

**Fall 2017 Upper-Level Course Offerings**  
Barrett, The Honors College**HON394- The Human Event Podcast Production Class—Dr. Schmidt**

This course is designed as a pilot to determine the feasibility, practicality, and formal requirements of a long-term Human Event Podcast.

**1-Credit****HON394: Ancient Greek Drama—Dr. Lynch**

Fifth century Athens has been formative to Western culture. We are going to be particularly interested on how dramatic productions perhaps reflect the socio-political concerns of the people of Athens but other themes will emerge.

**HON394: Lemonade: Beyoncé and Black Feminism—Dr. Fedock***\*Barrett Downtown, Session A*

This seminar course is based on Candice Benbow's Lemonade syllabus, drawing from the Black Feminist studies section. The aim of this course is to discover possible relationships and/or tensions with the content of Beyoncé's Lemonade and bell hook's work in Black Feminist studies.

**HON394: King Lear—Dr. O'Flaherty***\*Barrett Downtown, Session B*

In this course, we will read *King Lear* and then consider some of the many adaptations including Akira Kurasowas *Ran*, Uli Edel's *King of Texas*. We will also consider a recent stage production of *King Lear* in which the eponymous main character was played by famed actress Glenda Jackson.

**HON394: The Poetics of Mysticism—Dr. Hampton**

This course will explore the integral relationship between mysticism and poetry in the development of Western Christian mysticism, from its earliest form to the present day, and its possible role in the future of religious dialogue. Through the reading of key mystical texts and aesthetic theory, students will explore how the figurative language of poetics differs in kind and magnitude from other forms of communication, allowing it to explore and suspend the distinction between self and other, body and spirit, finite and infinite.

**3-Credit****HON 380: The Haunted House in Film & Literature—Dr. Mack**

The image of the haunted house—an inexplicably “troubled” place—appears in different forms across time and cultural context. As a result, the haunted house provides an apt space for thinking about troubling elements of human experience like affliction, disorder, and corruption. This course surveys representations of haunted houses in contemporary film and literature.

**HON381: Heaven on Earth—Utopia and Dystopia in Theory and Practice—Dr. Ostling**

This course examines attempts both on paper and in reality to make life better by designing community--modifying social structures, family relations, and the built environment in search of optimal life in society. Ranging from early theorizations we explore the possibilities and dangers of designing heaven on earth.

**HON394: Political Philosophy and Economics—Dr. Rigoni**

This course introduces students to the intersection of political philosophy and economics. It begins with the problem of the prisoner's dilemma and an introduction to economic techniques. Finally, we make use of the tools acquired from the earlier readings to examine affirmative action policies from an economic perspective.

**HON380: Is beauty in the eyes of the beholder? The politics of human beauty in the 21st century—Dr. Fontinha de Alcantara**

If in the past philosophers believed physical appearance revealed inner qualities, in contemporary times scholars believe that beauty is historically and culturally determined whereas evolutionary scientists view beauty as an evolutionary trait that was selected for optimal mating. Through the analysis of print and visual texts, we aim at answering broad questions about beauty.

**HON394: Revisions of Empire: Victorian Novels of Empire and Postcolonial Responses—Dr. Soares**

The Victorian era has long been recognized as the high point of both the British novel and British imperialism, as the United Kingdom expanded its reach to every continent on Earth and subjected about a quarter of the world's population to its rule. Pairing nineteenth-century British novels with twentieth and twenty-first century postcolonial re-writings, this course examines both sides of the problem of empire.

**HON380: Science and Social Worlds: Science, Social Justice and Activism—Dr. Brian**

This course will interrogate the ways in which health, medicine, technology, and scientific practices are created, organized by and situated within complex social and structural dynamics. We will draw on science and technology studies, bioethics, and theories from feminist, queer, race and disability scholarship to think about the ways in which social justice is both promoted and hindered by science and medicine.

**HON394: Monstrous Feminisms: Gender and Sexuality in Horror Cinema—Dr. Miller**

In this course, students will explore the horror genre's development in the United States and beyond, considering how constructions of monstrosity reflect a range of cultural anxieties, but especially those tied to gender and sexuality. Our goal will be to develop an awareness of how horror films reflect, shape, and/or challenge cultural and social concepts of gender by drawing on philosophical, psychological, historical, and feminist approaches to the horror genre.

**HON394: African American Autobiography: Race and American Political Thought—Dr. Voorhees**

This course explores American racial identity and democratic politics through an examination of African-American autobiographical writing from the classic slave narratives through the contemporary discourse surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement. We will examine the relationship between the kinds of freedom and self-definition made possible by autobiography and the political, economic, and social factors that influence the self-realization of democratic citizens.

**HON394: Statistics, Lies and Drunkard's Walks: The Power and Pitfalls of Probabilistic Reasoning—Dr. Martin***\*Barrett at Polytechnic Campus*

The aim of this course is to make the student more statistically literate. We will open with critical reading and discussion of first-rate popular texts as preparation for more scholarly historical/philosophical analyses and then finish with a focus on the concept of prediction.

**HON394: Twenty-First Century Global Literature—Dr. O'Flaherty***\*Barrett Downtown*

Students examine human thought and imagination from various global literary perspectives since the year 2000. The course focuses on the principal and controversial questions concerning the nature, purpose, and destiny of humanity in the twenty-first century. Readings in this course are fiction and explore a cross-disciplinary and multicultural array of ideas.