



Northeastern University
Honors Program

HONORS FIRST YEAR INQUIRY SERIES

EXCITING SPRING 2020 COURSE OFFERINGS FOR FIRST YEAR HONORS STUDENTS

HONR 1310-04

From Esperanto to Elvish: Constructed Languages in History and Fiction

Adam Cooper, Department of Linguistics, COS

Times: Tues, Fri. / 9:50-11:30am

CRN: 35849

NUpath: IC, EI

This seminar will focus on constructed languages: linguistic systems which have emerged from conscious creation, rather than natural development. We will survey a variety of well-known constructed languages (or conlangs), and examine them along a number of dimensions, including the motivations behind their creation, their internal coherence and plausibility, and their status and effectiveness within the culture (real or fictional) for which they were designed. You will also have the opportunity to apply your emergent knowledge of linguistic structure and linguistic analysis to develop a constructed language of your own.

HONR1310-06

Earth as an Active Planet

Malcolm Hill, Department of Marine and Environmental Sciences, COS

Times: Mon, Wed, Thurs. / 1:30-2:40pm

CRN: 35925

NUpath: ND

Sunlight and the earth's internal heat are the two primary energy sources that drive many environmental processes. Volcanoes, earthquakes, and tectonic deformation of the earth's surface are caused by the earth's internal heat distribution and the ways that rocks in the earth respond to heat and stress. Biological and physical processes at the earth's surface (storms and precipitation in the atmosphere; erosion of the surface by landslides, and by moving air, water, or ice; interactions between mineral grains, air, moisture and plant roots in soil; for example) are particularly influenced by solar energy. In this course you will explore a number of processes that operate at local to planetary scales, and that operate on timescales from a few seconds to millions of years in duration. The course will meet twice/week (Sequence B, Monday-Wednesday from 2:50-4:25 PM) and will include both lecture/discussion classes and hands-on, group learning sessions in the Dept. of Marine & Environmental Sciences' lecture/lab teaching space.



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HONR 1310-09: Literature and Democracy

Theo Davis, Department of English, CSSH

Times: Tues, Fri. / 9:50-11:30am. | CRN: 37179

Plato's Republic famously characterized the work of poets as dangerous to democracy, but modern literature and democracy have a long and intertwined history. This course will look at a core group of texts defining major ideas about democracy, both in the form of political theory and of literature. It focuses on themes of Education and Advancement, Revolution, Protest, Equality and Inequality, Consensus and Dissent, and Difference. It offers students a chance to develop a sharp understanding of these major themes in liberal theory and to explore how literature opens up discussions of political values and practices. It prepares students to face the challenges of civic life today, and to illuminate why literary and political discussions so often go together in the modern university.

HONR 1310-10: Algorithms that Affect Our Lives

Tina Eliassi-Rad, Khoury College of Computer Sciences

Times: Mon, Wed. / 2:50-4:30pm | CRN: 37840

In this Honors Inquiry seminar, you will learn about many of the algorithms that you use on a daily basis. Examples include algorithms for web search, recommendation systems, online auctions, crowdsourcing, social networking, and user engagement. The course will also cover individual and collective consequences of using these algorithms such as the loss privacy, algorithmic bias, and ethical dilemmas. Previous coding experience is not required.

HONR 1310-11: This is Our Future: Living in the Era of Climate Change

Rebecca Riccio, Department of Human Services, CSSH

Times: Wed. / 4:30-8:00pm | CRN: 37862

How will climate change shape the futures of today's youth? What knowledge, skills, and self-care practices will prepare them to navigate the risks and opportunities of a world in flux? This course will provide students with an interdisciplinary perspective on the ways climate change and other global trends such as artificial intelligence will shape the environmental, political, economic, social, and personal landscape of their lives. Working in groups, students will develop communication strategies for raising their peers' awareness of these issues.



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HONR 1310-12: Angels, Venture Capitalists, and Health: Entrepreneurship in the Health Sciences

Jack Reynolds, School of Pharmacy, Bouvé

Times: Mon, Thurs. / 11:45am-1:25pm | CRN: 37952

This course addresses principles of entrepreneurship and their applications in the health care industry, with particular relevance to health care ventures and technology. The course includes explorations of different forms of business organizations including sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, joint ventures and not-for-profit enterprises. Such explorations will help students identify and evaluate business skills and commitment necessary to successfully operate an entrepreneurial venture and address the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship. Students will consider the requirements, costs and benefits of various forms of financial options open to entrepreneurs. Presentations and discussions in the course will be led by accomplished entrepreneurs and practitioners who are engaged in health care teaching, research and business. Case studies will identify the challenges and rewards of successful entrepreneurial ventures that will set positive examples for budding entrepreneurs in leading change and innovation.

