

Fall
2016

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Honors College Seminars



HONR 100: Honors Forum I

Instructors: Simon P. Stacey and Jodi Kelber-Kaye, Honors College Monday 4-6:00pm Sherman 003

This course introduces students to the academic methods and disciplines as they interact with faculty and creative artists. Students are expected to do and present research, participate in campus activities, and reflect on what it means to be full members of a community of learning. (For freshmen only)

HONR 210: Great Books Seminar I

Instructor: Ellen Handler Spitz, Honors College Tuesday 4:30-7pm LIB 216M

An introduction to the great books of world literature, religion, philosophy, history, and science from ancient times to the present day. This course will include readings from such works as Genesis, Ramayana, several Greek tragedies, Aristotle's Poetics, Virgil's Aeneid, Ovid's Metamorphoses, and the Arabian Nights.



HONR 200: Being Human: Brain, Mind, & Pieces of You

Instructor: Megan Rivera, Geography and Environmental Systems Tuesday 4:30-7pm FA 006



Few of us take time to observe our thinking-mind in action--How does it work? What does it do? What are the implications? We will explore these questions, drawing from knowledge developed in philosophy, neurology, evolutionary biology, religion, psychology, medicine, pedagogy, anthropology, literature, quantum physics, and physiology. Simultaneously, students will explore the nature of their own minds using a range of techniques including meditation, supplementing the course material with direct experience. In addition to weekly assignments, students will design a research experiment to test a student-developed hypothesis related to the course material.

HONR 300-05: Alcohol & Drug Policy in the United States

Instructor: Elyse Grossman, Public Policy Thursday 4:30-7pm LIB 216M

Have you ever wondered at what age (if any) a minimum drinking age is effective? Have you ever discussed the consequences of National Alcohol Prohibition on alcohol consumption in the United States? Have you ever considered whether legalizing marijuana will increase or decrease its use? Have you ever debated whether random drug testing at work should be conducted? In this course, we will address these and many other questions. In particular, we will read laws, cases, journal articles and policy papers on different legal controversies in alcohol and drug policy in the United States. As part of this course, you will each learn how to think critically and analyze research. You also will learn how to present an effective argument either for or against a particular policy. Finally, you will research and write a policy paper about one controversial alcohol or drug policy topic of your choice.



HONR 300-05: Masterpieces of Visual Art

Instructor: Ellen Handler Spitz, Honors College Tuesday 4:30-7pm LIB 216M

Masterpieces of Visual Art is a seminar designed for non-art majors as well as for art students. The Honorable Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer has spoken of his undergraduate art history class at Stanford and the valuable role it has played in his life. Inspired by that comment, this class is aimed at students who may make careers in diverse fields, but who will travel, go to museums, and enjoy the arts. It focuses on painting and sculpture, but we will also look at architecture and illuminated manuscripts and read contextually. Topics include ancient Greece and Renaissance Europe; other special topics TBA. Lecture and discussion.





HONR 300-01: Understanding HIV & AIDS

Instructor: Jodi Kelber-Kaye, The Honors College **Wednesday 1-3:30pm LIB 216M**

This course will focus on the ways in which HIV and AIDS are understood in the US, both in terms of their domestic presence and global manifestations. We will examine biological, policy, artistic, and activist ways of producing knowledge about the virus, and how those knowledges, or understandings, depend on each other for meaning. We will also be looking at how these knowledges are interdisciplinary and, while they depend on each other for their meanings, those meanings are often contradictory or even ultimately untrue. Readings will come from all of these disciplines, but no particular expertise in any of them is required for this course. Besides reading, there will be short and longer writing assignments, and a group project that includes an intervention in cultural expressions of HIV and AIDS.



HONR 300-02: Childhood in the Ancient Mediterranean

Instructor: Timothy Phin, Ancient Studies **TuTh 10-11:15am LIB 216M**

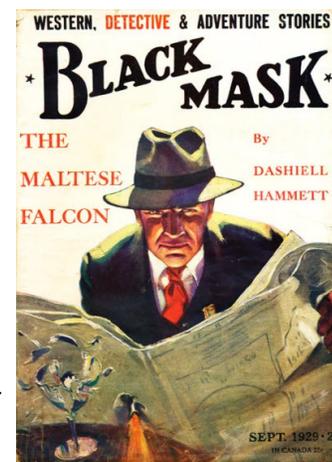
Children, the cliché expression goes, are the future, but when it comes to the past they are often neglected. Since children rarely leave behind cultural artifacts of their own, they have generally received only cursory examinations by historians. In Classics, recent research has uncovered small corners 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.

HONR 300-03: Mystery and Detective Fiction

Instructor: Norman Prentiss, Independent Author

Tuesday 1-3:30pm LIB 216M

Whatever the genre, authors bury secrets for us to uncover: readers become detectives, speculating about a character's motives or anticipating the next plot twist. Mystery and detective stories make this process more explicit, and the skills we develop in reading Agatha Christie and Raymond Chandler can help us uncover secrets in other texts. This course studies mystery elements in literary classics such as Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, and traces the mystery genre from its origins in Poe and Doyle, to the hard-boiled Black Mask school and police procedurals, through to modern-day forensic thrillers. In-class comparisons of genre classics to shorter literary excerpts, film clips, and other works of art, help students extend their study of course material to mysteries and problem-solving in other disciplines, and to narratives enjoyed outside the classroom.



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.