

HON 4551-01
PSC: Political Communication
Dr. Matthew R. Kerbel

Did George W. Bush become a different person following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, or did people simply view him in a different context? And why is it that he recently seems to resemble the sometimes clueless candidate of the 2000 campaign rather than the war hero of 2003? Did Al Gore grow a beard and travel through Europe because he was suffering from post-traumatic stress following his close election loss in 2000? Why did Bill Clinton get involved with Monica Lewinsky? How did Hillary really react? Many of us have opinions about questions like these – opinions that assume rather personal knowledge of public figures. In truth, most of us only “know” public figures from the way they’re depicted on television or from what is said about them in newspapers and magazines or on the Internet. Still, we feel qualified to make judgments about them. In this course, we will explore the messages and the messengers that inform our understanding of politics and society, as we examine the content, origins, range and effects of political communication. We will start by figuring out what constitutes news and where news comes from -- because it isn't created in a vacuum. We will examine the consequences of news messages on what we know and believe about politics and society. Then, we will consider explanations for why political communication looks the way it does, examining the celebrity-filled culture of modern reporting and the corporate world of media ownership. We will look beyond traditional media, at the interplay of news and entertainment, advertising, and the emerging power of the Internet on the political messages we’re exposed to. And, we’ll discuss a couple of suggestions for how news gatekeepers might do it differently – and better.

HON 4851-01
THL: Searching for God: Theory and Practice of the Christian Contemplative Tradition
Fr. Martin Laird, O.S.A., Ph.D.

This course explores classical Christian teachings on silent prayer and meditation. Like Buddhism and Hinduism, Christianity likewise has a sophisticated tradition of cultivating interior stillness and peace that leads to the silent depths of the heart. This interior stillness facilitates the deepening of personal identity and the overcoming of the sense of alienation from God and others.

The course is both theoretical and practical. On the theoretical level there will be an interdisciplinary sampling of texts. We will read ancient Christian authors (4th-14th centuries) who talk about the search for interior peace by first dealing with the sources of anxiety within. To draw out the contemporary relevance of this ancient wisdom, we shall look at contemporary authors on depression, eating disorders, relationship junkies, the addiction process, as well as the biological dimensions of the spirituality of human depths.

There is also a practical component. A portion of each class meeting will be devoted to contemplative practice itself, so that the student not only gains a theoretical

understanding of the Christian practice of contemplative prayer, but also knows how to practice it in daily life.

Requirements:

1. Due to the experiential component of the class, only students who are open to and interested in deepening the spiritual dimension of life are advised to enroll (however, one need not necessarily be a member of any religious denomination).
 2. Regular attendance and completion of reading assignments.
 3. Exams (mid-term in class; take home final).
 4. Research paper.
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HON 2550-001

Humanities Seminar

Dr. Anthony J. Godzieba

COURSE PURPOSE/COURSE OBJECTIVES

How do the arts and humanities “think”? This course is designed to enable the participants to step back and view the arts and humanities as a whole in order to discern whether there is a common process of understanding which runs through them.

The seminar participants should also be able to see the provocative effects of such an overarching view and learn to navigate the various contemporary points of contention (regarding literary, artistic, social, political, philosophical, religions, and gender issues) which have their roots in divergent evaluations of interpretative understanding.

We will start by examining the so-called “objectivism” which has passed as the norm of Western understanding. We will then turn to philosophical hermeneutics and do a close study of its history, as well as the claims it makes regarding the human understanding’s non-negotiable interpretive nature. Next, we will pursue some critical applications of and counter-readings to hermeneutics, and see how interpretation itself is interpreted. Finally, we will explore the effects of hermeneutical and anti-hermeneutical theories on contemporary evaluations of human subjectivity and human action.

The format of the course is, naturally, the seminar style.

HON 1380-02

ETH: Ethical Traditions & Contemp. Life

Brett Wilmot

This course will introduce students to a variety of classic thinkers and texts in the Western tradition of philosophical and theological ethics, in particular, Aristotle, Augustine, Kant, and Mill. These sources will then serve as a resource for thinking critically about certain contemporary moral questions and problems, with a particular emphasis on sexual ethics and the death penalty. The main objectives are to promote a more sophisticated grasp of the moral dimensions of human life and an increased awareness of our continued participation in a complex, living tradition of critical reflection on the good life. Students will be asked to engage one another and the

instructor throughout the semester in a civil and critical dialogue as part of a project of mutual education.

HON 1825-01

THL/RST: Christianity Theology: Introduction

Joanna Scholz

Life is a mystery and it is often difficult to understand ourselves, our beliefs, our relationships, our world. This course invites and challenges students to do theology, that is, to think critically, and reflect on the ultimate mystery the mystery of God - revealed through the word, in Scriptures, and through the Word, in the person of Jesus Christ. Throughout their study of the Hebrew Scriptures and Christian Testament students will discover images of God - who God is and what God does. They will study the writings of philosophers and theologians on the existence of God - as well as explore the writings of philosophers who deny God's existence. Students will be asked to further develop their own images of God, reflecting on how the Scriptures, tradition, and their own experiences mold their images. This course will also explore these issues: How did Christian doctrine develop in the early Church? What are the similarities and differences among Christian Churches? Why is there evil in the world? How does a Christian live a moral life?

Course requirements: Active participation in all class sessions, which will include evidence of having completed the assigned readings, completion of several one to two page written assignments throughout the semester, and four tests.

HON 3450-01

COM: Holocaust and the Cinema

Elana Starr

This class provides an introductory examination of how cinema has portrayed the Holocaust. It employs an interdisciplinary methodology, combining film analysis with historical and sociological approaches. Outside viewing is required.

