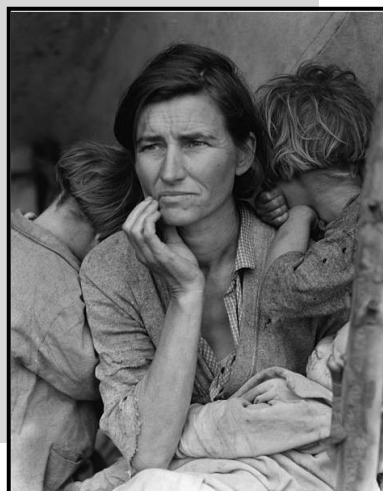


Honors College Seminars

Spring 2013



HONR 200-01: An Economic Perspective on the History of the America Family

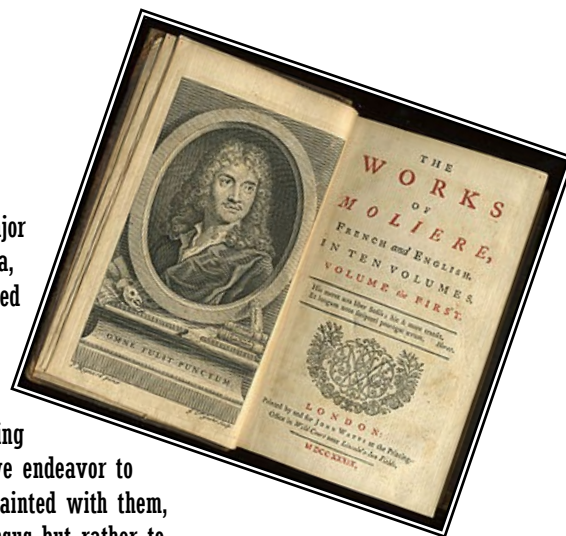
Instructor: William Lord, Dept. of Economics

This course examines from an economic perspective the fundamental elements of American family life: family formation; the division of labor in and between home and market; fertility; investments in child development; the consequences of family dissolution; the relationship of the family to the broader community; and mortality, provision for old age and intergenerational transfers of wealth and debt. The class will survey these topics from the colonial era to the present day. Class participation is expected. Course performance is also assessed on two short data-driven exercises, two conceptual papers, and two exams.

HONR 211-01/02: Great Books II

Instructor: Ellen Handler Spitz, Honors College Professor of Visual Arts

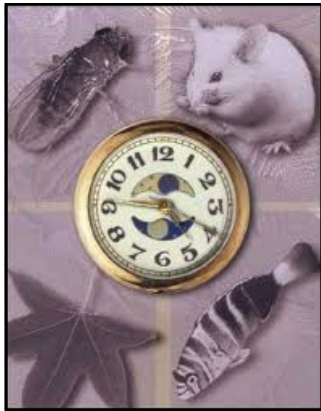
This is a reading, writing, and discussion seminar. Each week we study a major work of literature produced in England, Ireland, France, Norway, Czechoslovakia, the US, among others; these include plays, novels, and short stories, all published between 1650 and 2000. We analyze characterization, plot, dialogue, setting, structure, theme, metaphor, and symbol. We ask the works to become our teachers. As we proceed, the books tend to entwine in a cultural field in which we meander: an inter-text, which they--and we--create together. Writing about literature and discussing it are arts in themselves, critical arts, which we endeavor to learn. Although we take up a large number of works in order to become acquainted with them, we read in as much detail as time permits. Our goal is never to reach consensus but rather to deepen our individual ways of engaging with each text and honing our interpretive skills.



HONR 300-01: Security and Privacy in a Mobile, Social World

Instructor: Anupam Joshi, Dept. of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering

In a world of ubiquitous social computing, social networking sites can be accessed from anywhere and at any time. The technology that makes these practices possible is impressive, but little attention has been paid to the social and public policy issues, especially those relating to security and privacy. In this course we investigate these and related issues by examining case studies in which privacy and security were violated; assessing the legal and regulatory frameworks designed to protect them; and studying the efforts of the research community in this area. No technical background is required for HONR 300, but the use of either social media systems or smart phones is assumed. There will be two short papers, a group project, and an exam. This course is cross-listed as CMSC 491. **NOTE:** You must have completed CMSC 421.



HONR 300-02: Biological Clocks

Instructor: Sarah Leupen, Dept. of Biology

All living things can count time. Bats know when to come out of their caves and hunt, birds begin to sing just before sunrise and know when to migrate south for the winter, and plants open up their flowers at just the time of day that their preferred pollinators are active. In people, everything from body temperature to the incidence of heart attacks changes over the course of the day. Why? This course examines the nature of biological clocks, why organisms have them, and how they function. Evaluation will be based on team work, reading responses, the analysis of scientific papers, and a literature review. No prior experience with biology is required.

HONR 300-03: Ethnic and Public Policy

Instructor: Simon Stacey, The Honors College

In this course, we examine some of the moral issues that arise in public life. The course begins by reviewing frameworks for thinking about ethical issues in public policy, and then deals with questions concerning the means employed to implement public policy, questions concerning the ends policy should serve, and questions concerning the appropriate roles of public officials. Readings include classics of political and moral philosophy, case studies and some contemporary journalism. Issues may include the official use of violence, terrorism, toleration and its limits, deception and politics, multiculturalism, capital punishment, abortion, welfare, health care, affirmative action, and perhaps others. Short presentations will be required, participation will be emphasized, and students will write several short papers.



HONR 300-04: Race, Poverty, and Gender in Baltimore

Instructor: Jodi Kelber-Kaye, The Honors College

Social categories of race, class and gender provide structure for and organize people's lives. These categories intersect with one another, reinforce one another's effects, and can, at the same time, cut against one another. In this course, we will explore how these main social categories operate in the lives of people living (or who lived) in Baltimore. We will first explore how race, class, poverty and gender are defined and then examine how they operate and interact within the context of Baltimore. As any city with a unique history, Baltimore provides a location through which we can examine

social phenomena like block busting (neighborhood segregation), health disparities, food access, proliferation of crime and drugs, the judicial system, and more. We will also partner with some Baltimore-based non-profits throughout the course. Some short papers and a longer final presentation/paper that incorporates the partnership work will be required.

HONR 300-05: Children and Childhood in the Ancient Mediterranean

Instructor: Timothy Phin, Dept. of Ancient Studies

Children, the cliché expression goes, are the future, but when it comes to the past, they are often neglected. Since the children rarely leave behind cultural artifacts of their own, they have generally received only cursory examinations by historians. In Classics, recent research has uncovered small corners of the hidden world of ancient childhood. Drawing on this most recent work, this course will examine the lives of children in ancient Greece and Rome. Particular attention will be paid to the interaction between adults and children, celebrations and rituals associated with the various stages of childhood, the methods Greeks and Romans used in raising, educating, and caring for their children, and the ways in which children were honored in life and commemorated in death.

