

# **UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS, FALL 2021**

## **BOB DYLAN'S ART OF SELF-INVENTION**

**Thursday, 11:30 am-12:15 pm (Section 301, CRN 82068)**

**Dr. Antonio de Velasco, Communication and Film**

What does it mean to be a self in the world? Throughout his career, Dylan's music and identity have gone through multiple changes. From folk to rock, from "Robert Allen Zimmerman" to "Bob Dylan," from being bar mitzvahed in the 1950s to being re-born as a Christian in the 1980s, Dylan offers us a dynamic figure of constant reinvention. Drawing from a combination of sound recordings, videos, and written bio and autobiography, the course will ask freshman to consider Dylan's many changes in contrast to our ordinary conceptions of what it means to be an authentic, consistent "self" at all. At the core of the course is an invitation to see Dylan as a rhetoric of identity, in which the "self" is constantly rediscovering its fundamental relation to others, to truth, and to the past. Particular areas of emphasis will include key songs, poetic and musical influences on Dylan's art (from Rimbaud to Woody Guthrie), the social and political context of the 1960s, and fictional accounts of Dylan's life.

## **SERVING THE MEMPHIS LATINO COMMUNITY**

**Thursday, 1:00-1:55 pm (Section 302, CRN 82072)**

**Jennifer Johnston, World Languages and Literatures**

This honors forum will consist of presentations from various non-profit organizations in the Memphis area. The ultimate goal is that the students learn about the volunteer opportunities in the Memphis area, will volunteer 10 hours at one location in the Memphis area, and present a portfolio of their experiences as the final project. Throughout the semester, non-profit organization leaders will visit class to describe what their organization does to aid the Latino community. By the midterm, students will turn in a plan for the remainder of the semester. The plan would include; the name and contact person from the organization that they have contacted, the type of work they will do, and how they will complete their 10 hours of volunteer work.

## **KNOW YOUR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES: Is Graduate School for you?**

**Monday, 11:30 am-12:25 pm (Section 303, CRN 86960)**

**Dr. Brian Meredith, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Dr. Robin Poston, Dean of the Graduate School**

Did you know that graduate school with its cutting-edge education programs building highly skilled talent might be a good future for you? A Tennessee study found that those with graduate degrees earned more annual income, earned more lifetime income, and experienced lower unemployment rates (Tennessee Graduate Schools: Building the Workforce for the Future, Tennessee Council of Graduate Schools, July 2017). This course is designed to inform students of their opportunities of study at the University of Memphis and beyond, how to prepare for and increase their odds of being accepted into the graduate programs of their choice, and how advanced learning and research skills will benefit them for the rest of their life. Various guest speakers from the largest graduate programs on campus and in areas of interest to the students will be invited to engage with the freshman and advise them on next steps, as well as homework assignments will focus on a series of inquiry into the options available, cost of attendance, and funding opportunities for their own personal future. We will also cover the Growth Mindset and Emotional Intelligence and how that can impact success in graduate school as one considers options and navigates their graduate program.

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### **TIGERS WITHOUT BORDERS**

**Tuesday, 1:00-1:55 pm (Section 304, CRN 86802)**

**Dr. William Thompson, World Languages and Literatures**

In this forum students will explore the world today through a discussion of major global events and issues, and through an examination of cultural phenomena from a variety of regions across the planet. The course encourages students to discover new aspects of their world and to become more engaged global citizens. Each week we will find out what is going on in the world and focus on unique cultural practices, with students encouraged to explore topics that they find personally relevant.

### **PLAYING THE VILLAIN: EMPATHY LESSONS IN ACTING**

**Wednesday, 10:20-11:15 am (Section 305, CRN 89944)**

**Dr. Gregory Boller, Marketing**

Have you ever wondered what it's like to play a villain, as an actor, on stage or in film? How does an actor prepare? What runs through an actor's thoughts and feelings while playing a villain? More importantly, while playing a villain, what ethical lessons does an actor learn about human character and his or her sense of self? In this forum, we will explore human villainy thru acting, and hopefully discover personal ethical insights in the bargain. We will workshop some of stage and film's most notorious villains (e.g., Richard III and Wicked Witch of the West) as well as "next door neighbor" villains (e.g., Joe Keller in *All My Sons*, and Regina George in *Mean Girls*) – exploring their motivations, putting them on-their-feet in performance, and critically discussing the experience for insights and shared learning. Additionally, we will attend at least one local production (featuring villainy on stage) to enjoy as an audience.

