
**HONORS COLLOQUIA
FALL 2008**

*Some schools and departments have not yet identified courses for major credit.
Please check back for the most up-to-date information.*

Special Note

Anthropology and American Studies Honors students:

Certain courses may count for credit in Anthropology and American Studies. Determination will be made on a case-by-case basis. Students should see their academic advisor for details.

KOGOD Honors students:

Please see your academic advisor for approval to apply the Kogod courses to your major.

SIS Honors students:

You are encouraged to speak with SIS academic advisors to determine whether a colloquium might be considered for another functional area or regional field.

HNRS 300-001H ORAL HISTORIES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Julian Bond

M 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

This class surveys 1960s civil rights movement figures and instructs students in oral history techniques. Students conduct a tape-recorded interview with a 1960s civil rights figure to construct an oral biography.

MAJOR CREDIT: *CLEG (GOVT component), HISTORY; LAW AND SOCIETY (SOC/ANTH cluster); POLS (Gender, Race and Politics Concentration); SIS (U.S. Politics, Comparative and International Race Relations); and SOC (American History); SOCIOLOGY*

HNRS 300-002H LIFE STORIES

Richard McCann

W 2:10-4:50 p.m.

[Cap at 15]

In this intensive prose writing workshop, we will spend our time writing and revising those life stories -- stories that utilize autobiographical material in artful narrative structures -- that we find most necessary and difficult to tell, with the aim of exploring the ways in which the self serves as both the author and subject of autobiographical investigations. We will spend part of our time on generative writing exercises that will help us locate the images, settings, and bits of dialogue that contain the deepest stories of our lives; we will spend the rest of our time in critical discussion of student work and in discussion of a variety of autobiographical writings, including such works as Lauren Slater's LYING: A METAPHORICAL MEMOIR, Joan Didion's SLOUCHING TOWARD BETHLEHEM, and Peter Handke's A SORROW BEYOND DREAMS.

MAJOR CREDIT: LITERATURE

**HNRS 300-003H INCREDIBLE REALISM/MAGICAL REALISM:
THE OTHER SIDES OF THE ORDINARY**

**Roberta Rubenstein
M, Th 9:55-11:10 a.m.**

Is everything equally “believable” within a work of imaginative fiction? How do we make sense of elements that confound our expectations: implausible figures, uncanny events, ghosts, “magical realism”? In this Honors colloquium in the humanities, we will focus on novels and short stories by diverse writers of different centuries and nationalities -- ranging from Mary Shelley, Fyodor Dostoevsky and Nikolai Gogol to Gabriel García Márquez, Shirley Jackson, and Doris Lessing -- who challenge boundaries between “realistic” and “incredible” dimensions of fiction.

MAJOR CREDIT: LITERATURE

HNRS 300-004H VOICES FROM THE CARIBBEAN DIASPORA

**Eileen Findlay
T 5:30-8 p.m**

This course gives historical and cultural depth to the all-familiar terms “globalization” and “transnational.” It will examine a region of the world -- the Caribbean -- whose modern societies were literally birthed from more than 500 years of global movement of people, culture, ideas, and capital, and which has had a long, contentious intertwinement with the United States, its powerful neighbor to the north. The course will focus on 19th and 20th century Cuban or Puerto Rican, Jamaican, and Haitian histories of struggle for social justice and emigration to and from the United States. It will analyze literature, music, personal memoirs, and collective social, political, and cultural histories of the Caribbean Diaspora to illuminate how the history and culture of the United States have long been influenced by Caribbean immigrants, as well as how the United States has shaped their experience in their homelands. Special attention will be paid to the changing gender and racial dynamics among Caribbean peoples and the Diaspora communities they have built over the last century.

MAJOR CREDIT: HISTORY; LFS (Spanish/LA); LITERATURE; POLS (Major Related Social Science Requirement); SIS (The Americas, International Development, International Politics, Comparative and International Race Relations); WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES; SOCIOLOGY

HNRS 301.001H GOING NUCLEAR: THE SCIENCE AND POLITICS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

William Parsons

Th 5:30-8 p.m.

This course will examine critically the civilian and military applications of nuclear energy. We will start by reviewing the basics of nuclear physics, including fission, fusion, and radiological devices. We will consider the physical, chemical, biological and environmental aspects of nuclear energy -- ranging from a PET scan up to a massive, intercontinental thermonuclear exchange. We will also look at the delivery systems associated with nuclear weapons, such as heavy bombers, ICBMs, SLBMs, and cruise missiles. Next, we will consider the issue of nuclear proliferation: how nations and others go about acquiring nuclear technology and what the international community is doing about it. We will weigh the scientific and political dilemma of wanting to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy while controlling the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Finally, we will investigate the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, including the pros and cons of using nuclear power plants to generate electricity. Throughout the course, we will emphasize the political and legal issues enveloping nuclear energy, from past arms control treaty efforts to the latest claims that nuclear power can help mitigate global warming.

