

## HONORS COLLOQUIA SPRING 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 is made on a case-by-case basis. Students should see their academic advisor for details.*

***KOGOD Honors students:*** *Please see your academic advisor to receive approval for applying the Kogod courses to your major.*

***SIS Honor students:*** *You can discuss ways in which certain Honors colloquia – those currently not given major credit in specific regional or functional areas – could be applied to the major. Please consult with an SIS academic advisor.*

### **HNRS 300-001H EAST MEETS WEST: ASIAN PHILOSOPHY AND POSTMODERNISM**

**Jin Park**

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

Is there a meeting point between Eastern and Western thought? Can postmodernism in Western philosophy accommodate such a rendezvous? If Eastern and Western thought have met at a certain juncture of its history in our time, what would that mean? Is such an encounter necessary? Is it real or imaginary?

The course explores postmodernism in connection with Asian philosophy. The goal is to understand the Asian mode of thinking and examine its relevance with contemporary Western philosophical and cultural paradigms. The course will discuss these topics in four areas: basic philosophy, cultural implications, political manifestations, and new ethical paradigm for globalized postmodern society. Readings include Lyotard, Habermas, Derrida, Kristeva, and Taoist and Buddhist texts. Combining philosophical discourse with social and political concerns of our time, the course offers not only the examination of postmodernism and the Asian mode of thinking, but their implications in inter-cultural communication, international politics and business, and contemporary American society, by exploring the Asian-postmodern approaches to the questions of identity, gender, borders, immigrants, capitalism, consumer society, and more.

***MAJOR CREDIT: Literature; Philosophy; SIS (Asia, International Communication, International Politics); and SOC (Media Studies; Journalism)***

## **HNRS 300-002H ADVANCED WRITING: BEYOND FUNDAMENTALS**

**Glenn Moomau**  
**M,Th 9:55-11:10 a.m.**

Writing well is a continuous process involving practice and effort; it also involves creativity, exploration, and exciting intellectual challenges. In this course, you will have the opportunity to improve as a writer, no matter what your current ability level is. You'll receive guidance and practice in a variety of areas: analysis, organization, style, intellectual creativity, and research. You'll also participate in writing workshops and lead discussions of texts (chosen by both teacher and students); in addition, you'll write a number of shorter essays inspired by the readings, along with a longer researched essay in your field of study. As a result of your work in this class, you should acquire skills and ways of thinking that will help you succeed in your college coursework and writing outside the academy. Although many students may find the course useful, the course is designed primarily for students who have not taken the Honors English sequence.

***MAJOR CREDIT: Literature***

## **HNRS 301-001H GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY CRISIS: WHO CARES?**

**Chris Tudge**  
**M, Th 8:10-9:25 p.m.**

This course will take a critical look at the looming crisis to global biodiversity from anthropogenic activity, including global climate change, deforestation, monoculture farming practices, mining and drilling for resources, warfare and human conflicts, and urban sprawl - to name just a few. Students will learn to define, understand and appreciate what biodiversity is, how it is important to humanities existence, and what they can do to promote change to postpone this crisis. This global, human-induced crisis will be viewed from a multitude of perspectives including economic, political, cultural and biological, and from multiple levels from local, through national, to international. The lecture course will be augmented with guest speakers, field trips, and student presentations.

***MAJOR CREDIT: Biology; Justice (Public Policy cluster); Law and Society (Political Science, Sociology/Anthropology cluster); SIS (Global Environmental Policy), Sociology***

**HNRS-302.001H CAIRO COSMOPOLITAN:  
POLITICS, CULTURE AND URBAN SPACE**

**Diane Singerman**

**Th 2:10-4:50 p.m.**

*(Hughes Hall Honors Seminar Room)*

Greater Cairo is an extremely dynamic and complex megapolis of 19 million people. In order to understand the city and how recent changes are affecting its people, economy, culture and society, this seminar will utilize a multidisciplinary approach while leaning towards a political reading of the city's challenges. Merging theoretical understandings of urbanity, globalization, Egypt's political regime and diverse opposition movements, students will be expected not only to absorb scholarship on the city, but to be engaged as participants in the learning process. Readings for the seminar will be complemented by films, literature, language training, and guest speakers. During a complementary optional Spring Break trip to Cairo, the class will continue to learn about the city's challenges, its spatial footprint, people, and politics.

***MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Government); POLS (Comparative Politics concentration); SIS (Africa, Middle East, International Communication, International Economic Relations, International Politics, Islamic Studies), Sociology***

**HNRS-302.002H WOMEN AND THE LAW: LAWYERS, JUDGES,  
AND JUDICIAL DECISION-MAKING.**

**Karen O'Connor**

**T 2:10-4:50 p.m.**

This course will explore the status of women in American society through the lens of their treatment in the courts; especially the Supreme Court. During the course of the semester, we will hear from women who have argued cases before the Supreme Court, judges, and from groups who litigate to advance women's interests. Students will participate in mock appellate trials, write briefs, and orally argue cases.

***MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Justice, Law and Society); Justice (Legal Policy cluster); Law and Society (Political Science or Sociology/Anthropology cluster); POLS (Law and Politics concentration)***

## **HNRS-302.003H THE DEATH OF PRIVACY?**

**Lynn A. Addington**

**M,Th 11:20 a.m.-12:35 p.m.**

Are privacy considerations today merely in the process of being rebalanced or are these rights endangered (if not extinct)? This seminar explores the nature and extent of privacy, both as it currently is and as it should be. We examine issues and politics of infringement on informational privacy ranging from domestic government surveillance to instantaneous Internet videos to drug testing by schools and employers. We also investigate issues and politics of decisional privacy including regulation of individual choices such as those concerning conception, death, and marriage. To wrestle with these topics, we rely on primary sources such as case law and statutory material as well as secondary materials to provide context. While our main focus is on the United States, our study includes privacy in other countries to gain a comparative perspective. In addition, the course considers non-government entities and corporations to see what they are doing (or failing to do) to protect privacy.

***MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Justice, Law and Society); Justice (Legal Process or Law Enforcement and Public Policy clusters); Law and Society (Political Science cluster); POLS (Related Social Science Requirement); SIS (International Communication); SOC (Media Studies, Journalism), Sociology***

## **HNRS 302-004H FROM BE BOP TO HIP HOP: JAZZ AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Clarence Lusane**

**F 2:10-4:50 p.m.**

Jazz has often been referred to as America's only cultural invention, and gift to the world. There is virtually nowhere in the world where one will not find a jazz culture of some sort. From Azerbaijan to Zimbabwe, jazz is being played by local musicians as well as international, mostly American, players on a daily basis. While there are literally thousands of books, movies, journals and research on jazz, very little has been done in the field of International Relations that has looked at the political significance of jazz on a global scale and within specific societies. Interrogation should entail not only a cultural analysis, but political, economic, and social one as well. This course looks at the globalization of jazz from several vantage points. It traces the migration of jazz from African-American cultural enclaves in the United States to its expansion around the world. It looks at the appropriation of jazz by other societies relative to issues of culture, politics, economics and social meaning.

***MAJOR CREDIT: SIS (International Communication; International Economic Relations; International Politics; Comparative and International Race Relations; Americas; Africa; Europe), Sociology***

## **HNRS-302.005H MEDIA AND THE AMERICAN MIND**

**Rodger Streitmatter**

**M,Th 12:45-2 p.m.**

Movies, TV shows, newspapers, advertising—they influence who we vote for, how we define America's role in global politics, and where we stand on such major issues as same-sex marriage and stem-cell research, while at the same time helping to shape our moral values and to determine how we dress, how we spend our leisure time, and what kind of sexual activities we engage in. This course explores the vital role that the various media genres play—historically as well as in contemporary times—in affecting American society writ large and simultaneously influencing the individual attitudes and actions of those of us who make up that society. Among the required readings in this course are the professor's 2004 book *Sex Sells! ~ The Media's Journey from Repression to Obsession*. SOC majors are encouraged to undertake their Honors Capstones in conjunction with this course, while non-SOC majors are also eagerly welcomed to enroll in the course.

**MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Communication); POLS (Related Social Science requirement); SOC (Media Studies; all majors), Sociology**

## **HNRS 302-006H BIOMEDICINE AND BIOETHICS**

**John Shosky**

**W 8:10-10:40 p.m.**

Biomedical research and its applications are transforming our world. There are also large, important ethical challenges. For example, huge investments in pharmaceutical products and medical devices generate astronomical global sales, for those with money, leaving behind those without funds. Medical procedures available in developed countries are merely a dream in the developing world. Decisions made to alter the human genome in rich countries will affect all people, now and in the future: alterations will be chosen by the rich alone. Ethical restrictions on human subject research in the United States and Europe are avoided by turning to countries where subjects have little, or no, protection. Some people in developing countries are selling their organs: empowerment or exploitation? Efforts to reduce the disparities in care are making financial progress, but are still thwarted by a brain drain to rich countries, questionable approaches to “fashionable” diseases, corruption, and crumbling infrastructure. In this course we will look at the history of medicine and current biomedical issues from an international perspective. Topics covered will include abortion, in vitro fertilization, organ transplantation, organ trafficking, human subject research, gene therapy, cloning, distribution of resources, availability of pharmaceutical products, funding for particular diseases, and the brain drain of health care personnel. This is a course that will be valuable to students with an interest in medicine, as well as students in philosophy, biology, economics, international studies, development, and peace and conflict resolution.

***MAJOR CREDIT: Justice (Public Policy cluster); Law and Society (Political Science, Sociology/Anthropology cluster); POLS (Related Social Science requirement); and SIS (International Economic Relations; International Politics; International Development)***

**HNRS 302-007H MEDIA POWER IN LATIN AMERICA**

**Rick Rockwell**

**M 5:30-8:00 p.m.**

This course explores the interplay between communication systems and the emerging democratic systems of Latin America. Students will receive insight into the business connections of major networks in Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, and other locations. The course will show how those networks have affected the structure of various democratic systems in the region. Also, the course will explore how various Latin American corporations have grown to become some of the leading international networks with global reach.

***MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Communication); KOGOD; SOC (Media Studies/Journalism); SIS (International Communication; International Politics; Americas)***

**HNRS 302-008H PUBLIC POLICY AND  
THE POLITICS OF TALK**

**Christine DeGregorio**

**W 11:20-2:00 p.m.**

Americans are united in their distaste for watching politicians battle one another over setting important national policies. Consider some recent and ongoing examples: securing our national borders; conducting a global war on terrorism, banning gay marriage and regulating tobacco use. The debate is public and often nasty. This course examines the way political elites manipulate language to build support for their causes. Together, we will first explore a phenomenon called framing, a strategic message manipulation that elected officials (lawmakers and executives), lobby groups, and some in the media employ to sway opinion and arouse action. Who does this the most? When? And to what end? Next, we will examine the underlying conditions that correspond with this form of political persuasion.

Through a review of scholarly research and case-study examples, you will learn about the challenges that policymakers face as they attend to their conflicting goals for office, influence and good policy. It is often forgotten that, between elections, we, the governed, are an integral part of this policymaking partnership. Contending elites know this as they woo their respective, though fickle, supporters. At the course's end, you will be a more sophisticated consumer of political communication. You will also likely have an increased appreciation for the delicate balance that exists between the government and the governed.

***MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Government); Justice (Public Policy cluster); Law and Society (Political Science cluster); POLS (Policy concentration); SIS (U.S. Foreign Policy); SOC (Public Communication; Media Studies), Sociology***

**HNRS 302-009H SOCIAL/SCIENCE/FICTION**

**Patrick Jackson**

**T 2:10-4:50 p.m.**

*(Hughes Hall Honors Seminar Room or Model Classroom if available)*

This course proceeds from a pair of linked observations: 1) social science is a human endeavor which promises to elucidate social reality in such a way as to make it comprehensible, and, 2) science fiction is part of a human literary endeavor in which authors explore the relationships between characters, technology, and the physical world through the fantastic setting in which the events of the work are situated. Both genres aim to explore the contours of the future, and to elucidate complex issues by means of deliberate analytical oversimplification. This suggests the potential for a dialogue, or at least an intriguing set of contrasts. Is social science a form of science fiction? Is science fiction a form of social science? We will explore these issues by reading and discussing illustrative works from both genres. Students will also have the option to view and discuss selected science-fiction films on Sunday evenings at 8 p.m. throughout the semester.

