

## Honors Courses: Spring 2000

For more information about any of these courses, consult the instructor or Gerald Reeck, the Director of the Honors Program, Eisenhower 113.

### A. Honors Sections of Regular Courses

1. ENGL 125: Honors English II 3 Credits

(NOTE: ENGL 125 meets the University's requirement for a second English composition course.

Section A #10040	Carol Franko	MWF 10:30	EH 227
Section B #10050	Carol Franko	MWF 11:30	EH 227

We will read science fiction of the past few decades--mostly short stories, with one or two novels and several essays about science fiction. Our goals will include exploring special issues that arise in interpreting science fiction and related models like fantasy and utopian fiction. Probable texts will include *Visions of Wonder*, edited by David G. Hartwell and Milton T. Wolf, at least one novel, and one or more packets of additional readings. Students will keep a journal and will write 3-4 papers, two of which will be extensively revised.

Section C #10060	George Keiser	TU 09:30	EH 218
Section D #10070	George Keiser	TU 11:05	EH 227

With the cold war now behind us and conscription an almost forgotten matter, it is easy to lose sight of the extent to which war has defined our lives in the twentieth century. Therefore, it seems appropriate to have young people give serious consideration to that reality by reading works that tell us much about how war defined our understanding. We will begin by reading Homer's *The Iliad*, which sets forth the ideals of war in a rather frank way. Though there is a question as to how much the book really idealizes war, it and other works of classical literature were believed to do so, and they became the basis for an idealized view that was exploded in World War I (a.k.a., the Great War). A very poignant work that showed the hollowness of that idealized vision is *All Quiet on the Western Front*, which is the next book we shall read. In connection with this part of the

course we shall look at and discuss two films, the early version of *All Quiet* and the more recent *Gallipoli*. Finally, we shall read Richard Rhodes's *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, and consider how humankind came to invent the means to annihilate itself and redefined the nature of war as a result. In connection with this subject we shall look at the excellent cold-war film, *Dr. Strangelove*.

For this course students will write five papers, the first about 700-800 words, the final one about 1200-1500 words. (In fact, for most students the final paper runs beyond this length.) Each of the first four papers will be revised at least once; when necessary, the revisions may be rather extensive. The revisions are an integral part of the experience of writing for this course; they are not optional.

A word of caution: Some of the subjects discussed in this course require a reasonable degree of maturity. For example, in looking at the first two works we shall probably discuss homoeroticism briefly. In considering Rhodes's book it is essential to talk about the nature and history of prejudice, particularly anti-Semitism. It is assumed that students who enroll in the course will bring with them a sense of seriousness and maturity, as well as a sense of humor.

Section E #10080	Thomas Murray	TU 02:05	EH 016
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In this course we will argue orally and in writing about several issues dealing with the use of English in the United States, including whether English should be declared the official language, whether bilingual programs should receive continued government support, how to handle dialects like Black English ("Ebonics") in the schools, and whether movements like Political Correctness impinge on a person's Constitutional right to free speech.

Each member of the class will be assigned to a team consisting of four or five students, and each team will be expected to research one of the issues listed above and then present their findings to the class (in whatever manner the team decides is appropriate) over a period of approximately three weeks. At the end of each of these three-week periods, each student will be expected to hand in a short (3-5 pages) paper in which they argue one or more of the issues associated with the topic at hand.

Because of the topics to be discussed in this course are political in nature and come charged full of emotion, it is expected that students who enroll will be capable of balancing whatever passion they exhibit for a particular opinion with the maturity and open-minded attitude necessary to attempt to understand other,

opposing viewpoints.

There are no books required for this course; all the reading that is done will be through packets provided by the individual teams and the supervising professor. Final grades will be determined by averaging grades assigned for each of the papers, for the presentation of each team's topic, and for participation in other teams' discussions.

2. ENGL 350 Introduction to Shakespeare 3 Credits

Section B #10910 Donald Hedrick TU 12:30 DE 222

The current explosion of interest in Shakespeare through films and adaptations for audiences, from teen to highbrow, reveals how every era makes Shakespeare anew. Using new approaches of cultural studies, we will study selected works of Shakespeare for appreciation and understanding, but with a twist: there will be some emphasis on the lesser known works (such as Shakespeare's bloody "slasher tragedy" *Titus Andronicus*), and consideration of unusual "appropriations" of Shakespeare (teen versions, animated versions, even video games). Through the plays and poems, criticism and theory from different disciplines, and selected film presentations, we will consider not only the question of Shakespeare's supposed "greatness" but the perennial ways in which his works have inspired radical imagination and performance. There will be exercises, short reports or papers, two or three exams, and an opportunity for a scene presentation or project.

3. PHILO 215 Introduction to Philosophy 3 Credits

Section A #19160 Laurie Pieper TU 11:05 M 325

The central philosophical question unifying the various readings for this course is "What role should reason and the pursuit of knowledge play in our lives?" This question will be addressed in connection with issues about love, the proper and improper uses of rhetoric, skepticism, liberty, death, and the existence of God.

PHILO 215 meets the Humanities/Philosophy requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences.