HONR 1310-13: East Meets West: Mindfulness in a Digital World

Laura Dudley, Department of Applied Psychology, Bouvé

Times: Mon, Wed, Thurs. / 9:15-10:20am | CRN: 37856

This course provides students with an introduction to mindfulness, with an emphasis on Buddhist traditions. Mindfulness refers to the act of bringing awareness to the present moment, intentionally and without judgement. Mindfulness has gained popularity in recent years, and recent studies suggest that mindfulness practices may have health benefits. This course is highly experiential. Meditation techniques will be taught and practiced, as will accompanying practices such as yoga and breath work. Outside of class meetings, students will maintain and reflect on a daily mindful meditation practice for the duration of the course. An emphasis will be placed on Tibetan Buddhist philosophy, teachings, and practice and how these teachings can be implemented in a digital age where it is becoming increasingly difficult to remain mindful.



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HONORS INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINARS

EXCITING SPRING 2020 COURSE OFFERINGS FOR UPPER-CLASS HONORS STUDENTS

Honors Interdisciplinary Seminars are described on the following pages.

These courses are available to Honors students in their second year or higher. To achieve Honors Distinction, students must complete at least one such seminar between their second year and graduation.

HONR 3310-01

Enabling the Sharing Economy w/ Computing Technology & Digital Business Model Innovations

David Kaeli, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Yakov Bart, DMSB

Times: Mon / 5:00pm-8:00pm

CRN: 35845

NUpath: EI

The *Sharing Economy* can be characterized as an economic system of distributed networks and marketplaces that enables more effective and efficient access to underutilized and poorly managed assets and resources. The Sharing Economy is forecast to grow to over \$335 billion by 2025. Technological innovations have allowed a variety of innovative business models to flourish, disrupting many mature industries and transforming the future of commerce, healthcare, transportation, lodging, energy, computing, and other services. More generally, growing Sharing Economy practices are transforming societies all over the world.

This interdisciplinary course examines the Sharing Economy through two different lenses. First, we discuss the underlying computing technologies that have emerged to support more convenient and cost-effective access to assets and resources via sharing. Second, we examine the key economic drivers and building blocks of digital business transformations underlying the best practices of the Sharing Economy and discuss how companies and governments can successfully take advantage of emerging multi-sided platforms and market-driven network externalities. We will explore both technological and consumer-based perspectives to highlight potential biases and discrimination arising in the Sharing Economy and consider various approaches for establishing fair and appropriate regulations and policies to mitigate such issues.



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HONR 3310-05

Making the World a Better Place: A Course on the Ethics of Philanthropy

Patricia Illingworth, Department of Philosophy and Religion, CSSH

Times: Tues. / 11:45-1:25pm, Thurs. / 2:50pm-4:30pm

CRN: 35854

NUpath: SI, ER

Given great global and domestic need, the moral imperative to help others is pressing and falls on the state, civil society, enterprises and individuals. In recent years philanthropy - the "love of humanity" - has received widespread attention. Warren Buffet, Bill and Melinda Gates, George Soros, Ted Turner and Oprah Winfrey have given incredible sums of money to help people globally and domestically. In addition, members of the middle class often give generously of their time, in the form of service, and financially. This course explores the ethical, social and political issues that arise in the context of philanthropy. Some of the questions to be considered are: Who should give? Are billionaires obligated to give more than the middle class? If so, how much more? Ought donors to receive a tax deduction when they give to charity, even when that reduces government revenue for other worthy causes? What are the obligations of corporations to give, and does that conflict with their obligations to investors? Does philanthropy undermine democracy? Are some charitable sectors morally more compelling and deserving than others? Is it better to give to global poverty or to the local symphony, and on the basis of what criteria should we make these decisions? Should non-profits accept "tainted donations"? Our approach to these issues and others will be practical, critical and analytical; we draw on interdisciplinary readings from ethics, economics, political science, law, business, the social sciences.