### **THE LANGUAGE OF SPACE**

**Tuesday, 2:40 pm-3:35 pm (Section 306, CRN 89943)**

**Joshua Nave, World Languages and Literatures**

The **Language of Space** will explore the concept of linguistic landscape. This forum will be a multicultural, multilingual, interdisciplinary approach to exploring how language, in its written and oral forms, is used to create public space. It will be collaborative in nature, requiring students to take pictures or recordings of how language is used in their lived spaces while discussing other linguistic landscapes explored in the course. Students will explore linguistic landscapes outside of their cultural background and create a visual or audio project evaluating their own linguistic landscape.

### **THE CASE AGAINST SUGAR**

**Tuesday, 2:40-3:35 pm (Section 307, CRN 91504)**

**Dr. Jeffrey Berman, Psychology**

This course uses the book by Gary Taubes, *The Case Against Sugar*, as a means of exploring the social context of scientific knowledge and its interplay with medicine, public health policy, political pressures, and commercial interests. In addition to reading and discussing the book, students will read critical reaction to it and the author's responses. Emphasis is placed on viewing the account of research on sugar as an example of potential social pressures and biases that can occur in any area of scientific inquiry.

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### **SOCIAL PHOTO: THE SELF AND SOCIETY**

**Wednesday, 9:10-10:05 am (Section 308, CRN 89946)**

**Dr. David Horan, Art**

Since the mid-19th century, photography has been shaping the way we see our culture, our society and ourselves. Yet, it has become so prolific that we often lose sight of its power to inform and transform the world around us. From the earliest documentary photographs, to portraiture, self-portraiture, to contemporary conceptual work, this course will examine and explore the photographs ability to both inform and deceive. Students will engage the photographic medium by both studying the work done by others, and by making photographs of their own that explore contemporary issues.

### **THE ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET: A CRITICAL 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SKILL**

**Wednesday, 2:20-3:15 pm., (Section 310, CRN 89948)**

**Michael Hoffmeyer, Crews Center for Entrepreneurship**

As the U.S. transitions from an industry-based economy to a knowledge-based economy, students see an increasing need to equip themselves with more than just a degree. Today's workers need 21st century skills that include critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, innovation, initiative, self-direction, leadership, adaptability and accountability. In this course, students will be exposed to a series of readings and hands-on activities designed to introduce these skills in the context of the entrepreneurial mindset. Student completing this course will gain a general understanding of entrepreneurial thinking not as a business mindset but rather a valuable cutting-edge professional skill. The entrepreneurial mindset is not just for entrepreneurs; it is a key element of professional development for tomorrow's workforce.

### **SHOW ME THE MONEY! – College Student Edition**

**Monday, 12:40-1:35 pm (Section 311, CRN 89949)**

**Allison Potter, Finance, Insurance and Real Estate**

Many students come to the University with only a half year of personal finance instruction from High School – if they are lucky. Most have just a limited knowledge on how to make the most of the funds they currently have and how to build a secure future for themselves, starting now. This class is taught using materials from the Federal Reserve Bank, by one of their Educational Advisory Board Members who trains High School teachers in personal finance. Topics covered include financial goals, budgeting, student loans, taxes, credit, investing, and insurance, to name a few. Students learn by playing games and working in teams to construct their own knowledge of what it means to manage their money – not to let it manage them!

### **PHYSICS OF MOVIES: WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S WRONG**

**Friday, 10:20-11:15 pm (Section 312, CRN 91511)**

**Dr. Gustav Borstad, Physics and Material Science**

Human beings have always been intrigued with storytelling and a key element in a story is the setting. The setting involves the time and place including the natural phenomena that occurs, which constrains what is possible for the characters to do in their environment. Many stories are told through films and movies, and the producers and the audience share a common experience with the natural phenomena that occurs around us every day and is translated into the world of the movie. A wide range of natural phenomena that appear in movies can be examined and understood using relatively few concepts. Many of these concepts can be stated with surprising simplicity in plain language. Much clarity can be obtained by considering simplified, typical cases without requiring any advanced mathematics.

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As a result, films form a compelling forum in which to carry out this exploration of the role of physics and how it affects human experience and activities. Excerpts from various films will be examined in class, from various genres such as Mary Poppins, Dr. Who, Star Wars, Star Trek, Batman, Mars, Gravity, et cetera.

