

Honors Courses: Spring 2001

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 #10130	Lee Behlman	MWF 08:30	EH 227
Section B #10140	Lee Behlman	MWF 09:30	EH 227

"From Darwin to DNA: Writing about Science": This course will focus on developing your critical writing and thinking skills for other courses at this university and for life beyond college. Our broad subject of interest will be writings about the life sciences in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We'll be exploring a range of issues and materials, including Darwin and natural selection, nineteenth-century racial theory, nature writing, and the discovery of the structure of DNA. We'll also be evaluating critical challenges to the way science has been practiced and conceived of, by scientists, feminist critics, and a sociologist.

The main questions this course will ask are: How have people defined science differently over time, and what do these differences mean for us? How do history and society affect science? How do scientists do their work? Is science really about discovering truth, and if so, what does this mean, exactly?

Texts for This Class Will Likely Include:

Mark Ridley, ed., *The Darwin Reader* (1996)

Jonathan Weiner, *The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time* (1994)

James Watson, *The Double-Helix* (1968)

Thomas Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (1962)

Primo Levi, *The Periodic Table* (1984)

Coursepack of essays by Erasmus Darwin, T. H. Huxley, Herbert Spencer, Mark

Twain, Asa Gray, Alexander Aggasiz, Ludmilla Jordanova, and Robert Kohler.

Assignments will include three 4-6 page analytical papers, a longer paper, required paper revisions, written workshop evaluations, and some quizzes.

Section C #10150	Carol Franko	MWF 11:30	EH 219
Section D #10160	Carol Franko	MWF 01:30	EH 227

We will read science fiction--novels, short stories, 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, *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley (Dover thrift ed.), *I, Robot*, by Isaac Asimov, *Beaker's Dozen*, by Nancy Kress, 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.

2. PHILO 215: Introduction to Philosophy 3 Credits

Section A #19430	Steven Wall	TU 11:05	S 130
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This course is an introductory study in moral philosophy. It examines philosophical issues arising in and about morality. Topics are approached by a study of classic philosophical texts. Two issues in particular will occupy our attention. First, what is the best or most fitting life for human beings to lead? And, second, what justifies some people assuming authority over the lives of others? In reading these texts we will focus on how several important philosophers have answered these two questions, and what, if any, relations they saw between them.

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

3. POLSC 326: Honors U.S. Politics 4 Credits

Section A #20750 James Franke TU 12:30 WA 132

This course involves an overview of U.S. national government, politics and policy. Topics addressed include the founding period, the evolution of the republic, presidential nominations and elections, public opinion, the congress, the federal courts and the federal bureaucracy. Active involvement in classroom discussion is required. There will be approximately six graded assignments including in-class exams, research papers and class presentations.

4. SOCIO 214: Introduction to Sociology 4 Credits

Section A #22270 Dana Britton TU 09:30 WA 350

This course will be an overview of sociology. We will discuss a number of different areas within the field, including processes of socialization, social inequalities of gender, race, and class, and social institutions, including the family, the medical system, and religion. The class will be lecture and discussion-based. Students will be responsible for participating in (and sometimes leading) class discussions, and will also be required to write a number of short exercises and papers.

5. WOMST 105: Introduction to Women's Studies 3 Credits

Section B #24860 Torry Dickinson TU 09:30 W 115

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 women and men. 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 women-directed programs that are designed to address 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 leaders who address the needs of women and 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 thought and action; a historical perspective on gender and racism; programs to assist women in employment, self-employment and unpaid home-based work in various Third World and industrialized countries; a woman's autobiography that explores different dimensions of social change; and domestic violence and anti-violence movements. 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.

Although WOMST 105 is not an "International Overlay" course, this particular section provides credit for a secondary major in International Studies.

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

B. Honors Seminars

1. ENGL 399: Honors Seminar in English: Social
Consciousness in 3 Credits
American Films of the 1930s

Section A #11060 George Keiser TU 02:05 EH 226

This course will view and study a group of classic films from the 1930s, the first decade of the "talkies" (i.e., sound films) and the

Great Depression. Exploiting the new technology, filmmakers addressed social issues that had come into sharp focus as a result of the economic upheavals produced by the Depression. Students will undertake independent research to discover the original and subsequent reception of the films, the historical and social conditions that inspired the films, and other issues specific to the particular films. The list of films, depending on availability, will be *A Farewell to Arms* (1932), *42nd Street* (1933), *Little Women* (1933), *It Happened One Night* (1934), *Modern Times* (1936), *Green Pastures* (1936), *Petrified Forest* (1936), *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939), and *Stagecoach* (1939).

NOTE: ENGL 399 is approved for University General Education credit.

2. POLSC 399: Honors Seminar in Political Science: 3 Credits
Islam and the West

Section A #20790 Michael Suleiman T 02:30 W 132

Description: This is basically a research seminar. The student is expected to do a good deal of reading, assigned and otherwise. The assigned texts are intended to familiarize the student, in summary fashion, with some of the main arguments usually advanced as the cause of misperception or distortion and perhaps conflict between Westerners and Muslims.

Readings:

John L. Esposito, The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality? (NY: Oxford University Press, 1992)

Edward W. Said, Orientalism (NY: Vintage Books, 1979)

Fred Halliday, Islam and the Myth of Confrontation (NY: St. Martin's Press, 1996)

Amin Maalouf, The Crusades through Arab Eyes (NY: Schocken Books, 1984)

Requirements: Each student will present several brief (about 5+ type-written pages) reports during the semester, and a major research paper. There will be no formal exams. The course grade will be based on the brief reports, the research paper and class discussion and presentations.

NOTE: POLSC 399 fulfills a Social Science requirement and the international overlay in the College of Arts and Sciences. This course is approved for University General Education.

C. Honors Colloquium

DAS 450: An exploration of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* 3 Credits

Charlotte
 Section A #05490 MacFarland U 1:30 BH 109
 Gerald Reeck

Tom Stoppard, a leading contemporary British playwright, is interested in a many aspects of human activity, including intellectual activity. His play, *Arcadia*, is noted for the extraordinarily wide range of fields that, like threads, weave in and out of the story. The nature of literary criticism, mechanical engineering, landscape architecture, chaos theory, fractals and the proof of Fermat's last theorem are among the areas touched on in the play. The story line itself is a moving love story. *Arcadia* will be presented by our theatre students in April. Professor MacFarland will direct the play.

The colloquium will be a wide-ranging examination of the play and appropriate background material. As in all colloquia, the course itself simply provides a setting (typically rather loosely structured) for students to explore a particular subject in depth, in the form of class presentations and a term paper (to be submitted twice). Guest lecturers from our faculty will be invited to come discuss their areas of expertise.

Depending on the area you choose to explore, the course could carry credit towards distribution requirements in arts and humanities or in natural and mathematical science.

NOTE: DAS 450 is approved for University General Education credit.

D. Honors Internships

DAS 388 #05460 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. Pr.: 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 obtained. See Dean Reeck, Eisenhower 113, for more information.

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