

UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2022

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.

APPROACHES TO ART IN MEMPHIS: MUSEUM EDUCATION

Tuesday, 9:40 am – 10:35 am (Section 302, CRN 82072)

Bryna Bobick, Art

This course is designed to introduce students to the role of the art museum in the educational process. Exemplary educational programs from museums throughout Memphis will be examined and reviewed in terms of their educational content. Guest speakers and field trips will supplement class discussions. Students will also have the opportunity to apply museum education theories and philosophies discussed to actual art museums. Over the course of the semester, students will study and visit the following museums: The Art Museum at The University of Memphis, The Metal Museum, The Brooks Museum, Stax Museum, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, The Civil Rights Museum and The Belz Museum of Asian and Judaic Art.

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

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 pm-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 (CLOSED)

Wednesday, 10:20 am-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.

POOL TESTING: A COST AND TIME-EFFICIENT STRATEGY TO SCREEN COVID-19

Wednesday, 12:40 pm – 1:35 pm (Section 306, CRN 89943)

Xichen Mou, School of Public Health

Pool testing is a strategy to pool individual specimens (e.g., blood, urine, swabs, etc.) together, and test the pools for the presence of disease. This strategy has been widely used in disease screening including HIV, Chlamydia, and most recently, COVID-19. In this forum, you are going to learn how researchers are using this simple but strong idea to save millions of dollars and speed up the diagnosis process in disease screening. You will have a close look at how a statistical model is built from scratch to solve a real-world problem.

THE CASE AGAINST SUGAR

Tuesday, 2:40 pm - 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 am - 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.

FRENCH CULTURE AND LUXURY

Thursday, 9:40 am – 10:35 am

Melanie Conroy, World Languages and Literatures

Are the French really so fancy? How did top French brands like Louis Vuitton, Chanel, and Hermès become luxury brands? Why are French restaurants and wine associated with quality? In this forum, we will look at aspects of French culture like luxury brands and high-end tourist locations to understand how French culture came to be synonymous with luxury and expensive taste. We will study Paris, Versailles, the French Riviera, the castles of the Loire Valley, and other high-end locales to see how they market themselves on the internet and in videos intended for an international public. We will analyze brand websites, maps, photographs, videos, and short texts to see why and how French brands distinguish themselves and justify higher than average prices. Topics include: luxury food and gastronomy, wine, high end hotels, prestige cinema, fine dining restaurants, fashion and haute couture. Discussions will be based on examples from short texts, images, and videos. Students will be expected to complete a short presentation on the history of one French brand, product, or place. Students will also complete one short paper on a brand, luxury location, or luxury object discussed during the course.

EARTHQUAKES IN HOLLYWOOD

Thursday, 2:40 pm – 3:35 pm

Thomas Goebel, Center for Earthquake Research and Information

This Honors Forum will focus on plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes and how science is depicted in disaster movies. Disaster movies have a long tradition in Hollywood filmmaking; and although special effects significantly improved much of the science remains flawed even in present day films. You will learn to critically evaluate movies in light of basic scientific theory. For instance, we will discuss the mechanisms that lead to the formation of ocean tsunamis and contrast these with the depicted tsunami in the film “San Andreas (2015)”. Other films that will be discussed are “Earthquake (1974)”, “Volcano (1997)”, “The Core (2003)”, and “2012 (2009)”.

EXPLORING GEOLOGY/EARTHQUAKES THROUGH VIRTUAL REALITY AND 3D PRINTING (CLOSED)

Friday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm

Christodoulous (“Chris”) Kyriakopoulos, Center for Earthquake Research and Information

Visualizing objects and physical processes in 3D is a difficult task. In the specific case of geosciences, most people are probably familiar with regular two-dimensional maps, but have difficulties in visualizing 3D objects on two-dimensional media such as a computer screen or paper. Virtual Reality (VR) and 3D Printing are the ideal tools to fill that gap and improve communication between the public and geoscientists. These technologies act in a complementary way as the virtual and hands-on components of a broader educational experience. While the 3D printed models allow the tactile exploration of geologic features, the VR component allows virtual travel inside geologic structures. In this forum I will show you how to use

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Virtual Reality and 3D printing to represent scientific data with primary focus to geologic processes and earthquakes. The VR experience will also include the visualization of time-dependent tectonic processes, like earthquake ruptures and historic seismicity. Furthermore, students will be encouraged to select a topic and build their own project. State of the art VR systems (laptops + goggles) will be made available during class to forum participants.

PHYSICS OF MOVIES: WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S WRONG (CLOSED)

Friday, 10:20 am - 11:15 am (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.