MAJOR CREDIT: CHEMISTRY; LAW AND SOCIETY; PHYSICS (as an elective); POLS (Policy Concentration); SIS (International Politics, U.S. Foreign Policy, Global Environmental Politics);

HNRS 302-001H LEGAL ISSUES IN GLOBALIZATION

Michael Mass

TH 2:10 p.m.-4:50 p.m.

This course will examine the legal aspects of international trade and investment. It will explore the nature of international investment law, the private customary law of trade and both domestic and international schemes for the regulation of international trade. Students will become familiar with the legal mechanics of engaging in direct foreign investment as well as questions surrounding the “choice of law” issues in national regulation. Special emphasis will be placed on the trade protection laws of the United States and the development of the rules of the W.T.O. Although the course will examine these issues from a legal perspective, it will also deal with the political, social, economic and environmental aspects of trade regulation and economic regulation in this era of globalization.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (ECON component); ECONOMICS; JUSTICE (Legal Process Cluster); LAW AND SOCIETY (ECON cluster); KOGOD (International Business); POLS (Major-Related Social Science Requirement); SIS (International Business, International Development, International Economic Relations)

HNRS 302-002H THE TRIUMPH OF ENGLISH

Naomi Baron

W 2:10-4:50 p.m.

In barely 1500 years, English has gone from the patchwork common language of a handful of Germanic invaders to a tongue used around the world, with varying degrees of competence, by more than a billion people. How did this transformation happen, and will this global trend continue? “The Triumph of English” probes the historical, social, and political circumstances that have contributed to the shaping of the English language, first in the British Isles, then in the United States, and now around the world. In the process, we will confront such issues as language standardization and prescriptivism, the politics of dictionary-making, the sources and significance of dialect diversity, the place of English on the internet and in the international marketplace, and the future prospects of the language remaining unified rather than fragmenting into a diverse collection of world Englishes. The course will incorporate student-led discussions, class debates, selective video materials, and primary research.

MAJOR CREDIT: HISTORY; LITERATURE

**HNRS 302-003H FAILURE AND FOLLY IN STRATEGIC DECISION MAKING:
LEARNING FROM FAILURES IN PUBLIC POLICY, BUSINESS AND ARMED CONFLICT**

Robert Sicina

T-F 2:10-3:25 p.m.

This course is a multi-disciplinary seminar that analyzes the underlying causes of high-profile failures in the areas of public policy, business and armed conflict. Common threads are uncovered and explored. The fundamental concepts of Chaos Theory and the logic of failure are used to improve decision-making skills. The underlying premise of the course is that the core principles of effective decision-making in each of these disparate areas are similar in important ways and skills are therefore transferable.

Focus will be on relevant cases supported by theoretical material in select texts and limited lectures. Students work both individually and in teams on assigned cases and share information and insights in a seminar setting using both informal and formal presentations

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (GOVT Component); KOGOD; POLS (Policy Concentration); SIS (International Economic Relations, International Politics, U.S. Foreign Policy, International Business, Peace and Conflict Resolution)

HNRS 302-004H GUERILLAS, INSURGENTS AND PARAMILITARIES

Carolyn Gallaher

T-F 12:45-2 p.m.

During the 20th century, most organized violence occurred in clearly defined wars between states. Since the 1980s, however, the nature of violence has changed. Increasingly, organized violence is conducted by non-state actors -- groups we alternately call guerillas, insurgents or paramilitaries. These groups run the gamut from rag-tag fighters with old weapons to sophisticated armies with clear chains of command, well-stocked arms caches, and steady cash flow. While even the most organized of these groups are small in comparison to standing state armies, they have been capable of enacting wide-scale violence. In this class, we explore the patterns of violence guerillas, insurgent and paramilitaries create, as well as the organizational structure they follow, the tactics they employ, and the ideologies they marshal. The class is organized around a series of case studies carefully selected to capture regional diversity, divergent political leanings, and varied levels of success. The Interhamwe in Rwanda, the Zapatistas in Mexico, and the Ulster Volunteer Force in Northern Ireland are only some of the armed groups with which you will become acquainted in this course.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (GOVT component); LAW AND SOCIETY/JUSTICE; POLS (Comparative Politics Concentration); SIS (Africa, The Americas, Europe, International Politics)

**HNRS 302.005H THE NEW DEMOGRAPHICS OF PUBLIC POLICY:
A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

Anthony Quainton

W 5:30-8 p.m.

This interdisciplinary Honors colloquium is designed to examine the implications of demographic change in America, Europe and beyond. The demographic profile of most industrialized countries is undergoing rapid change under the pressure of migration, declining birthrates and new patterns of longevity. The course will examine the impact of these changes on education, the labor market, business practices and political institutions. Students will be expected to explore the concepts of multiculturalism and diversity as they apply to different societies and political systems and to analyze the policies that are being adopted to confront these demographic challenges.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (GOVT component); ECONOMICS; KOGOD; POLS (Policy Concentration); SIS (The Americas, Europe, International Economic Relations, International Politics, International Communication); SOCIOLOGY

HNRS 302.006H DEATH PENALTY

Robert Johnson

W 11:20 a.m.-2 p.m.

