



Honors Colloquia Spring 06

*NOTE: Some schools and departments have not yet identified courses for Major Credit.
Please check back for the most up-to-date information.*

HNRS 300.001H COGNITIVE SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS

**Rom Harré
T-F 9:55-11:10**

The second half of the 20th century saw the rise of cognitive psychology, based on the principle that human thought and action involved the creation and utilization of bodies of knowledge. In keeping with the requirements that a discipline be a science, cognitive psychology developed ways of identifying and classifying phenomena, based on the vernacular, and of psychological explanation involving computational modeling as a mediator towards identifying the brain mechanisms by which people accomplished their tasks and projects.

The course begins with a resume of current ideas of the nature of scientific enquiry, particularly as model building. Previous attempts at developing a cognitive science failed but the revival of the project in mid 20th century led through the development of computational models towards connectionist networks, to successful identifications of relevant brain mechanisms. At every stage philosophical problems have to be surmounted. The course takes a student through the outlines of the technicalities of the psychology and towards resolutions of the most important philosophical problems that have emerged.

MAJOR CREDIT: PHILOSOPHY, PHYSICS (computational elective) PSYCHOLOGY, (See SIS advisor)

HNRS 300.002H SOUND AND MUSICAL EXPRESSION **CANCELLED**

HONORS 300-003H ADVANCED WRITING: BEYOND FUNDAMENTALS

**Cindy Bair Van Dam
TF 11:20-12:35**

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, (See SIS advisor)

HONORS 300-004H AMERICA'S VIETNAM: HISTORY, FILM, FICTION

Peter Kuznick

M 5:30-8:00

This course will explore the history of the U.S. invasion of Vietnam, emphasizing the war's impact on American society, politics, culture, and foreign policy. It will pay particular attention to the representations of the war in film and fiction. In addition to carefully assessing the antiwar movement and its role in ending the war, the class will explore the war's enduring legacy and the ways in which it continues to influence American policy. This course is linked to the University Honors Program Study/Travel Abroad trip planned to Vietnam during spring break. Students can sign up for the course and Study/Travel Abroad trip (1 credit) separately.

MAJOR CREDIT: HISTORY, POLS (Social Science Req), SIS, SOC (American history)

HONORS 301-001H CANCER BIOLOGY

Kathleen DeCicco

M 9:55-12:35

This course will provide an in-depth analysis of cancer, including the biological basis of cancer, and gender, ethical, and social issues that can impact how it is identified and treated. The course will be divided into two parts: The first half will address how cells are supposed to function, how good cells turn bad, the different types of environmental and chemical carcinogens in society, some primary cancer genes, and the relationship that exists between bacterial and viral infections and cancer. In the second half of the semester, we will analyze newly-emerging cancer treatments such as gene therapy for its effectiveness, and the ethical, gender, and social issues surrounding this technique and others. Genetic testing is starting to be used more and more to identify high risk individuals, but it doesn't come without controversy. We will discuss some of these controversies and where we should go from here.

MAJOR CREDIT: BIOLOGY

HONORS 302-001H REGULATION AND THE GOVERNANCE OF AMERICA

Cornelius Kerwin

T 2:10-4:50

Note New Meeting Time!

This course will explore the origins, reach and significance of regulation as an instrument of law and public policy. It will open with an effort to define central concepts and review the fundamental arguments both for and against the use of regulation as a substitute for the operation of free markets. The course will then move to an analysis of the development of the two major forms of regulation -- economic and social -- and a survey of its current impact on American economic, social and political life. At this point there will be a general understanding that no significant business decision can be made in America without concern for its regulatory dimensions. Any effort to understand the dynamics of government intervention must focus on the tools of regulation and this inquiry will occupy a significant portion of the course. We will conclude with a consideration of proposals that have been advanced to eliminate or reform regulation and a consideration the likely future of this instrument of public authority and power. Throughout we will emphasize the role of powerful political interests and the tactics they employ to influence the process, outputs and outcomes of regulation and the challenges we face as a society in our efforts to measure, and better understand, the effects of regulation on the quality of our lives.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Govt), ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, JUSTICE (Just and Legal Process), KOGOD (Elective), LAW AND SOCIETY (GOVT/POL SCI), POLS, SIS, SOCIOLOGY

HONORS 302-002H CASES IN COMMUNICATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Nanette Levinson

W 2:10-4:50

From the internet to cell phones, information-related technologies possess implications for development. This colloquium uses case and systems analysis to explore emerging and often controversial communication and development trends and issues at the local, national, regional, and global levels. Students will research and write individual cases, using concepts from class and readings.