### **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEMPHIS**

**Thursday, 2:40-3:35 pm (Section 313, CRN 89951)**

**Peggy Callahan, Hospitality & Resort Management**

For newcomers and native Memphians alike, this course provides all the destination knowledge you'll need to know if you want to deliver Authentic Memphis Hospitality like a pro. Explore iconic Memphis attractions and history, discover neighborhood-based amenities, and learn all the ways you can have fun when you're visiting Memphis! Along the way, you'll develop your own list of personal recommendations and Memphis facts to impress your guests. For this honors forum, students will study the First Impressions and Insiders Recommend training series developed by Welcome to Memphis for hospitality industry professionals.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**

**Monday, 2:20-3:15pm, (Section 314, CRN 89952)**

**Dr. Vikki Nolan, Public Health**

Do you want to know how you can contribute to improving your community's health? Are you interested in how things like poverty, environment, crime, literacy, and adverse childhood experiences can influence health? In this forum, you will learn from local experts how these factors affect the health of our communities in Memphis. Within a team of other students, you will develop a community-based solution to a health problem that you identify in one of our local communities. We use the BUILD Health Challenge framework to guide student teams through a case competition to develop solutions that are Bold, Upstream, Innovative, Local and Data driven. At the end of the semester, students present their ideas to a panel of community judges.

### **STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN THE HERFF COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

**Monday, 9:10-10:05 am (Section 315, CRN 89953)**

**Isaiah Surbrook and Meredith Powers, Herff College of Engineering**

Becoming a successful engineering student is something every student should strive for in the Herff College of Engineering. The goal of this forum is to empower students with the skills needed to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom. We will review study strategies, test taking strategies, and note taking tactics to help you become a better student. We will look at career assessment tools, personality types, leadership styles, and conflict management skills in an effort to prepare you for life after graduation. In addition, we will encourage you to "be your own brand" by exploring personal values, interests, and skills while reviewing comprehensive career development tools in order to help you make informed career decisions and find post-graduation success.

### **THE POWER OF STORYTELLING**

**Wednesday, 8:00-8:55 am (Section 316, CRN 89954)**

**Lauren Lesser, Athletic Academic Services**

Storytelling is part of our daily lives. Whether it be anecdotes we share with friends, a favorite book, or a song we play on repeat, we are constantly connecting with and learning from the experiences of others. In this seminar, students will dive into various mediums, such as poetry, art, social media, podcasts, music, and oral story telling to examine the various ways people tell stories, while also being

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empowered to tell their own. Students will walk away with a portfolio of storytelling techniques and discover that despite the varying factors that divide us, storytelling is a powerful commonality that ties us together.

### **SUSTAINABLE INVESTING AND FINANCE**

**TBA (Section 317, CRN 93994)**

**Kelley Anderson, Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate**

Sustainable business practices impact all facets of society and this class will look at trends in sustainability from a financial and investment perspective. The course will include discussions about how businesses raise capital and the changing preferences of investors toward more sustainable practices. Students will learn about entrepreneurial finance, investing in the stock market, and screening tools used to identify socially responsible companies and investments. The class will include many current business examples as case studies such as the growth of Tesla in the electric vehicle market and how financing of EVs is changing the auto industry. From the personal investments side, we will use the state of the art Bloomberg terminals in the Cook Trading Lab to identify companies' sustainability ratings.

### **CLASSIC CINEMA**

**Monday, 4:00-4:55 PM (Section 318, CRN 89956)**

**Dr. Jennifer Murchison, Disability Resources for Students**

The purpose of this course is to engage students in conversations about classic cinema and learn about genres, themes, topics, and censored media/content. The course will focus on late silent, pre-Code, propaganda, and race/gender/economic roles in classic (mostly Hollywood) cinema (pre-1960). As a result, students will:

- Identify roles in film promoting stereotypical masculine and feminine identities;
- Explore the artistic contribution of filmmakers in front of and behind the cameras;
- Reflect on choices made in storylines, lighting, costumes and set design;

### **DESIGN THINKING AND BRAINSTORMING FUNDAMENTALS**

**Tuesday, 2:40-3:35 pm (Section 319, CRN 92027)**

**Dr. Matthew Haught, Journalism**

Design Thinking is the way creative solve problems, through research, brainstorming, prototyping, revising, and implementing. It has roots in advertising, art, graphic design, and, engineering. In this seminar, students will discuss the fundamentals of design thinking and learn how to apply them to the problems they will face in college, and later in life.