HONR 3310-06

Cold War Spies

Jeff Burds, Department of History, CSSH

Times: Wed / 5:00pm-8:00pm

CRN: 35855

Commonly referred to as the world's "second oldest profession," espionage is an intrinsic part of the relations between communities, institutions, and states, and an essential basis for policy decisions by world leaders. Drawing from a wide variety of published and unpublished primary and secondary sources, supplemented by modern theoretical and social science perspectives, literature, and films, this course explores the history of espionage during the Cold War era (1943-1991) and its immediate aftermath through a series of case studies. This course will lead students through the history of covert operations over the past 50 years focusing on these sub-themes: the origins of the Cold War in World War II; the postwar battle for German scientists; Containment and Rollback; Venona and codebreaking; nuclear spies; defectors; proxy wars; insurgencies and counterinsurgencies; terrorism; technological espionage; cyberespionage; propaganda; the psychology of betrayal; and mind control (MKULTRA).

Each student will make two presentations on themes/readings to be negotiated with Professor Burds. Students may write two short (5-7 page) papers, or one longer paper based on those presentations.



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HONR 3310-09

Online Creative Writing Workshop: Borrowings

Ellen Noonan, Department of English, CSSH

Times: Online

CRN: 35862

Using language—writing, reading, etc.—is a social activity, one way to connect with others (past, present, future others)—and to document and, sometimes, to trouble, those connections. By thinking about and “practicing” language in this way, by adopting this approach, you will all see and practice how the rhetorical choices writers make are consequential, impacting not only the clarity of the sentences (an annoyingly persistent view of writing that reduces the complexity of writing (situations, circumstances, audiences, identities, genres...) to a simplistic exercise in skill building, i.e., learning the rules of a monolithic grammar, but also, and most importantly, the shaping of what is possible to think about, what is worth thinking about, what is worth writing about. The courses within the NU creative writing program are not, in fact, focused on “skill building” or THE right way to write; rather, they aim to raise your level of awareness, to make you conscious of the complex social nature of writing and reading, their dynamism and power.

In this course, we will be using the “frame” of connections and connectedness (and disconnections and disconnectedness) alongside the concepts of “translating,” “borrowing,” and “adapting” to think about the “tools” that writing uses to construct identities— personal, social, private, public: How do you (how might you) use writing to create a space in the world? How is identity crafted? How is identity understood by others (your readers, your audience)? What tools are at your disposal as a maker? How do you negotiate the myriad choices of purpose and audience and tone and style? These questions have many answers, which I hope to explore with you; there are also many more questions to ask, which will—along with generating lots of “writing”— be our most important class activity.

HONR 3310-14

Witchcraft and Literature

Francis Blessington, Department of English, CSSH

Times: Tues, Fri. / 9:50-11:30am

CRN: 37180

Witchcraft is a worldwide phenomenon. In the West, it has had terrible consequences, but also it has been employed by many great writers, musicians, and artists to stimulate the imagination and create art, e.g., Homer, Shakespeare, Milton, Goethe, Mozart, Goya, Huxley, Updike. We shall explore the uses and abuses of sorcery and the human longing for magic and miracle in literature and other arts.



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HONR 3310-15

Global Health: Art, Science, and Imagination

Richard Wamai, Department of Cultures, Societies and Global Studies, CSSH

Times: Wed. / 4:30-7:30pm

CRN: 37181

While it might have been the case in past decades that a disease experienced in one country “stayed” in that country or continent, this is no longer the case (think: bird flu in Asia or Ebola in Africa). With today’s unparalleled global mobility, it’s quite clear that what happens in one nation does affect others— and this is particularly true when we consider infectious diseases. With greater understanding that our planet is a dynamic system, it is critically important that we acknowledge that a disease in one nation can have worldwide consequences, and that we need to draw upon our imaginations, as well as science, to craft effective strategies for prevention and treatment. Global health provides a foundation and mechanism for identifying those factors that promote or threaten health in diverse contexts and with diverse populations, leading to implications for prevention, intervention, and hopefully, effective treatments. This interdisciplinary seminar provides a platform for curious students to explore the multifaceted new frontiers of global health in ways that span research, theory, practice, communication, and social action— the “art, science, and imagination” of health— all while learning how a new discipline, and set of professions, are emerging.

HONR 3310-16: Hopscotch, Soccer, and Broccoli: Implications of Neuroscience for Promoting Children’s Brain Health

Lauren Raine, Dept. of Physical Therapy, Movement and Rehabilitation Sciences, Bouvé

Times: Tues. / 3:00-6:00pm | CRN: 37500 | NUpath: ND

To what extent does brain health depend on lifestyle choices that are made early in life? This course highlights the implications of lifestyle factors on brain health during childhood and adolescence, with particular focus on factors such as physical activity, diet, obesity, and sleep. Various perspectives and methods for measuring lifestyle factors and brain health will be examined through readings, class discussions and exercises, and tours of various Northeastern laboratories. Students will be introduced to emerging methodologies and techniques in the field of neuroscience, including electroencephalogram (EEG), functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), and behavioral outcomes.

