

UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2023

BOB DYLAN'S ART OF SELF-INVENTION

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

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?

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

Peggy Callahan, 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)

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 am-11:15 am (Section 305, CRN 89944)

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.

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

Friday, 10:20 am - 11:15 am (Section 306, CRN 89943)

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.

THE CASE AGAINST SUGAR

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

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

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sugar as an example of potential social pressures and biases that can occur in any area of scientific inquiry.

SOCIAL PHOTO: THE SELF AND SOCIETY

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

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 (Section 309, CRN 89947)

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.

CALL IT WHAT YOU WANT: TAYLOR SWIFT AS A CULTURAL PRACTICE, PRODUCT, AND PERSPECTIVE

Wednesday, 10:20 am – 11:15 am (Section 310, CRN 89948)

Ashley Roach Freiman, University Libraries

Taylor Swift is a true American pop star who lives in the limelight, maintaining the persona of “good girl” creative icon while navigating fame, fandom, and the music business. Alongside being the first musician to claim the top 10 songs of Billboards Hot 100 in a single week, she’s notable for self-mythologizing by playing with and manipulating “texts” such as fan perceptions, online platforms, and the lyrical and musical themes of her own oeuvre. In this seminar, we will read, write, think, and speak Swiftie through the lenses of contemporary cultural context, exploring concepts of memeification, cultural representation, and creativity. Students in this course will examine Swift through readings and feisty, thoughtful discussions about songwriting, feminism, fame, social media, reputation, appropriation, whiteness, and pop culture. Projects will be interactive, fun, and creative.

AGRICULTURE IN THE MID-SOUTH AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER CORRIDOR

Wednesday, 10:20 am – 11:15 am (Section 311, CRN 89949)

Leah Windsor, English and Institute for Intelligent Systems

The goal of this class is to explore the history, current status, and future prospects for renewable, regenerative agriculture in the Mid-South (TN-AR-MS-KY-MO) and Mississippi River corridor. This

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interdisciplinary course will cover issues of soil health, regenerative practices like cover cropping and no-till, biobased products, workforce development, the Farm Bill, water and resource management, and farmer perspectives on challenges and opportunities given a rapidly changing seasonal environment. Students will hear from local, regional, national, and international experts in the field of renewable, regenerative, and sustainable agriculture to gain a perspective on the issues that farmers, growers, and ranchers face at these different levels. This class will offer interdisciplinary perspectives across the physical and social sciences, business, engineering, and humanities including the fields of Biology, Earth Sciences, Chemistry, English, Anthropology, Supply Chain Management, Marketing, Public Health, Urban Affairs and Public Policy, and many others.

UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF THE VOYNICH MANUSCRIPT

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 312, CRN 91511)

Leah Windsor, English and Institute for Intelligent Systems

The Voynich Manuscript is a document of unknown origins, written in an unknown language, and continues to be a linguistic and sociological mystery confounding scientists all over the world. It was recently carbon dated to the early 1400s and its provenance identified as being near the area of Prague, Czechia. However, its authorship, language, meaning, and content all remain a mystery. In this class, we will look at different approaches to unlocking the secrets of the Voynich Manuscript by learning about what has already been studied scientifically (and un-scientifically). We will incorporate state-of-the-art text analysis approaches as well as techniques from computer science, including fractals, to learn more about the patterns contained in this manuscript. We will learn about general properties of language and the scientific laws that help explain the patterns, and we will explore the artwork and themes in the document. With any luck, we may inch closer to helping discover the language, origin, and meaning of the ideas contained within the text.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEMPHIS

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 313, CRN 89951)

Deborah Thompson, 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

Monday, 2:20 pm - 3:15 pm, (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

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

Isaiah Surbrook and Betsy Loe, 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.

BEING A FAN OF DISNEY

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

Cody Havard, Sport & Leisure Commerce

In this forum, we will discuss what it means to be a fan of the Walt Disney brand. Discussions will focus on the history, technology, and innovation of Walt Disney and the Walt Disney Organization, and how the global brand fits into contemporary society.

THE FEAR FACTOR

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**

DECONSTRUCTING RACE IN AMERICA: BLACKNESS, WHITENESS, & BEYOND

Wednesday, 9:10 am – 10:05 am (Section 318, CRN 89956)

Ron Serino, Interdisciplinary Studies and Angela Kuykendoll, UofM Global

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.

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,

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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.