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 (CLOSED)

Thursday, 2:40 pm - 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 IN POP CULTURE (CLOSED)

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

Vikki Nolan, School of Public Health

Television, movies and other media can have a powerful impact on people's understanding of a field, historical events, and even career choices. For example, an increase in law school applications in the late 1980's was attributed to "LA Law," and "ER" is credited with increasing the number emergency medicine residency applications. While not always particularly realistic, there are several examples of public health in popular culture that are remarkably well done. This seminar will introduce students to public health through interactive discussions of movies, books, and podcasts. Topics that will be explored include, but are not limited to, epidemics both real and fictional, the Tuskegee Syphilis Study and medical ethics, and that time so many people in Memphis died that it lost its city charter.

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STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN THE HERFF COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (CLOSED)

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

Isaiah Surbrook, 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.

COMPUTATIONAL THINKING THROUGH MODULAR SOUND SYNTHESIS

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 316, CRN 89954)

Andrew Olney, Institute for Intelligent Systems

In this Honors Forum, students will learn computational thinking concepts and strategies in the context of modular sound synthesis. Modular sound synthesis (modular) is extensively used in the production of electronic music and hip hop. Modular is a method of creating sounds and composing music that exists at the intersection between music, signal processing, and implicitly, functional programming, since each module represents a function that performs an operation on sound. However, no code is written in the process; rather, “programming” consists of connecting wires between modules to carry audio or control signals. Each class will pose challenges to create a certain kind of sound or sequence of sounds aligned with the topic of the day. The goal of these challenges is to help the students develop computational thinking skills as they learn to solve musical problems through modular. It is important to note that the course activities require each student to have a laptop to run software that simulates a modular system.

THE FEAR FACTOR (CLOSED)

Monday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 317, CRN 93994)

Robert Seals, Psychology

Everything you want sits on the *other side* of fear, and fear exists only in *the mind*. Each of you is poised at the beginning of four years of converting your *possibles* into your *definites*. The goal of this honors forum is to assist you to examine, face, and move beyond the fears that can *crush your spirit*, if you allow such a travesty to occur. The past two plus years, while you completed high school, have featured fear at center-stage. It is time for fear to relinquish the spotlight! You do agree, right?

Engaged in a discussion format, each week we will explore emotions, current events, societal belief systems, social conditioning, power, and truth, as they relate to fear. You will become a dauntless storyteller, a raconteur, and in the process you will learn exactly where to place *fear* in your life. Selected sections of Lawrence Doochin’s recent book titled *A Book on FEAR – Feeling Safe in a Challenging World* will concretize, inform, and orient our class discussions.

“To understand your fear is the beginning of really seeing”. **Bruce Lee**

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THE CITY IN SONG

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 319, CRN 92027)

Charlie Santos, City and Regional Planning

This Honors Forum will examine cities, and the complexities and paradoxes of the urban condition, through the accessible and engaging medium of music. Songs have been used for generations to tell stories of place and struggle. Through an exploration of songs whose lyrics evoke a strong sense of place, the course will focus on *stories*—both stories *about* cities that reflect the urban condition, as well as *storytelling* as a means for community members to express their perspectives and share their knowledge. The course will also include an exploration of the role of music in Memphis, along with site visits to the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, the Memphis Slim Collaboratory, and the studio of Ditty TV.

WHEN VIRUSES JUMP TO THE BIG SCREEN (CLOSED)

Tuesday, 1:00 pm – 1:55 pm (Section 320, CRN 89958)

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!

ROYAL TEA: SPILLING THE TEA ABOUT THE SPANISH MONARCHS

Wednesday, 12:40 pm – 1:35 pm (Section 321, CRN 89959)

Joshua Nave, World Languages and Literatures

Want the hot goss on the scandals and rumors about the royals? Not *those* royals! We are talking about the Spanish monarchy from 1474 to present day. We will consider historical context through which to judge the objects of our hearsay as we attempt to air their dirty laundry or set the record straight. Our final verdict will be based on using your digital and academic sleuthing skills to determine the truth of the matter. In our forum we will be investigating the veracity, or lack thereof, of rumors involving murder, necrophilia, fratricide, and your standard royal intrigues of power plays, infidelity, salacious sex scandals, and who was really running the kingdom. Did these rumors (or truths) affect the development of Spain, Europe, or even the world? If so, how? With your help, dear reader, we are sure to discover the truth... at least that's what I've heard.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS: AN ACADEMIC ADVENTURE (CLOSED)

Monday, 10:20 am – 11:15 am (Section 322, CRN 93987)

Will Robertson, Anthropology

(Experience with roleplaying games is not a requirement for the course.) The table-top roleplaying game *Dungeons & Dragons* (D&D) has recently surged in popularity and is increasingly becoming an object of academic interest. D&D involves a group of people engaging in cooperative storytelling guided by the

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luck of rolling dice to shape the direction and outcome of player actions, sometimes moving the story in surprising directions. While D&D is a lot of fun to play, it's also an excellent opportunity for thinking about and studying human relationships and social structures. In this course, we will use D&D as a tool for exploring several topics of interest in the social sciences and humanities by considering D&D as both a producer and product of culture and using it to consider what it means to be human.