### **“WHEN AND WHERE I ENTER?”: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE EXPERIENCE**

**Wednesday, 1:00-1:55 pm (Section 320, CRN 89958)**

**Dr. Ladrice Menson-Furr, English**

### **THE VAMPIRE IN LITERATURE, FILM AND CULTURE**

**TBD (Section 321, CRN 89959)**

**Dr. Ana Gal, English**

The vampire has fascinated humanity for centuries, and today in particular, it is more prevalent than ever. From the best-selling *Twilight* books and films, to the popular television shows *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *True Blood*, and *The Vampire Diaries*, to the multitude of graphic novels, video games, and short

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stories, this mythical monster seems almost impossible to avoid. This course seeks to answer the following questions: How can we account for the continuous hold that the vampire has had on popular culture since the nineteenth century? What permutations has the vampire taken over the years, and what can it teach us about our society, ourselves, and about being human? This section of UNHP explores the ways in which various authors and filmmakers have used the figure of the vampire to examine and critique the social, political, and ideological practices that have shaped (and continue to shape) human identity, both individual and collective.

### **WHEN VIRUSES JUMP TO THE BIG SCREEN**

**Wednesday, 11:30-12:25 (Section 322, CRN 93987)**

**Dr. William Alexander, Chemistry**

Recently, media coverage has put a spotlight on new (new flu strains), resurgent (Ebola), and reanimated (measles) diseases. Often a key concern in these news reports is how the viral strains could mutate, and how they may jump species. In this course, we will examine fiction and non-fiction accounts of viral diseases that have “made the jump” from literature to the small or silver screen, and examine how these works have mutated as they crossed this “species barrier”. Students will examine the nature of viral disease transmission and mutation, and will use these biological models as a metaphor for literature-to-screen adaptations of virus-filled literary works. We will analyze adaptations across the fiction/non-fiction spectrum, including such works as Peter and Preston’s *Panic in Level 4*, Crichton’s *Andromeda Strain*, Lovecraft’s *Herbert West-Reanimator*, and Kirkman’s *The Walking Dead*. This Forum is for students with a love of science and film who aren’t afraid to roll up their sleeves and dig into some virus-riddled literature! Caution: Side effects of this Forum may include compulsive hand-washing!

### **WIKIPEDIA: FOR THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHER**

**Wednesdays, 9:10-10:05 am (Section 323, CRN 89961)**

**Dr. Caitlin Harrington & Dr. Karen Brunsting, University Libraries**

Learn better research skills through a tool you’re already familiar with: Wikipedia! You’ve already used Wikipedia as a consumer, now use Wikipedia as a creator and evaluator. Contribute to and improve the world’s largest free, online, and multilingual encyclopedia using research skills and library resources. Empower yourself to use, create, evaluate, and edit Wikipedia content. Recognize the varying reliability of Wikipedia and understand fair use and copyright use.

### **FOOD CULTURE AND ITALIAN IDENTITY**

**Friday, 9:10-10:05 am (Section 324, CRN 89962)**

**Dr. Cosetta Gaudenzi, World Languages and Literatures**

How did spaghetti and meatballs become the symbol of Italian cuisine in the United States? Is it true that pasta was not invented in Italy? How did a cookbook contribute to the creation of Italian national identity? Could abolishing *pastasciutta* make Italians more optimistic?

The production and consumption of food shapes our world, our culture, and ultimately our identities. Images of food and dinner tables pervade Italian art and literature, celebrating pleasures or projecting desires, passing on traditions or stirring revolutions. In this course we will examine how eating and cooking habits intersect with material and cultural changes in Italy at various times, ranging from the Middle Ages to the present. We will investigate how issues of personal, regional, and national identity are shaped and expressed by food habits. The basis for class discussion and for writing assignments will be provided by fictional and non-fictional writings, including recipes; by documentary films and commercial movies; and by television shows and advertisements.