MAJOR CREDIT: KOGOD (Elective), SIS, SOC (Media Studies/all majors), SOCIOLOGY

HNRS-302.003H TOTAL PEACE

Abdul Said

T 2:10-4:50

This course provides a critical exploration of what constitutes a structural theory of peace. If the twentieth century was one of ‘total war’ (a balance-of-power driven system steeped in security prisoner dilemmas, or the cruelty of dyads), how do we create the social conditions and institutions necessary to transform systemic conflict at both the international and national levels and to create a condition approximating ‘total peace’? What are the dynamics (whether cultural, economic, political, etc.) that influence how peace is constructed and ultimately imposed?

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Govt), LAW AND SOCIETY (Soc/Anthr), POLS (Social Science req), SIS, SOCIOLOGY

HNRS-302.004H DARWINISM

Loesberg, Culver, Dent, Fong, and Riley

MTh 3:35- 4:50

One of the most profound changes in western thinking and attitudes occurred with the publication of Charles Darwin’s On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection in 1859. It was one of those rare moments when everyone, friend and foe of evolution, had to look at the world in a different light. For nearly 150 years it has been a flashpoint in the struggle between science and religion, between reason and faith. Within biology, the basic tenets of the theory have been widely accepted for decades but a vigorous debate about the details continues unabated. Darwinism is too important to be relegated only to biology courses. It had and has a profound impact on our worldview. This course will focus on Darwin as an intellectual figure in mid-nineteenth century England, and look at how his views changed society and how society molded his views. As a starting place, we will use the biography Desmond and Morris, Darwin—Life of a Tormented Evolutionist. We will look at Darwinism’s impact on some 19th century phenomena, including the growth of socialism and social Darwinism. We will look at some 20th (and 21st) century impacts as well, including “scientific” creationism, eugenics, sociobiology, and evolutionary psychology.

MAJOR CREDIT: LITERATURE, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY

HNRS-302.005H POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY: CULTIVATING HUMAN STRENGTHS & VIRTUES

Anthony Ahrens

CANCELLED

HONORS 302-006H TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

Michelle Egan

F 2:10-4:50

This course will examine the evolution of the transatlantic relationship in terms of its political, economic and cultural dimensions. In the first half of the century the United States vacillated between uneasy political disengagement and resolute diplomatic and military involvement in European affairs. All the while economic and cultural ties remained close and continued to grow, although leading to occasional backlashes against Americanization. In addition to the pivotal role that the United States played in pacifying and protecting Western Europe after the Second World War, Europe and the United States have developed strong commercial and economic ties that often belie the disagreements over foreign policy. Throughout the course we will encounter the complex history of European-American relations, drawing on a variety of topics and issues. With the end of the Cold War the question of rebalancing the relationship acquired new urgency. European complaints about American "unilateralism" and American misgivings over Europe's ambitions in the realm of foreign and security policy have increased over the past couple of years as the process of European integration has deepened.

A lively exchange has arisen about the future of Europe, and the transatlantic alliance in which issues of hegemony and autonomy, empire and integration have been widely debated and discussed. In this course, students will examine some of these debates as well as specific issues and topics covering economic -political and security policies and strategies in the context of the transatlantic relationship. We may consider different approaches to sovereignty and cooperation as well as different perceptions and debates on unilateralism and multilateralism. We will also use case studies which may include issues concerning both security and trade: International Criminal Court, Kyoto Protocol, Genetically Modified foods, data privacy, and antitrust policies to assess and evaluate the transatlantic relationship.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Govt or Econ), KOGOD (elective), POLS, SIS, SOCIOLOGY

