

FALL 2008 HONORS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*If course description is not provided below, please contact faculty members directly via email or phone for more information.

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANT 1510-101: Freshman Honors Colloquium: Cultural Anthropology
TR 11:00-12:15, SH 406
Keefe, S.

Cultural Anthropology is the cross-cultural study of the beliefs and practices of humankind. Our purpose is not to judge cultural groups but to explore their diversity in the past and present and to gain appreciation of and tolerance for cultural differences. In the process, we will come to understand the causes of cultural change and variation. We will strive to discover what it means to be human in the general sense, and to appreciate contemporary American society from an anthropological perspective.

Readings include a study of a Pacific Island society, an ethnography of Bedouins in the Middle East, and a study of a New York Puerto Rican neighborhood. Grades are based on three exams and 2 brief writing assignments.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS COURSES

MKT 3050-410: Principles of Marketing (Honors)
TR 11:00 – 12:15, RH 4012
B. Burman

This course is an overview of the role of marketing within a firm and within society in both national and international trends. Students will learn basic marketing concepts and their applications related to both product and service industries. This includes identifying and understanding current marketing situations and trends. Specific topics include identifying environmental variables, market research, selection of target markets, consideration of the underlying determinants of buyer behavior, product management, promotional activities, pricing decisions, distribution of products, and the social and ethical implications of marketing decisions. In addition to assigned readings, students will be expected to research relevant materials on the web and other publications to participate in class discussions. Course format: lecture/discussions/in-class exercises/interactive assignments/class project/presentations.

Admission: Limited to College of Business Honor Students admitted to the College of Business and University Honors Students admitted to a degree-granting college and having achieved junior status.

ENGLISH (ENG) COURSES

ENG 1510-101: Freshman Honors Seminar: American Literature (Disaffected Romantics and Existentialists Journey Toward the Cyber Age of Anxiety and Globalism)
TR 2:00-3:15, SH 302
E. Conway

Development of individual research and original critical thought; composition. Collateral reading in English, American, or world literature. Members selected by the Department of English. (W)

Application of individual research and critical thought to interpretation of significant novels in American 20th C literature. In this seminar, students will learn by their own presentations and discussion as well as by the professor's mini lectures and discussion. Works likely to include mountain ballads, Jack tales, as well as Hemingway ("Indian Camp"), *Tracks of de Soto* and others in Balm of Gilead Tree, Wolfe ("The Lost Boy"), Faulkner story, Morgan, Salinger (*Catcher in the Rye*) Vonnegut (*Slaughter House 5*), Lee Smith (*Fair and Tender Ladies* or *Agate Hill*), *Ellen Foster*, and/or Alice Walker (*The Color Purple*). Students will give presentations on interviews, DL Biographies, and critical articles. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking and literary analysis.

ENG 2515-101: Sophomore Honors: Later American

Dr. Emory Maiden

MWF 12:00 – 12:50, SH 306

For Spring, 2007, the course will focus on modern and early post-modern narratives. The readings (below) will move from exemplary modernist texts toward more recent works that complicate modernist concerns. The primary strategy for the course uses close readings of primary works to examine tensions between modern and postmodern stances. Writing and discussing for credit: We will discuss current cultural fictions about interpretation, but readers will also have the freedom to decide which important concerns demand attention. Questions about a text's meanings and value should move beyond mostly personal associations to interrogate interrelations among narrative, teller and artist--and by extension, Twentieth Century culture's influence on all three as both source and respondent. After close reading, class members should share questions, as well as possible answers, about the text and course concerns. Discussions will take place in various modes: informal but engaged class exchanges; frequent wide-ranging online written statements about meaning, two brief out of class essays along the way and a summative final essay.

