

# UMBC Honors College Seminars

Spring  
2017



## **HONR 211-01: Great Books Seminar II [7248]**

**Instructor:** Ellen Handler Spitz, Honors College Tues. 4:30-7; LIB 216M

Each week in this reading, writing, and discussion seminar, 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: Cultures of Childhood [2390]**

**Instructor:** Ellen Handler Spitz, Honors College Wed. 1-3:30; LIB 216M

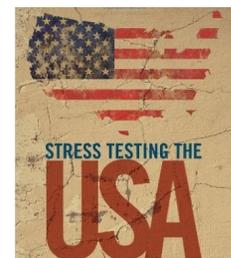
This class will explore changing notions of childhood, changing representations of children, cultural artifacts for children, children's aesthetic lives, and, above all, literature and media designed for children. A major interpretive lens throughout the seminar will be child psychology, among others.



## **HONR 300-02: Stress-Testing the U.S. [5918]**

**Instructor:** John Short, Public Policy Wed. 4:30-7; Performing Arts & Humanities Building, Room 123

Crises and disasters reveal, like nothing else, the fracture lines within a society. In recent years the US has experienced The War on Terror (2001-present), a financial meltdown (2008-09), ongoing wildfires in the West and the riots in Ferguson in 2014. In this class we will explore the settings, causes, consequences and representations of these four recent events to see what they reveal about the fracture lines, strengths and weaknesses in US society. We will use a multiple perspectives approach in which we view issues of power, class, race, money, globalization, the meaning of patriotism and citizenship, environmental issues and media influences. We will draw on a wide variety of material including government reports, newspapers and media reporting, academic books and papers, personal accounts, reminiscences and cover a variety of perspectives from policy makers, participants, victims and pundits. Students will be encouraged to draw on different disciplinary perspectives for their essays and oral presentations.



## **HONR 300-03: Race, Poverty, and Gender in Baltimore [5919]**

**Instructor:** Jodi Kelber-Kaye, The Honors College Tues. 1-3:30; LIB 216M

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 (race, class, poverty, gender) are defined and how they operate in the lives of people in 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. Students will be engaged with projects in Baltimore. Some short papers and a longer final presentation/paper that incorporates the Baltimore work will be required.

### **HONR 300-04: Video Art: TV's Unruly Stepchild [6663]**

Instructor: Vin Grabill, Dept. of Visual Arts Mon/Wed. 4:5:15; FA 207C

How have artists and individual producers used the tools of television for their own creative purposes? In this course, you will explore how the video medium can be used as a means for creative expression and how video art has evolved as an art form over the past 50 years. Students will pursue fundamental characteristics of the video medium by completing exercises in shooting and editing digital video.



### **HONR 300-05: Refugee and Migration Law [6664]**

Instructor: Jeffrey Davis, Dept. of Political Science Mon/Wed 2:30-3:45; PUP 354



Right now almost 65 million people are fleeing their homes, driven away by persecution and wars--more than at any time since World War II. This seminar will engage the following questions: To what extent do international and domestic laws protect those fleeing their home country seeking refuge in another country? What is a refugee? What are the legal and political barriers to protecting refugees in the US? How do the legal systems in the US, UK and Germany treat those deemed to be undocumented immigrants? Also listed as POLI 439.

### **HONR 300-06: Civil Rights Literature [7958]**

Instructor: Christopher Varlack, Dept. of English Mon/Wed 10-11:15; LIB 216M

This course is aimed at expanding our knowledge and engagement with the civil rights debates by examining the speeches, essays, novels, stories and plays produced in response to inequities faced by underserved populations worldwide. This includes the struggle among African-Americans for equal protection under the law but also the struggle for young girls to receive an education in countries operating under a patriarchal system, among a variety of other interrelated issues.



## **Honors College Applied Learning Experience Courses**

### **HONR 390: Reflections on Community Service** Instructor: Jodi Kelber-Kaye

This course provides opportunities for reflection of the principles and techniques of community service. Through a co-enrollment of PRAC 096, students are introduced to basic methods of community service, a background in the cultural, political, and social contexts of community service, and a forum for discussion of issues surrounding civic engagement and social responsibility. Students apply concepts and skills they develop to actual experiences in community service. **Permission required by the Shriver Center and Honors College.**

### **HONR 410: Honors Internship** Instructor: Jodi Kelber-Kaye

**This course offers academic credit for an internship.** During the semester, student interns perform a minimum of 120 hours of supervised tasks for a research, business, government, or non-profit agency. This course is repeatable for a maximum of 6 credits. **Preliminary authorization by the Career Services Center (Prac 098) and thereafter permission of the Honors College is required.**

### **HONR 400: Honors Independent Study** Instructor: Jodi Kelber-Kaye

**Independent study or research under the guidance of faculty mentor.** Course guidelines are available in the Honors College. This course is repeatable for a maximum of eight credits.