Students will develop critical thinking and analytic skills as we use the scientific readings and laboratory observations to evaluate the quality of scientific evidence supporting the importance of particular lifestyle factors in promoting brain health. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to integrate knowledge emerging from multiple disciplines, including neuroscience, movement sciences, nutrition, and psychology.



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HONR 3310-17: Exploring Race and Class in America

Jonathan Kaufman, School of Journalism, CAMD

Times: Wed. / 4:40pm-7:30pm | CRN: 37856 | NUpath: AD, DD

Charlottesville. Ferguson. Colin Kaepernick and the NFL. The election of Donald Trump. The debate over mass incarceration. The scourge of inequality.

Race and class are fundamental to understanding American history and grappling with the problems society faces today. Every day the media shapes how we view these issues, how we talk about them, how we vote on them. This class will examine how the media covers race and class--where it has done well, where it has done badly and how it can do better. We will read and watch seminal works on race and class in America and meet with journalists exploring the narrative and ethical challenges of telling these stories.

HONR 3310-18: Platform Business Models

Kevin Boudreau, Department of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, DMSB

Times: Mon, Thurs. / 11:45am-1:25pm | CRN: 37954 |

Many of today's leading enterprises are organized as platforms. It is important to understand these new forms of organization, not just from a business and technological standpoint, but also because they have the potential to shape society, and the way people, businesses, and machines interact.

This course is an introduction to key themes and ideas shaping the "platform economy." The course draws from latest research and goings-on in industry and society but is geared to a general audience without necessarily having any technical background in policy, economics, or business analysis. The instruction will introduce economic concepts and strategic frameworks in the context of real-world problems to attempt to clarify and cement concepts. In a sense, this is meant as an 'introductory course to advanced concepts' now beginning to shape our economy and beginning to research and careful scrutiny by business leaders and policymakers.

This course is designed to address, explore, and debate topics within class and in periodic assigned quizzes and readings. The course is designed to not require a final exam. This format places a higher burden on students to arrive to class prepared and to engage meaningfully on a regular basis.



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HONR 3310-19: Mind, Body and Heart: Emerging Trends in Health Psychology

Irina Todorova, Department of Applied Psychology, Bouvé

Times: Mon, Thurs. / 11:45am-1:25pm | CRN: 37863 |

How do people experience their body, health and illness; what are cultural meanings that shape these experiences? What does psychology have to do with enjoying health and preventing illness? In this interdisciplinary seminar we will explore research about the connection between mind and body and how different experiences by gender, age, ethnicity, intersect with physical well-being. The study of the "mind-body connection", more recently has added a contextual view of the psychology of health, illness and health. We will explore the theoretical and empirical basis of these ideas, how they are applied in practice, and employ a critical perspective to analyze their assumptions. This course is project-based and experiential. As we are learning about the interconnectedness of mind, body, and culture, we will also be able to reflect and apply these ideas to our own life.

HONR 3310-20: Visual Intelligence

Gloria Sutton, Department of Art + Design, CAMD

Times: Wed. / 1:35-4:35pm. | CRN: 37898 | NUpath: IC

This course teaches students to understand how to read, analyze and comprehend contemporary visual art as both artefact and act of public address. In contemporary culture, images and visual technologies are central to how we communicate, innovate and create. This interdisciplinary course introduces the skills of visual intelligence by combining powers of observation (formal description, visual data) with techniques of interpretation to sharpen perceptual awareness allowing students to develop compelling interpretations of visual art within a global context.

This course is also designed to introduce students to a broad range of creative professionals who actively use visual intelligence in their dynamic careers. We will see experiments in visual thinking endemic to the fields of design, publishing, curation, conservation, and other areas of knowledge production in the visual arts. This course requires on site visits to conservation labs, studios, museums, gallery spaces and corporate art collections to gain first-hand experience.

HONR 3310-21: The Battle for Global Markets

Jill Dupree, Department of Economics, CSSH

Times: Mon. / 4:35-7:30pm | CRN: 37953 | NUpath: SI

In this course, we will develop a foundational understanding of the economic theory of international trade policy. We will then use that knowledge to evaluate the causes and consequences of trade policy as it develops over the semester. In the process, we will explore the complex interaction between the economic political and social demands that shape global trade policy. This will be a student-led course, requiring data gathering, analysis, and presentation, both in teams and individually.