ENG 2515-102: Sophomore Honors: Later World

Dr. Howard Giskin

MWF 1:00 – 1:50, ES B-15

This course will examine the intersection of science, religion, and literature, with the particular focus of the course on possible utopian / dystopian futures involving developments in the material sciences, medical science, the Internet, virtual reality, nanotechnology, and other areas, some of which are presently in their infancy. We will focus on the development of research and critical thought through the reading of our texts, essay writing, take-home exams, and weekly WebCT discussion posts. Texts used will be *Galileo*, *Darwin*, and *Hawking*, by Phil Dowe, *The Singularity is Near*, by Ray Kurzweil, *Virtual Realism*, by Michael Heim, *The Year's Best Science Fiction*, edited by Gardner R. Dozois, *The View from Another Shore: European Science Fiction*, edited by Franz Rottensteiner, *The Best Japanese Science Fiction Stories*, edited by John L. Apostolou, and *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE COURSES

F L 2510-410: Literature in Translation

MW 2:00-3:15, SH 501

M. Lane

By his death in 1973, Spanish-born artist Pablo Picasso had, for seven decades, called Paris home. He was joined in France's capital by generations of Hispanic expatriates seeking political refuge and free expression.

This transnational trend began as writers of Spain's "Generation of '98" engaged with the Spanish-American War, and continued in the work of avant-garde plastic, performing, and literary artists like Picasso, Dalí, Neruda, Buñuel, and Lorca through war-torn Europe, civil unrest in Spain, Fascism and the rise to power of Francisco Franco. Hispanic influence in Paris was concomitant to (r)evolutions in aesthetics by France's own politically-engaged authors and artists – from "Interwar" dramaturges (Giraudoux, Anouilh, Cocteau) to proponents of the Theatre of the Absurd (Beckett, Ionesco, Genet), and from Dada and Surrealism (Breton, Aragon, Éluard) through Existentialism (Sartre, Camus, de Beauvoir), toward visions of modernity, and, ultimately, the post-modern world.

This course will explore the symbiotic relationship shared by Hispanic and French artist–insurgents as they fought for, and forged, the future.

Dr. Michael E. Lane / T/R 9:30 – 10:45 / 501 Sanford Hall / laneme@appstate.edu / 262-2304

SNH 3510-101: US Hispanic Literature

TR 9:30-10:45, SH 501

M. Napiorski

In this course students will study the evolutionary process of the literature produced by Spanish Speaking authors in the territory of what today is known as the United States. Though it is considered to be a recent phenomenon that resulted from the Chicano Movement, the Hispanic Literature and Culture have been present in North America from pre-Hispanic times, and it is an important element of the cultural production and the literature of the United States. It is a literature that is transnational, and represents the politics of Border Crossing. The course follows the historical thread of such impressive evolution throughout the works of a great diversity of writers and *cronistas*, and ends up with the study of the narratives of the most contemporary Latina writers. The students will develop a critical thinking of such literary work, and will gain a better understanding of the cultural intensity of this literature, and its impact on the politics of border (cultural) crossings.

HISTORY (HIS) COURSES

HIS 2510-101: American Civilization to 1876

TR 9:30-10:45, OLC 1136

S. Phipps

This survey course is a broad look at the history of the United States to 1876. History is a dynamic web of social, economic, and political filaments, covering both domestic and foreign affairs. For this reason, the course will make use of both textbook and supplemental readings, lectures, and class discussion in order to cover as many of these elements as possible in a limited amount of time. Course will cover settlement to Reconstruction, cultural and ethnic groups of both sexes who contributed to the history of the United States, geographic areas and demographic changes, while at the same time building analytical and communication skills that will enhance any academic discipline students pursue.

HIS 3510: Advanced Honors Seminar: History of Medieval Warfare

MW 3:00-4:15, OLC 1138

W. Jessee

The Middle Ages saw great changes in the science of warfare. The great Roman Empire collapsed, to be replaced by Roman-like kingdoms ruled and defended by "barbarian" kings and armies. Yet the armies were modeled after the Late Roman military, which, after all, had been mainly composed of barbarian troops. This was especially true of the cavalry units which became a feature of the Roman armies. By the Eighth Century the Frankish kingdom had become the most powerful in Europe. Thanks to its innovative command of massive military power nearly united the continent. The collapse of the Frankish Empire had many causes, but the military aspects of this disaster are the clearest. Europe was nearly conquered by waves of new invaders such as the Vikings. Once again it was a military response, feeding off of economic, social, and religious changes, that is the easiest to grasp. By the end of the Eleventh Century European armies were clearly on the offensive from Ireland to Jerusalem. As part of this movement the Cid, the great national hero of Spain, led the forces of Christian Spain against a Muslim invasion from North Africa. The classic 'feudal' military establishment is a misnomer and usually misunderstood by modern students which we shall investigate. In the East the Crusades can best be understood as armed, quasi military expeditions to take back territory from the Muslims. By the end of the Middle Ages, armies were becoming professionalized, and infantry were gaining new weapons - the Age of Gunpowder was upon us.