4. WOMST 105 Introduction to Women's Studies:  
Honors Section 3 Credits

Section B #24200 Torry Dickinson TU 11:05 LS 112

Introduction to Women's Studies provides an overview of how gender inequality is expressed, how it develops, and how everyone can help to create greater equity for females and males. The course examines social barriers that women and girls face and begins to identify strategies and programs to help eliminate these barriers. Examples of women's lives and gender relations are studied in different parts of the world, providing students with a general introduction to the global, cross-cultural study of women.

This course introduces four multidisciplinary dimensions of Women's Studies, including: relationships that link women and girls to the encompassing social world; social processes that create women's relationships to each other and to men; feminist and female-directed programs that are designed to addressing of social problems faced by women and their families; and women's thoughts about and analyses of the social world. These four areas will be explored through the study of the social sciences, history and literature, and through the writings and presentations of female leaders who address the needs of women and of other disadvantaged groups.

Required books help students explore women's issues in different parts of the world. Through their reading, students will examine: different conceptions of feminist thoughts and actions as they are expressed in a mystery that takes place in the Southwest, where Anglos, Mexican-Americans, and Mexicans live; the history of gender and racism, as portrayed in a recent U.S. novel; programs to assist women in employment, self-employment and unpaid home-based work in various Third World and industrialized countries; the autobiographical history of a female who grew up in mid-twentieth century urban and rural harems in Morocco; and domestic violence and anti-violence programs in the United States. The course examines relationships between women from different social groups and the cultural subordination of lesbians, gays and bisexuals as a part of sexism.

As well as learning through a careful reading of books, students will learn through lectures, discussions, informal group activities, writing, problem-solving exercises, and films. Guest lecturers will be invited to share their knowledge about how we can create gender equity.

A requirement for a secondary major in Women's Studies and for a minor in Women's Studies.

WOMST 105 is a requirement for a secondary major in Women's Studies and for a minor in Women's Studies. It fulfills a Social Science requirement or fulfills the Western Heritage requirement

in the College of Arts and Sciences. This course is approved for University General Education.

## B. Honors Seminars

1. GEOL 399 Honors Seminar in Geology: The Mountain Environment: 3 Credits  
Cultural and Scientific Perspectives

Section A #12350 Mary Hubbard T 02:30 T 208

During the millions of years of Earth history, mountains have been created and then weathered away by geologic processes. In recent years human activities have entered as an influential factor in the life cycle of mountain ranges around the world. In this course we will explore different mountain settings from a geologic, cultural, and environmental point of view. Discussions will begin with the geologic background of different mountain ranges such as the Himalayas, the Andes, the Alps, and the Rocky Mountains. Students will become involved by choosing a mountain range to investigate in some detail. Their findings will be shared with written and oral presentations. Next we will look at the cultural variety found in the world's mountains. Cultural discussions will merge with topics in economics, development, and environmental science as we examine the changes that have occurred in different mountain settings during the last century and the environmental responses to these changes. Student output includes: 1) participation in discussion; 2) written presentations; and 3) at least one oral presentation.

Readings will include selections from *American Scientist* and *Scientific American* magazines; and books such as: Denniston, D., *High Priorities: Conserving Mountain Ecosystems and Cultures*; Stone, P.B. (ed.), *The State of the World's Mountains – A Global Report*; Van Dyke, J.C., *The Mountain: Renewed Studies in Impressions and Appearances*.

This course is approved for University General Education.

2. PSYCH 399 Honors Seminar in Psychology: The Psychology of the Mass Media 3 Credits

Section A #20890 Richard Harris MWF 09:30 BH 487

This seminar will explore the psychological effects of consuming mass media, especially television. Some topics included are sex and violence, news and politics, advertising, values, and media portrayals of groups (gender, ethnic, age, occupational). The unifying theme will be that, as we consume media, we construct

interpretations about the world based on media portrayals. Thus our understanding of reality is more heavily media-based than most people realize.

This course is approved for University General Education.

#### **D. Honors Internships**

DAS 388 #05250 Gerald Reeck By appointment Variable

Time and place to be arranged by the student and the supervising faculty member in consultation with the Director of the Honors Program.

"A scholarly investigation related to activities in a place of employment or in a volunteer situation. Written and oral presentations are required. Pre.: Concurrence of a faculty advisor and approval of the arts and sciences honors program advisory council," KSU General Catalog.

This option is designed to accommodate academic credit for research and writing related to such off-campus internships as legislative internships and Court Appointed Child Advocates. Details of the independent study and the nature of the project to be completed should be cleared well ahead of time with the chosen faculty advisor and the Honors Director, as noted above.

#### **E. Honors Tutorials**

Available in Departments which list this option in the KSU General Catalog (e.g., BIOL 496, ENGL 498, GEOG 498, MUSIC 498, KIN 498, PSYCH 490, SPCH 498, all variable credit 1-3). The tutorial generally involves research in preparation for the Honors Thesis.

#### **F. Senior Honors Thesis**

Students should register for credit under the number for Senior Honors Thesis in the department of the supervising faculty member after approval of the project has been secured from that faculty member. See Dean Gerald Reeck, Eisenhower 113, for more information.

Return to [Arts and Sciences](#)

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