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## **CLIMATE CHANGE REALITIES IN AMERICA**

**Monday, 10:20-11:15 am (Section 325, CRN 89963)**

**Dr. Stephen Diko, City and Regional Planning**

Threatened by changes in the global climate system, humanity is on the verge of uncertainty and vulnerability. Climate change is intensifying the frequency of extreme weather events and affecting the severity of rainfall, temperature, snow, tornadoes, and hurricanes. The impacts are devastating, affecting different aspects of everyday life, and have already been felt across the United States in varied ways. In this course, students will seek answers to two main questions:

- i. How do climate change impacts manifest across different sectors (e.g. air and water quality; human health; energy supply, delivery, and demand; ecosystem services and biodiversity; agriculture and rural communities; built environment, urban systems, and cities; and transportation) and geographic regions of the United States?
- ii. In what ways can we tackle climate change impacts?

## **MASKS: THE ART OF DISGUISE**

**Monday, 9:10-10:10 am (Section 326, CRN 89964)**

**Dr. Leslie Luebbers, Art Museum of the University of Memphis**

Using objects in the collection of the Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM), students will curate an exhibition about masks in ancient and modern world cultures. Students will learn about the uses of masks in ancient Egyptian and Mediterranean cultures, African, European, South, Central and North American, Pacific and Asian societies. With museum staff, they will research objects in the AMUM collection, develop the exhibit concept, write a script, select objects, write object labels, design, install the show and develop education and promotional plans. In addition to learning the thematic content, the goal of the course is to introduce students to professional museum practices including object record keeping and proper storage and handling, curatorial and interpretive techniques. The course fosters critical thinking, creativity, communication and, especially collaboration as well as research and technical skills.

## **ROCK N' ROLL, RHETORIC, AND INFORMATION**

**Thursday, 1:00-1:55 pm (Section 327, CRN 91503)**

**Dr. Michael Harris, University Libraries**

Rock n' Roll is a truly American artform, through which major cultural shifts of the 20th century can be traced. Frequently reduced, whitewashed, and repackaged, this course seeks to recuperate the narrative of rock n' roll as rooted in the history of oppressed and marginalized voices, substantiating the genre as the connective tissue between American blues and folk traditions and popular music. Through this exploration of the history of rock n' roll, we will also introduce students to a number of theoretical lenses through which they can interpret and understand cultural artifacts, connecting the genre to notions of ideology, hegemony, globalism, and multimodal communications.

## **FANTASY FOOTBALL OR "PASSING PREDICTIONS AND PIGSKIN PROBABILITIES**

**Tuesday, 1:00-1:55 pm (Section 328, CRN 92043)**

**Dr. Tim Ryan, Sports and Leisure Commerce**

In this forum, we will see how managing a fantasy football team is a unique way to understand various strategic decision-making concepts, including basic types of research and statistical tools. This class welcomes both experienced players and those who have never played fantasy football as information is

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shared about the fantasy sports and gaming industry, an industry with over 60 million participants, including an estimated 12 million women.

### **THE BIG PAYBACK**

**Wednesday, 10:40-11:15 (Section 329)**

**Rita Williams Green, School of Accountancy**

The *Big Payback* focuses on the financial awareness of students regarding their student loans and ways to confront their indebtedness. This course is designed to help students understand the characteristics and terms of the debt they have agreed to repay as well help students “wake up” to the reality of debt, how it grows, and how to keep it at a minimum. It is important that students understand their financial obligations and use that understanding to make informed decisions about assuming additional debt, develop plans to pay the debt already incurred, and take action to minimize future debt.

### **DISABILITY ISSUES AND DISCUSSIONS**

**Monday, 4:00-4:55 pm (Section 331, CRN 92030)**

**Jennifer Murchison, Disability Resources for Students**

The education of society regarding issues of disability is as timely now as ever. Looking at the history of disability in the United States, on college campuses, and in society will offer better insight to a population still marginalized, and one that anyone can become a part of at any time of their lives, and likely will be at some point. By looking critically at the misperceptions society has about the disabled, and how “inspiration porn” affects the national discourse. Students will learn how the stories of people with disabilities have become “props” for the nondisabled. Students will also learn about appropriation of the disabled in media representation.