Through a careful analysis of primary documents including material remains and reconstructions, students will explore these issues through a combination of discussion and written assignments.

HONORS (HON) COURSES

HON 1515-101: Freshman Honors Seminar: Urban Design and City Living

MWF 10:00 – 10:50, RSW 347

R. Crepeau

*** Note: HON 1515 is open to incoming freshmen only.

Cities and towns rarely “happen” – they are made. The manner in which a city functions depends quite a bit on how they are planned and designed; or in the worst-case scenario, how they are not planned and designed. This discussion-based course will examine the functioning of cities through the lens of urban design. While one thinks of design from a primarily aesthetic perspective, design also affects the healthy functioning of a city’s economy, transportation, social capital, environment and a multitude of other factors. In addition to discussion based on course readings, the class will participate in daytrips to experience first-hand the impact of urban design and to speak with those responsible for the vision and function of these places.

HON 1515-104: Freshman Honors Seminar: Arthurian Legends

TR 9:30 – 10:45, East B-15

A. Hellenbrand

*** Note: HON 1515 is open to incoming freshmen only.

Mystery, adventure, love and death, the Holy Grail... long before Monty Python there "really" was King Arthur. In this course, we are going to explore the legends of King Arthur that have fascinated audiences across time, across genres (epic, novel, film, art, music), and across national boundaries. There are elements of the legends that remain constant through all versions. Nevertheless, each new writer interprets the Arthurian story anew for his/her own audience in a unique time and place. Thus the legends of Arthur tell us not only about the Round Table and the Grail, but they also reflect our visions of ourselves: our ideas and

ideals of nation, of rulership, of history, of community. In addition, these legends reveal our hopes for the future, as they continually reinvent the story of the once and future King (*rex quondam et futurus*).

HON 1515-105: Freshman Honors Seminar: Southern Literature and Culture
TR 3:30 – 4:45, East B-15
W. Ward

*** Note: HON 1515 is open to incoming freshmen only.

For at least the past century and a half, no other American region has evoked stronger emotions – positive and negative – than the South. Through examples of Southern fiction, the research and observations of Chapel Hill sociologist John Shelton Reed, outside readings, and selected additional media, this course will take a wide-ranging look at the American South and its (perhaps decreasing) distinctiveness within the nation as a whole. Course readings and discussions will focus both on the South of today and on the historical forces and events which shaped it. Required texts for the course will include:

- Ayers, Edward L. and Bradley C. Mittendorf, eds., *The Oxford Book of the American South* (ISBN 0-19-512493-6)
- Faulkner, William. *Go Down, Moses* (ISBN 978-0-679-73217-4)
- Reed, John Shelton. *My Tears Spoiled My Aim, and Other Reflections on Southern Culture* (ISBN 0-15-600006-7)

Course requirements will include active class participation, out-of-class writing projects, and, perhaps, essay exams on some of the reading materials.

HON 1515-106: Freshman Honors Seminar: Love and Death
TR 9:30-10:45, East B-4
M. Dale

*** Note: HON 1515 is open to incoming freshmen only.

The comfort that we can gain from the hard cruel truth of death is that life itself is wonderful, full of love and full of transcendental moments – that's what really matters. -Jim Crace

See, the art of living is learning how to die. And what I mean by that is that if you're really going to live life intensely, then something in you every day ought to die – some bad habit, some prejudice, some faulty presupposition – so you're continually involved in a struggle to better yourself, become more mature, more compassionate, more courageous. -Cornel West

That well know magic worked by love – the transformation of the merely real into the vividly actual – is largely the blithe labor of the imaginative eye. -Eva Brann

All love is in great part affliction. -Marilynne Robinson

Through an engagement with literature, music, science and art we will begin to explore the meaning and truth of what the writers quoted above reveal to us of love and death in our lives and the lives of others.

