three thematic sections of the course. In the first, we will examine the origins of modernity in works by Machiavelli, Bacon, and Hobbes. In the second, we will explore the rise of the left, or egalitarian modernity, in works by Rousseau and Marx. Finally, we will attempt to grasp the origins of the present crisis of modernity in works by Tocqueville, Nietzsche, and Strauss.

M. Odekon

M/W/F 10:10-11:05

3 Credits

An overview of large-scale structure and modern cosmological models, from nearby galaxies to the entire observable universe. Topics include galaxy surveys, quasars, dark matter, and the early universe.

Prerequisites PY 192 or PY 194 or permission of the instructor.
(Fulfills QR2 requirement.)

MA 126H .001 Hon: Problem Solving (Fr) R. Hurwitz
Thurs 2:10 – 3:30

1 Credit

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
Thurs 2:10 – 3:30

1 Credit

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
1 Credit

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 .001 Hon: Problem Solving (Jr/Sr) R. Hurwitz
Thurs 2:10 – 3:30

1 Credit

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****H. Lopez****Mon 2:30-3:30****4 Credits**

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 at least two weeks before the end of the term. Each student will make an oral presentation of the final project to the other senior thesis students and the psychology faculty. Prerequisites: PS375. May not be taken concurrently with PS378. May be used to fulfill the thesis requirement for honors in psychology.

PS 378H .001**Hon: Senior Seminar****R. Mann Rosen****Mon 10:10-11:05****3 Credits**

Students will work with course instructor to complete a major written project. The project can be a synthesis of the literature in a particular topic 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 spring semester. Prerequisite: PS306. This course may be used to fulfill the thesis requirement for honors in psychology.