UNDERSTANDING PROPAGANDA (CLOSED)

Wednesday, 10:20 am – 11:15 am (Section 323, CRN 89961)

William Duffy, English

What do fake news, disinformation, and conspiracy theories all have in common? They all can be understood as forms of propaganda. In this course, we'll study the nature of propaganda, how propaganda circulates, and how it can be debunked, if at all. Propaganda is ubiquitous, and most of us experience it in one form or another every day. In fact, the most effective forms of propaganda we become immune to—we don't recognize it and might even get offended if someone else calls it propaganda. But in studying what propaganda is and how it works, we can strengthen our critical capacities while learning how to encourage the kinds of dialogue and debate that foster democracy instead of weaken it. In addition to examining both historical and contemporary examples of propaganda, some of which students will locate themselves, we'll also practice how to analyze it and, most importantly, teach others how to identify and respond to propaganda in their own communities.

FOOD CULTURE AND ITALIAN IDENTITY

Monday, 8:00 am – 8:55 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.

Airbnb In A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD: SAFETY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Monday, 10:20 am – 11:15 am (Section 325, 89963)

Rui Qi, Hospitality and Resort Management

Health and safety are becoming more and more critical to consumers' lodging decision-making. Airbnb has introduced several preventive measures such as an enhanced cleaning protocol and self-check-in to address these concerns when coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. Should Airbnb continue to implement these preventive measures in a post-pandemic period? Additionally, different types of communication strategies can trigger consumers' different psychological mechanisms. Consumers process incoming information differently depending on whether the information is related to their sense of the self. Will Airbnb guests respond to hosts' preventive measures more positively when they are invited to participate and co-create community health and safety? In this forum, you will develop two

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types of safety messages for Airbnb: one focuses on what the host can do and the other focuses on what the guest can do.

“WHEN AND WHERE I ENTER”? DISCOVERING HIDDEN HERSTORIES

Friday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 328, CRN 92043)

Ladrica Menson-Furr, English

This Forum’s title, “When and Where I Enter?” is borrowed from Black Feminist scholar, Paula Giddings’s seminal study *When and Where I Enter?: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*. In this text, Professor Giddings discusses the African American female experience using history, sociology, literature, etc. to compose an illustration of the myriad ways that African American women entered academic, artistic, cultural, medical, political and social spaces with and without invitations. Thus, this course will introduce you to an interdisciplinary discussion of African American women and their herstories. We will examine amazing herstories of Memphis’s African American female population, particularly women such as Mary Church Terrell, Maxine Smith, and Dr. Miriam DeCosta-Willis, and also participate in campus “field excursions” to the growing number of spaces and places that celebrate African American women’s contributions to the University of Memphis.

CLIMATE CHANGE PERSPECTIVES AND PROSPECTS FOR MEANINGFUL ACTION

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 332, CRN 92028)

Daniel Larsen, Earth Sciences

Scientifically established concepts are often routinely accepted by most people except when the concept requires change in lifestyle or livelihood or challenges our beliefs. In this course we examine climate change from a scientific standpoint, but then focus our attention on various human perspectives of climate change. During the final weeks of the semester, we will discuss how various perspectives play a role in current negotiations at the global level and in our future ability to take action. The information sources for the course will include readings, social media and YouTube information, podcasts, and one or more documentaries and movies (e.g., “An Inconvenient Truth,” “Don’t Look Up,” and “The Great Global Warming Swindle”). The goal of the course is to not only provide some basic scientific background regarding climate change, but for students to gain an appreciation for the perspectives and values that fuel debate regarding climate change and identify actions that can be taken to address climate change. The course will stimulate debate, encourage tolerance for diverse opinions and strive to develop common ground for how humanity may address a defining issue of the 21st century.

CULTIVATING HEALTH CHAMPIONS AND HEALTH AMBASSADORS

Tuesday, 2:40 pm – 3:35 pm (Section 335, CRN 93989)

Seok Won Jin (School of Social Work) and Sohye Lee (Loewenberg College of Nursing)

Have you heard of “Freshman 15”—the weight that college students are likely to gain when they’re away from home for the first time? College students are most at risk for not only overweight/obesity but also other health issues, such as stress, depression, sleep problems, physical inactivity, eating problems, Internet addiction, and sexually transmitted infection (e.g., human papillomavirus). Freshmen year is a great time for students to learn about and develop new healthy habits and coping skills for preventing chronic disease in their later lives. This class provides freshmen honors students with various opportunities to learn about basic-yet-essential knowledge and skills of managing health issues and to communicate with their peers and community members on disease prevention and health promotion. The class activities include logging a health journal, reviewing and sharing health information via UofM social media, and conducting interviews with health experts and community members to explore

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community health issues. Freshmen honors students who successfully complete this class will become health champions and health ambassadors!