TENTATIVE READINGS:

Nicole Krauss, [The History of Love](#); Marilynne Robinson, [Housekeeping](#); Annie Dillard, [For the Time Being](#); Jeanette Winterson, [The Powerbook](#); Joan Didion, [The Year of Magical Thinking](#); Anne Carson, [Eros the Bittersweet](#)

HON 1515-107: Freshman Honors Seminar: Games, Puzzles, and Robots
T 11:00-12:15, CAP 150 & R 11:00 – 12:15, CAP 336
D. Parks

*** Note: HON 1515 is open to incoming freshmen only.

This course uses Lego Mindstorm robots to introduce basic concepts of computer science. No previous computer knowledge is assumed. We will build mobile robots using parts such as motors, gears, axles, tires, and sensors the robots will use to respond to their surroundings. Don't be concerned if you've never had any such construction experience--none is expected. We will hold robot games in which teams of students will design, construct, and program the players. In our games, all the robot players are winners and great fun to watch. Students who enjoy logic, game-playing, working with others, and hands-on problem solving will have fun in this course.

HON 1515-110: Freshman Honors Seminar: Meaning, Minds & Morality
TR 9:30-10:45, East B-1
D. Haney

If we just knew enough, would we always do the right thing? Does the way we interpret the world determine how we think about what's right and wrong, or does how we think about right and wrong determine how we interpret the world? Are we hard-wired or conditioned by evolution to interpret the world in a particular way and to think of some things as bad and others as good? How is engaging with a book like and unlike engaging with a person? Why do we sympathize with the bad folks in some books and movies? Can reading imaginative literature make us better people?

This seminar will explore these and related hard questions through the combined lenses of philosophy and literature. Our overarching concern will be the relationship between *interpretation* (how we process information about the world and develop paradigms, theories, and metaphors to understand the world) and *ethics* (how we think about right and wrong, good and bad). We will read some classic texts in the history of ethical philosophy, authors in the tradition of "hermeneutics" (the study of interpretation), authors who study the mind and brain from interdisciplinary perspectives, and thinkers who cross the boundaries of philosophy and literature. Our literary texts will range from ancient Greek plays to British Romantic poetry to recent American fiction. Students will be asked to conduct an in-depth research project on a particular problem in the relationship between interpretation and ethics, and the class will attend and discuss some on- and off-campus lectures and cultural events.

HON 2515-102: Local Stories: Appalachian Narratives in Literature and Life
MW 2:00-3:15, East B-15
S. Ballard & T. McGowan

This cross-disciplinary course uses folklore, literature, linguistics, history, and ethnography to investigate stories important to local people and places--our university, its neighborhood, and environs, and Appalachia. By examining stories collected in archives and on recordings, narrated in literature and oral performance, and dramatized in films, we encounter collectors, storytellers, and writers and study their processes of recording,

delivering and creating stories. Students will also identify stories that haven't been collected but need to be, and develop research projects relevant to their own families and communities or to course topics.

Assignments will include keeping a journal with responses to the readings, in-class reading checks, and developing an individual research project.

Texts will include Lee Smith's *Oral History*, Richard Chase's *The Jack Tales*, William Bernard McCarthy's *Jack in Two Worlds: Contemporary North American Tales & Their Tellers*, the Ballad of Frankie Silver special issue of *North Carolina Folklore Journal* (47.1), J.W. Williamson & Edwin T. Arnold's *Interivewing Appalachia: The Appalachian Journal Interviews, 1978-1992*, and other works.