### **HUMAN NUTRITION AND FAD DIETS**

**Thursday, 9:40-10:35 (Section 332, CRN 92028)**

**Dr. Alka Sharma, Biological Sciences**

With increased awareness of body weight and shape, more and more people are trying fad diets to get desired results over a short period of time. Around the clock access to internet and social media has fueled this frenzy further. The ability to understand the changing nutritional requirements over a lifetime is critical to assess the pros and cons of the fad diets as well as in deciding whether to follow one. This class will be divided into four categories:

1. Human digestive system: anatomy & physiology
2. Components of nutrition: Carbohydrates, proteins, fats, minerals, vitamins, fiber and dietary supplements
3. Different diets: Vegan, Vegetarian, Kosher, Halal, Gluten free, Intermittent fasting
4. Fad diets: Atkins, keto, Detox, Paleo, South beach, Liquid diet, whole 30, Weightwatcher, Nutrisystem diet
5. Any diseases/conditions influenced by fad diets

### **MEDITATION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE**

**Monday, 2:20-3:15 pm, Section 333, CRN 93486**

**Adam C. Krug, Religious Studies**

Meditation has been a part of public and clinical conversations around the promotion of both physical and mental wellbeing in the United States for more than a generation. Most of the



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meditation practices that have become popular today can be traced back to Buddhist and Hindu contemplative traditions that have existed, in some cases, for over two thousand years. But as meditation becomes mainstream in the United States, it has also tended to become less and less directly associated with some of the original theoretical and practical approaches to meditation.

In this course, we will examine meditation practices and the theories underlying these practices in both their traditional and modern contexts. Students will be introduced to classical Buddhist meditation practices and learn a bit about the historical and philosophical roots of Buddhist meditation. We will read both modern and classical works on Buddhist meditation and explore the various ways that meditation has been taught in both traditional and non-traditional settings. Students will also be taught a simple calm-abiding (śamatha) meditation practice that they will be expected to maintain throughout the semester.

### **WHAT IS MINDFULNESS?**

**Monday 11:30 am-12:25 pm, (Section 335, CRN 93989)**

**Dr. Kevin Taylor**

In recent years, the Asian concept of mindfulness seems to be everywhere. Mainstream magazines in supermarket checkout lanes are dedicated to Mindfulness and apps promise to unclutter our minds in just ten minutes a day. Radio psychologists tell us to slow down and celebrities in public service announcements caution us to pay attention. Fitness trainers ask us to focus on our breathing and monks urge us to meditate.

So, what exactly is mindfulness? This course will examine the history and philosophical developments of mindfulness in Buddhism and Western philosophy as well as current developments of mindfulness in mental health, smartphone apps, and eco-mindfulness.

### **SUN STUDIO**

**Wednesday, 9:10-10:05 am (Section 339, CRN 93993)**

**Joel Roberts, Music Librarian Assistant Professor, University Libraries**

Sun Studio is one of Memphis's premier tourist attractions. People come from all over the world with this studio on their list of must-see sites while in town. It is one of the most identifiable landmarks in the city, and it has gotten its share of exposure on television and in film. The members of the so-called Million Dollar Quartet—Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, and Jerry Lee Lewis—are whose legacies attract many to the studio, but there is much more to learn about Sun Studio than these four individuals. In this forum section, we will learn about the history of Sun Records, which started out as the Memphis Recording Service, and we will discuss the other artists who came through its doors. The goal of this course is to provide a more inclusive history of Sun Records and demonstrate that white artists recording rock and roll were only one aspect of Sun's historical significance. We will focus on the impact and influence of the black artists who recorded at Sun, as well as discuss all genres of music that were recorded there. Students in this section will develop a thorough understanding of the history of one of Memphis's most important musical products.

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### **THE OFFICE AND TELEVISION CULTURE**

**ONLINE ONLY (Section 344, CRN 94892)**

**Dr. Amanda Edgar, Communication and Film**

From its origins on British television to its spotlight position in US streaming culture, *The Office* has become an international sensation. Although the show first debuted fifteen years ago, its fans have only grown since the 2005 pilot, demonstrating the propensity for particular themes to transcend their original temporal and spatial contexts. In this class, we use *The Office* to explore a variety of issues in media culture including the show's innovations in television aesthetics, the normalization of representations of work in media, post-object fandom and the turn to streaming culture, and more. Students will get more out of this class if they are at least casual fans of *The Office*, and a familiarity with the show is strongly encouraged.

### **DRONES: APPLICATIONS TO IMAGE PROCESSING**

**Online Only (Section 345, CRN 89555)**

**Dr. Esra Ozdenerol and Michelle Field, Earth Sciences**

The drone industry is growing rapidly in many fields, including earth and environmental science, engineering, geography, photography, real estate, agriculture, and computer science. The advancement of drones in science creates new opportunities, such as increased safety in industrial inspections, vegetative health studies in agriculture, and faster turnaround times for products. With technological advances in industry, companies are looking for more than just theoretical learning. Experience and certifications are catching the eye of many industrial leaders who are looking for workers that can take their companies farther than before.