***MAJOR CREDIT: Literature; POLS (Major-related Social Science requirement); SIS (International Politics, Race Relations, International Peace and Conflict Resolution), Sociology***

**HONORS 302-010H SAVIORS OR SCOUNDRELS: INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**

**Tamar Gutner**

**T,F 12:45-2:00 p.m.**

International organizations (IOs), such as the U.N., I.M.F. and World Bank, are increasingly finding themselves in the untenable position of being asked to address a growing array of new issue areas while facing mounting criticism of their performance. They have become simultaneously more necessary and more reviled in a world where global governance is more complex. This course examines the political, economic, legal and other factors that have shaped the evolving role and performance of international organizations in major global issues today.

***MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (GOVT component); Economics; KOGOD; Law and Society; POLS (Related Social Science requirement); SIS (International Development, International Development, International Economic Relations, International Politics, International Peace and Conflict Resolution, and U.S. Foreign Policy)***

## **HONORS 302-011H GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**

**Richard Linowes**

**Th 2:10-4:50 p.m.**

The growth of international commerce and multilateral relations coupled with the demand for good governance has created the need for a new breed of global player, one who is grounded in personal principle yet who reaches out to a global network to get his or her work accomplished. This course examines leaders around us – from the ranks of government, business or non-profit organizations – from this biographical perspective, identifying their grounding experiences and emerging commitments that shaped their life's course. The class also studies the cross-cultural linkages that enabled them to pursue their cause on an international level. The course then encourages students to explore seeds of their own leadership direction, choosing causes and cultivating skills and habits of mind that may enhance their clarity and confidence about someday playing a leadership role in a global context.

***MAJOR CREDIT: KOGOD; POLS (Related Social Science requirement); SIS (International Communication, International Development, International Economic Relations, International Politics);***

## **HONORS 302-012H WAR AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**Philip Brenner**

**M 2:10-4:50 p.m.**

The U.S. war on terror, and the invasion and occupation of Iraq, have once again raised issues about the responsibility of individuals (both those who make policy and those who carry out policy) for crimes against humanity. This course examines these issues by focusing on three major events – the massive bombing of Japanese cities in World War II, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Vietnam War – and on former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, who was involved in all three.

***MAJOR CREDIT: POLS (Related Social Science requirement); SIS (International Politics, International Peace and Conflict Resolution, U.S. Foreign Policy, Americas, Asia)***

**HNRS 302-013H SOUTH AFRICA: APARTHEID, INEQUALITY  
AND SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION**

**Bette J. Dickerson**

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

*Apartheid* policies dominated South Africa from 1948-1994, institutionalizing the most severely racialized governance of the 20th century. The massive socioeconomic conflict and structural inequality that dominated the country throughout the apartheid era makes the nation's recent realization of *democracy* a striking model of social change. Today, South Africa embodies the tension between sharp social inequality and the development of a human rights-based democracy grounded in "nonracism" and "nonsexism." The intentional redress of massive race, gender and class inequalities is central to the processes of nation building. This course provides an opportunity to explore the intersection of a deeply embedded colonial history and contemporary societal changes that aim to positively shape the lives of those that have been most seriously disenfranchised by race, gender, and class inequalities. Some of the issues to be discussed include the major challenge of HIV/AIDS as South Africa has more people living with the disease than any other country in the world, the similarities and differences between the United States and South African histories of dominant-minority relations, and the initiatives of women during the apartheid and post-apartheid eras.

***MAJOR CREDIT: Economics; POLS (Related Social Science Requirement); SIS (Africa, Race Relations, International Development, International Politics, International Peace and Conflict Resolution), Sociology***