HON 3530: Parkway Research

M 2:00-3:15, TBA

N. Clark

Year-long course, 2 credits in the Fall semester, 1 in the spring

HON 3530 Parkway Research is a team-based, interdisciplinary, community-based research (CBR) project, in collaboration with the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is designed for students who have had some exposure to the research tools of their discipline--that's why it's targeted at juniors, although "advanced" sophomores and certainly any seniors are welcome. Supported by a 3-year grant from the Corporation for National & Community Service, this seminar class will introduce students to CBR and engage them in work on a piece of a large, multi-year and multi-disciplinary research problem. Students will collaborate with the Blue Ridge Parkway staff, conducting research on problems that the Parkway rangers have identified. Last year, students did research on trail use conflicts at Bass Lake and Rough Ridge, primarily through trail observations and talking with park rangers from all over the nation. In 2008-09, students in this class will extend this research, building on the foundation last year's students created, in an attempt to ensure that the Rough Ridge trail stays open, and that the Bass Lake trail stays manageable.

HON 3535: Community-Based Research Seminar

TBA

N. Clark

Year-long course, 2 credits in the Fall semester, 1 in the spring

Meeting time/day to be determined

HON 3535, Community-Based Research Seminar, gives students an opportunity to conduct real-world research with a local community partner for their senior honors thesis or an independent study project. Students will either choose an existing research project that community partners have identified, or develop a new one in collaboration with a community agency. Through readings in literature, philosophy, and social science, discussion, and guest speakers in a 75 minute weekly seminar, students will explore ideas such as the role of the university and research in social change, the nature of social issues and the influence of academic scholarship, public scholarship and the nature of the human condition. The program will provide opportunities for students to share their writing in small groups, solve problems collaboratively, and critique thesis plans, conceptual frameworks, and methodologies. This scholarly community approach will also provide structure and accountability that students in the past have found extremely beneficial for the successful completion of a thesis or independent study.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (IDS)

IDS 2202-410 Geography & Politics of Water

**TR 2:00-3:15, LLR 365
Cockerill, K**

Water is the principle, or the element of things All things are water. —Plutarch

This interdisciplinary course integrates concepts from art to zoology as we explore water. We will discuss the ways we study it, use it, revere it, and fight over it. Our quality of life is entirely dependent on cheap, plentiful, clean water, yet we know very little about this essential substance. As a group we will explore earth and human history to identify what has created our hydraulic society. We will cover contemporary water issues and their scientific, political, cultural, and economic contexts.

The format will be seminar style with significant time devoted to class discussion and small group work. The primary assignments include keeping a journal, a group policy project (done mostly in class), and an independent research project that culminates in a poster presentation.

Required Text:

Glennon, Robert. 2002. *Water Follies*. Washington: Island Press

MATHEMATICS (MAT) COURSES

MAT 1010-410: Honors Introduction to Mathematics

TR 12:00 – 1:15, WA 106

E. Marland

(Required Lab) W 12:00-1:50, WA 209B

E. Marland

Honors 1010 will focus on understanding the role of mathematics in the core curriculum and in society. We will be reading materials from two philosophers, Alfred North Whitehead (early 20th century) and Keith Devlin (book published in 1998), and discussing how their views and the views of society have changed with respect to mathematics and the challenges that mathematics faces in its interactions with society. During the course of our discussions, we will also look at some important notions of mathematics that will be useful to the students or are relevant to current science and mathematics. We will study a bit of statistics (also preparation for STT 2810), some trigonometry (useful for MAT 1020 or 1025), and some modeling (because it is cool). We may also touch on some financial mathematics depending on time (personal finance skills).

The former materials will be thought provoking and discussion/paper based while the latter will be a bit, but not entirely, more traditional (not harder, but hopefully more interesting). So while there will be some skills to be learned and some tests to be taken, we will, I hope, spend much more time reading and attempting to understand how mathematicians think, why they seem odd sometimes, and why we should care about such abstract ideas.

MAT 1120-410 Honors Calculus II

MTWR 8:00-8:50, WA 106

G. Rhoads

Calculus is the study of how quantities change. It was developed to try to understand the world we live in and to explain the events we see in everyday life. Honors Calculus II will focus on the integral and infinite

series. We will stress the conceptual understanding of these ideas so that they can be used to model real-world phenomena, one of the main objectives of the course. We will study the traditional applications (computing lengths, areas and volumes); however, attempts will be made to customize the applications to coincide with the interests of those students enrolled. Prerequisite: MAT 1110 (or AP credit for Calculus I)