The course examines the cultural, organizational, and individual dynamics of methods and processes of execution, from Colonial times to the present, in America and around the world. The social forces that shape the operation of the capital punishment system are also considered. Legal and moral issues will be examined.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (JLS component), LAW AND SOCIETY/JUSTICE; POLS (Related Social Science requirement), SIS; SOCIOLOGY

HNRS 302.07H PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Candice Nelson
Th 11:20 a.m.-2 p.m.

This course will examine presidential elections as they have evolved over the past 30 years, with special attention paid to the 2008 election. We will explore how states have come to be labeled as “red” and “blue” states. Among the topics we will study will be campaign finance and funding in presidential elections, the pre-campaign, nomination, convention and general election stages of the campaign, and the roles the media, political parties, third parties, and outside interests play in presidential elections. During September and October, the class will follow the general election candidates, and predict the Electoral College vote for each candidate on November 4, 2008.

MAJOR CREDIT: AMERICAN STUDIES; CLEG (GOVT Component); POLS (American Government Concentration); SIS; SOCIOLOGY

HNRS 302.008H INNOVATING LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY: SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURING FROM ARGENTINA TO KENYA AND BEYOND...

Nanette Levinson
M 2:10-4:50 p.m.

Social entrepreneurs are people such as Nobel Peace Prize Winner Mohammad Yunus who are passionate about an idea and who translate it into action at the local, national or international levels. Their work can inspire public policy and practice changes and lasting social transformations. This colloquium examines social entrepreneurs and social entrepreneuring organizations in a number of developing nations as well as several global efforts. Using in-depth case studies and cross-case comparisons, colloquium participants identify opportunities and challenges for today’s social entrepreneurs, striving to bring about social change in an increasingly interconnected era and in a wide array of impact areas ranging from health and human rights to the environment and poverty alleviation. Particular attention will be given to the role of alliances and partnerships, as well as to the changing roles of philanthropy, private sector, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and international organizations. Participants will be given the option of designing their own social entrepreneurial organization.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Economics Component); KOGOD; POLS (Comparative Politics Concentration); SIS (International Communication, International Politics, International Economic Relations, International Business; see SIS advisor for areas)

HNRS 302.009H THE POLITICS OF TROPICAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Steven Taylor
M-Th 12:45-2 p.m.

This course will examine the political development of African states south of the Sahara desert. The course will start with a look at the polity of the traditional societies in equatorial Africa. Afterwards there will be a focus on the Berlin conference of 1884 and the “scramble for Africa” by European nations, which led to the massive colonization of the world's second largest continent. This will be followed by the exploration of how the Versailles treaty of 1918 changed the colonial structure of Africa. The latter part of the semester will involve an examination of the Decolonization struggles, the leaders of the newly independent states, the dictatorial rulers during the cold war era, and the current wave of democratization that is engulfing the continent of Africa.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Government); HISTORY; POLS (Comparative Politics Concentration); SIS (Africa, International Development, International Politics); and SOCIOLOGY

HNRS 302.010H ECONOMIC BLOCS:
DIVISION IN THE WORLD ECONOMY AND THE FUTURE OF THE WTO

Mireya Solis
F 2:10-4:50 p.m.

Rapidly proliferating economic blocs are increasingly undermining the autonomy of governments and influencing the operations of multinational corporations since they go beyond tariff elimination to comprise new rules on foreign investment, competition policy, and financial liberalization. The stagnation of the WTO confronts us with a pressing question: Are we transitioning to a world economy defined by regional preferences and discrimination?

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Economics); ECONOMICS; KOGOD; POLS (Related Social Science Requirement); and SIS (International Development, International Economic Relations, The Americas, Asia, Europe)

HNRS 302.011H PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN 2008:
INSIDE THE WAR ROOM AND THE NEWS ROOM

Lenny Steinhorn
W 2:10-4:50 p.m.
Th 9:55 a.m.-12:35 p.m.

Study the 2008 presidential election “up close and personal” in this intensive current affairs, real-time course on the campaign. The course will analyze how the candidates, campaigns, and consultants are reaching voters, cultivating constituencies, creating images, spinning the press, and shaping ideas – and how both the mainstream and new media are filtering it all for the public. We will focus on media, message, public opinion, advertising, staging, and strategy. We will also look at how the election will shape the new, incoming administration.

NOTE: Professor Steinhorn is now negotiating with broadcast news outlets to use this course as part of their ongoing 2008 election coverage, which CNN did in 2000 and Channel 4 did in 2004, though there is no guarantee that media will cover the class this year.

PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR REQUIRED

To obtain permission, interested Honors students must complete an application. Visit www.american.edu/honors to apply.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Communication Component); POLS (Major-Related Social Science Requirement); SOC (Media Studies – all majors); SOCIOLOGY