SUN STUDIO

Wednesday, 9:10 am - 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.

EVERYTHING CHANGED WHEN THE FIRE NATION ATTACKED (CLOSED)

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 344, CRN 94892)

Cathy Dice and Tammy Jones, English

When *The Fellowship of the Ring* and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* hit big screens in 2001, television networks scrambled to develop programming that would help them ride the wave of enthusiasm for high fantasy generated by those successful adaptations. Nickelodeon was no exception. As a result, two recent graduates of Rhode Island School of Design pitched the idea for an animated fantasy series influenced by their love of wuxia cinema, Japanese anime, and Eastern meditation. It was not in any way a predictable fit for Nickelodeon's previously successful formula for children's programming, but based on that pitch from Mike DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko, a pilot episode was nevertheless ordered, and *Avatar: The Last Airbender* debuted on the network in 2005. And as the opening narration says, "Everything changed when the Fire Nation attacked." Therefore, this UNHP seminar will explore the influence of Nickelodeon's series *Avatar: The Last Airbender* as students make their way through all 61 episodes of the inaugural series of what has become a beloved franchise. Topics to be covered include how the series differs from Nickelodeon's usual programming and how it paved the way for subsequent, innovative animation; the show's treatment of serious topics like genocide, imperialism, terrorism, and the importance of spiritual beliefs in a way suitable for children; how the show launched the careers of several influential creatives such as Dave Filoni who is currently an executive producer in charge of creative development at Lucasfilm; and how the series with absolutely no technology in its fictional universe captured the hearts and imaginations of a generation of digital natives now entering adulthood.

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HUMAN...KIND? (CLOSED)

Thursday, 1:00 pm – 1:55 pm (Section 345, CRN 89955)

Kenny Latta, Anthropology

What does it mean to be human? Recent news coverage of political unrest, war, inequality, and disease might have given you the impression that humans are, by their nature, cruel and selfish animals. But, at the same time, we are inspired by stories of people who engage in selfless, cooperative, or compassionate behaviors. What does that mean for how we think about human nature? This honors forum will explore this question through a critical reading of the popular historian Rutger Bregman's recent book *Humankind: A Hopeful History*. We'll look at insights from anthropology (including the study of human evolution and primatology), sociology, political philosophy, and criminology to try to evaluate Bregman's assertion that humans are, at their core, "fundamentally decent." If you are a human curious about other humans, this Honors Forum is for you!

ADULTING (AGING DEVELOPING THROUGH USEFUL LIFESKILLS TRAINING)

First Part of Term Class, Tuesday, 4:20 pm – 6:10 pm (Section 346)

Rita Green, School of Accountancy

Young adults, especially those who are traditional college age, are often still being financially supported by their parents so they may not be financially independent. For example, you may lack experience with issues like understanding lease agreements/home purchases, budgeting/managing financial responsibility, or understanding the consequences of co-signing for a loan. This Honors Forum is designed to help you understand and acquire the essential skills needed so you can assume independent adulthood with confidence.

****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 to take these UNHP 1100 sections. Please speak with your Academic Advisor if you're interested in a TLC.

THE VAMPIRE IN LITERATURE, FILM AND CULTURE (4 honors credits total)

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section C01, CRN 92490)

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 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. (Paired with PHIL 1102 Intro to Ethics Honors)

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

Friday, 10:20-11:15 am (Section C02, CRN 92485)

Ron Serino, Interdisciplinary Studies and Angela Kuykendoll, UofM Global

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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)

FOR THE LOVE OF NURSING (4 honors credits total)

Thursday, TBD (Section C03, CRN 92500)

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)

“OH, THE HORROR!”: AMERICAN CULTURE AND THE HORROR FILM (4 honors credits total)

(CLOSED)

Wednesday, 12:40 pm – 1:35 pm (Section C04)

Micheal J. Clinton Jr., College of Health Sciences

What do the zombies in Dawn of the Dead say about consumerism? How does Cloverfield fit into a post-9/11 landscape? Is there a connection between nuclear war and the giant monster movies of the 50s? While some see the horror genre as a combination of senseless violence and macabre obsessions, many filmmakers and screenwriters find inspiration from the actual fears of society. This forum will challenge students to investigate, question, and identify the social commentary hidden between the lines of iconic horror films, both past and present. (Paired with PHIL 1102 Intro to Ethics Honors)