This Forum introduces honors students to an exciting assortment of drone applications and post-processing through a lens of interactive online learning. This course will be targeted to students who love drone technology and desire to receive their FAA Part 107 Drone certification and expand their knowledge on the drone industry. We intend to organize the course around the acquisition of a Part 107 Certification for small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, examples of drone surveying, and post-processing using Drone2Map and geographic information systems (GIS).

### **ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE: A MATHEMATICAL PRIMER OF INFECTIOUS-DISEASE MODELING**

**Time and location TBD**

**Dr. Thomas Hagen, Mathematical Sciences**

Euclid of eternal geometry fame once said that "The laws of nature are but the mathematical thoughts of God." But what are the laws of nature when thinking of infectious diseases, epidemics and other virulent scourges of mankind? Pop culture offers us its answer for a fictitious and highly infectious disease: A zombie outbreak. Of course, when George Romero created his zombie cult classic "Dawn of the Dead," he was probably not thinking of mathematics or mathematical modeling. The shock might have been too overpowering for his audience. But this is exactly what we will embark on.

The spread of a zombie outbreak in a closed population is quite simple to capture mathematically. In mathematical epidemiology the principal ideas of modeling, predicting, and tracking an infectious disease as it spreads throughout a population in time are due to two pioneers of the field: W. O. Kermack and A. G. McKendrick. Their findings are the basis of what is nowadays known as the SIR model of infectious diseases. Variants of the SIR model allow us to model flu outbreaks, dengue fever, the zombie apocalypse and Covid-19. They shed light on the notions of "herd immunity" and "endemic disease" and illustrate the effects of vaccinations and brute-force interventions.

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Students will collaborate on various modeling and computational projects to chart the best course for survival during a zombie apocalypse. They will explore strategies to fight infectious diseases with an emerging understanding of Calculus. Hence Calculus I (MATH 1910 or MATH 1421) serves as a corequisite for this honors forum.

### **\*\*ADDITIONAL FORUMS THROUGH TIGER LEARNING COMMUNITIES (TLC)\*\***

**Learning communities consist of 2+ courses linked together by a common theme.** We have 4 honors specific learning communities in which a student can receive honors credit while learning in a collaborative, cohort environment. A student must be enrolled in all the community courses in order to take these UNHP 1100 sections. Please speak with your Academic Advisor if you're interested in a TLC.

#### **TRICKSTERS, TRAITORS, AND TURNCOATS**

**Wednesday, 11:30 am-12:25 pm (Section C01)**

**Prof. Cathy Dice/ Prof. Tammy Jones, Dept. of English**

Learn why the villain in your favorite story is **much** more interesting than the hero! This TLC will draw upon multiple areas of the humanities and social sciences--literature, folklore, film, religion, mythology, theatre, history, psychology, criminology--to explore the sources of our fascination with those archetypal characters who specialize in stirring up trouble. (Paired with THEA 1030)

#### **DECONSTRUCTING RACE IN AMERICA: BLACKNESS, WHITENESS, & BEYOND (4 honors credits total)**

**Friday, 10:20-11:15 am (Section C02)**

**Dr. Ron Serino/Dr. Ladrica Menson-Furr**

This interdisciplinary exploration of racialization in the United States will focus on the present but will also consider historical roots. How is "race" constructed and maintained? Who determines and who benefits from racialization? Subtopics to include historical legacies of race in Memphis (economic, geographic, religious, & educational segregation), the ladder of whiteness, and beyond black and white. (Paired with ANTH 1200 Cultural Anthropology Honors and PHIL 1102 Intro to Ethics Honors)

#### **FOR THE LOVE OF NURSING (4 honors credits total)**

**Thursday, 1:00-1:55 (Section C03)**

**Ms. Jenna Koestler, Academic Counseling Center**

Learn what it takes to be admitted to the nursing program and the skills needed to be successful in the nursing profession. (Paired with MATH 1530: Elem Statistics, COMM 2381: Oral Communication Honors, BIOL 2010/2011: Anatomy/Physiology I with Lab)

#### **LAW AND JUSTICE**

**Thursday, 1:00-1:50 (Section C04)**

Get a grounding in legal theories, concepts of justice, and institutions of law, and explore pathways to legal professions and law school. (Paired with PHIL 1102 Intro to Ethics Honors, POLS 1030 American Government)