HNRS-302-007H CULTURE AND IDENTITY

Pek Koon Heng-Blackburn

W 9:55-12:35

This introductory seminar will examine theoretical frameworks and conceptual approaches pertaining to identity formation and cultural construction within a comparative perspective, using empirical data drawn mainly from East and Southeast Asian countries, as well as the United States. Our theoretical enquiry will address the concepts of Orientalism and Occidentalism while focusing on structures and agents, institutions and processes – political, economic and social – that are fundamental to the shaping and re-shaping of identity and culture. We will analyze the significance of these concepts during the age of imperialism, the post-colonial period of modern nation-building, and the contemporary era of globalization. Key determinants to be examined include collective memory, citizenship, migration, ethnicity, religion, class, gender, and the impact of the market and mass consumption. Apart from scholarly texts, we will draw empirical data from novels and videos that illuminate diverse cultural/social features of China, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia and the United States.

MAJOR CREDIT: SIS, SOCIOLOGY

HNRS-302.008H GLOBALIZATION AND IMMIGRATION

Christine Chin

Th 9:55-12:35

This course will examine different types of contemporary transnational migration, their causes and consequences on home and host societies, with specific emphasis on culture and identity. Among the issues to be discussed are immigration legislation/security, labor, health and disease, and tourism.

MAJOR CREDIT: KOGOD (elective), LAW AND SOCIETY (Govt/Poli Sci), POLS (Social Science Req), SIS, SOCIOLOGY

HNRS-302.009H MEDIA MYTH AND POWER

W. Joseph Campbell

W 9:55-12:35

125 McDowell Hall

This colloquium will offer a sweeping assessment of the roles of mass media in the emergence, spread, tenacity, and implications of popular myths and legends in the United States and abroad. We'll consider the news media and several war-related myths, the notion of conspiracy in the JFK assassination, the media-driven myth about crack babies, the myth about bra-burning at the Miss America pageant in 1968, among other cases. Colloquium assignments will include a research paper drawn from primary source material at the Library of Congress.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Comm), POLS (Social Science req), SIS, SOC (Media Studies/all majors), SOCIOLOGY

HNRS-302.010H CITIZENS AND VICTIMS: GENDER AND COMPARATIVE LAW

Catherine Warrick

MTh 12:45-2:00

A society's laws are an indication not only of its values and accepted practices, but also of the distribution of power among its members. This course investigates this intersection of law, politics and culture by focusing on issues of gender in a variety of legal systems, both Western and non-Western. We will investigate topics and cases in criminal law, nationality law, and civil rights in order to understand the often-contentious issue of equality and how the law both reflects and shapes gender roles.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Law). JUSTICE (Just, Crim, Dev), LAW AND SOCIETY (Soc/Anthr), POLS, SIS, WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES, SOCIOLOGY

HONORS 302-011H MIGRATION AND SECURITY

Chris Rudolph

MTh 2:10-3:25

This course examines the social, economic, and defense implications of international migration and the policies developed to respond to them. Students will examine the factors that generate migration, the factors that shape interests in both sending and receiving countries, and policy development since WWII. In depth case studies will focus on Europe and North America.

MAJOR CREDIT: POLS (Social Science req), SIS, SOCIOLOGY

HNRS-302.012H MEDIA AND THE AMERICAN MIND

Rodger Streitmatter

MTh 12:45-2:00

Hughes 102

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 (Comm), POLS (Social Science req), SIS, SOC (Media Studies/all majors), SOCIOLOGY

HNRS-302.013H PRISON STORIES

Robert Johnson

W 2:10-4:50

Hughes 102

Prisons are a world apart from the larger world, a place both larger than life and smaller than the cages in which the convicts live. We will explore the contours of this strange and often paradoxical world using stories of all sorts, fiction and nonfiction, all true to prison life in their own way.

MAJOR CREDIT: JUSTICE (Just, Corr. Punishment), SOCIOLOGY

PLEASE NOTE:

Anthropology and American Studies students. Certain courses may count for elective credit in Anthropology and American Studies. This determination will be done on an individual student basis. Please see Prof. Bill Leap for details.

SIS students. Students can discuss ways in which Honors colloquia (currently not given major credit) could be applied toward their major. Please consult with an SIS academic advisor.