HARRY POTTER AND THE IVORY TOWER

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 320, CRN 89958)

Tammy Jones and Cathy Dice, English

For the current generation of college students, the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling is their defining story, their cultural touchstone. With the recent completion of the film series based on the books, fans (of all ages) are hungry for more and are eager to find ways to immerse themselves in that world for a little while longer. For existing fans of Harry Potter book series, this course will enable you to stay at Hogwarts for a little longer. The course is organized around the examination of the books from a wide variety of scholarly perspectives representing multiple academic disciplines. In doing so, we hope to introduce honors students to a challenging assortment of intellectual issues through a familiar and comfortable medium—and in the process shed new light upon the series itself.

ROYAL TEA: SPILLING THE TEA ABOUT THE SPANISH MONARCHS

TBA (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

Tuesday, 11:20 am – 12:15 pm (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 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.

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HOW TO CONSPIRACY THEORY

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

William Duffy, English

This forum will focus on the what, the why, and the how of conspiracy theories. We'll start by deciding what counts as a conspiracy theory to begin with, how they can be categorized, and why conspiracy theories can be so ridiculous and compelling at the same time. Since the best way to learn something is to practice it, we will study the linguistic mechanics of conspiracy by playing the role of conspiracy theorists ourselves.

FOOD CULTURE AND ITALIAN IDENTITY

Monday, 9:10 am – 10:05 am (Section 324, CRN 89962)

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.

FANTASY FOOTBALL: PREDICTIONS, PROJECTIONS AND PIGSKIN PROBABILITIES

Tuesday, 1:00 pm – 1:55 pm (Section 325, CRN 89963)

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

MILESTONE & THE DAKOTVERSE: BLACK CREATORS IN COMICS

Wednesday, 12:40 pm – 1:35 pm (Section 326, CRN 89964)

Kimberly Payne and Lakeitha Wilson, English

This Honors Forum will explore several topics on social and environmental issues through time and space, and draw thematic connections between late nineteenth century African American literature and the graphic novel. We'll examine the Dakotaverse which includes *Hardware*, *Black Lightning*, *Static*, and other characters who contribute to the world-building done by the Milestone writers and artists. We will read and discuss the graphic novel as a discourse between African American graphic novelists, comic book artists, and the voice actors who give voice to the characters.

"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 Gidding's

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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

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

IT'S ALL GREEK (AND LATIN) TO ME!

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 339, CRN 93993)

Rita Pasqui, World Languages and Literatures

Why is hamburger called *hamburger* if there is no ham in it? Why do we call one trillion bytes a *TERA*byte? What features does a *leiotrichous* person have?

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Through this course, you will learn how to “break the secret code” to understand the meaning of “difficult” words in computer science, business, medicine, education, law, music, art history, psychology, and other subjects.

You will expand your knowledge of English words and word families, especially those derived from Latin and Greek, two languages that make up 60% of the English vocabulary. You will be able to guess the meanings of unknown English words by examining prefixes, stems, and suffixes from Greek and Latin, and you will understand the ways in which words and their history shape our perception of the world.

Through games and quizzes simulating Jeopardy and Who Wants to be a Millionaire, students’ teams will engage in spelling and meaning competitions.

Finally, are you curious to know what the Greek letters of some sororities or fraternities, such as Phi Beta Kappa, stand for? Would you like to learn how to write and read some Greek words or want to create your own Latin motto?

If you like words and are curious about them, this course is for you: it will help you to ace your English vocabulary tests for your academic career and for your advanced college studies.

EVERYTHING CHANGED WHEN THE FIRE NATION ATTACKED

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

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.

WHAT MATTERS ON THE THIRD ROCK FROM THE SUN?

Tuesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 345, CRN 89955)

Gary Stinchcomb, Earth Sciences

In this forum, we will discuss how the study of the properties and behavior of matter has transformed our understanding of planet Earth. We will focus on topics that often garner attention in the popular press. Students will learn the very basics of geochemistry in an approachable way and discuss topics ranging from how we determined the age of the Earth, discovered a large asteroid the size of Manhattan hit Earth, observed atmospheric and climate change over millions of years, and documented how the Industrial Revolution led to widespread pollution of Earth’s soil. Class meetings will also be used

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to introduce students to X-ray safety training and experiential learning using the portable-X-ray Spectrometer and X-ray Diffractometer instruments housed in Earth Sciences and Physics.

****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)

SUN STUDIOS HONORS (4 honors credits total)

Wednesday, 10:20 am – 11:15 am (Section C02, CRN 89945)

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. (Paired with ANTH 1200 Cultural Anthropology Honors, MUS 1030 Introduction to Music)

FOR THE LOVE OF NURSING (4 honors credits total)

Thursday, 1:00 pm – 1:55 pm (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)

UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2023

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

Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 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)