HON 3652-01

ENG: Literary Festival Workshop

Sewell/Pastan

This course will introduce you to the work of five contemporary writers—two poets, one poet/memoirist, and two fiction writers—while providing you with the unique opportunity to interact with them and hear them present their work. Each author will give a reading at Villanova as part of the *Ninth Annual Villanova Literary Festival*, and they will also visit the class in order to meet with students and answer questions. By reading the work of these living breathing authors, we will have the chance to explore the

direction, focus, and relevance of recent American literature. But we will also be able to ask questions about literature not generally investigated in English courses – namely, the specific conditions, motivations, and processes by which writers produce their work. It is a great opportunity if you have any interest in writing or in the publishing industry, or if you simply love literature. Students will also have a chance to explore their own creative impulses by working on their own poetry and prose. While we will primarily focus on the work of our visiting writers, all members of the class will be expected to produce at least one creative project.

This class is a seminar, and class sessions will be run as a discussion; you will be expected to contribute your own thoughts and responses to the work. Course requirements include: regular participation in class discussions, two critical essays (one on poetry and one on prose), one creative project, and attendance at all five readings, which will be held at 7:30 on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings. Please note: attendance at the readings is mandatory.

HON 4350-01

PHI: Memory and Identity

Dr. Gregory Hoskins

In this course we will investigate the primordial link between memory and individual and group identity. We will entertain such questions as: What is memory? How do individuals and groups remember, and what are the ethical and political features of remembering? Is there ever a duty to remember? Is it ever necessary to forget? How is personal and collective identity formed, and what role does memory play in this process? Finally, if, as many commentators claim, the contemporary era is a “post-modern” era, what does this development entail for our understanding of the link between memory and identity? We will illuminate the issues drawing on a variety of primary and secondary sources (including films) and insights from various disciplines including philosophy, theology, sociology, psychology, literature, and political theory. We will arrange, if it is possible to do so, at least one visit to an off-campus “memory site.” A major requirement of the seminar is a research project on a topic of your choosing. The paper will explore a topic in much more depth than we were able to do in seminar.

HON 4850-01

The Gospel of Mark

Paul Danove

The course introduces the methods of structuralist, reader response, narrative, and rhetorical criticism, applies these methods in the study of Mark, provides an exegetical survey of the Gospel of Mark, and gives specific attention to the theological themes emphasized by the Evangelist. The format will be lectures, exegesis of assigned texts, discussion of class readings, and paper discussions and presentations.

Students will be expected to read the Gospel of Mark by the first class meeting, attend class, participate in all class discussions, and write four 7-page papers. Thus, the course will be writing intensive.

Prerequisites: Interdisc I or THL 2200 or THL 2300

HON 1802-01

PSC: International Relations

Professor Kreuzer

"September 11 has refocused Americans' attention on how profoundly international politics affects our domestic lives and politics. The course will cover three major areas of international politics: national security (e.g. terrorism, causes of war, peace-making strategies), economic integration (e.g. trade, financial markets, North South disparities) and culture (e.g. Anti-Americanism, migration, nationalism). It will analyze how they have change over the last half century and how they are affecting domestic politics in the US and elsewhere. You will read some fabulous books and articles that deal with these topics. There will be minimal lecturing as most class time is devote to discussions. You are required to write a 10-15 page research paper."

HONORS 1141 – 001 DIT: OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

Matthew J. Liberatore

This course examines the critical role and the contributions made by operations managers in manufacturing and service organizations. The student will gain an understanding of operations strategy and competitive advantage, project management, process analysis and redesign, quality management, and supply chain strategy and management. The interface between operations and other business functions is highlighted. Students actively participate in the delivery of this course through case, article, and topic presentations, discussions of assigned readings and games.

HON 1242 – 002

ACS: Modernity & Its Discontents

Professor Newell

Creating the Perfect World

As the consequences of modernity increased through colonialism and the development of the New World, through industrialism, and through new scientific discoveries, traditional ways of understanding the world have fallen apart leaving a greater sense of uncertainty. As a result, the desire to fix what ails the world has become increasingly urgent. Since the New World was once envisioned as a “new heaven” of golden opportunities, this course will use the Americas as our context for examining particular moments when people tried to better the world. The Puritans escaping religious persecution once believed they were establishing a new City of God, and the Declaration of Independence

uttered by the new colonies insisted “all men are created equal.” However, the course of history that led to and followed the birth of this great new civilization, coincided with religious intolerance and persecution, extermination of Native Americans, enslavement of Africans, the legal subjugation of women, and the destruction of the natural environment, suggesting that the line between utopia and dystopia is quite fine indeed. Throughout the course, we will read, discuss, and write about texts that establish the philosophical theories underpinning modern thought like those of Thomas Hobbes, Friedrich Nietzsche, and T. S. Eliot, alongside political visions of what America could be created by authors like Thomas Jefferson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and in conjunction with literary portraits of America by writers like Walt Whitman and Ralph Ellison. The course will come to a close with Margaret Atwood’s futuristic novel *Oryx and Crake*.

HON 4550-01

PSC: The Political Economy of Black America

Frank Pryor

In *The Political Economy of Black America*, we examine the complex interplay between race and economics. The course covers the principles, terminology, and methods of standard economics and black political economy. Areas of inquiry will include but not be limited to:

- Black employment & unemployment
- Labor market discrimination
- Black entrepreneurship
- Racial economic inequality
- Urban revitalization
- Black economic development

There will be a major research component to the course. The course is also multi-media enhanced.

HON 5750-01

EGR/PHI: Engineering in the Humanistic Context

Dr. Joye, (CHE); Dr. Fielder, (PHI)

HON 5750 is a non-technical course open to all Honors students.

This course examines ethical problems of engineers and managers in an organizational setting. Case studies are used to explore actual situations where engineers and managers must respond to ethical issues in a complex array of design problems, safety, history, personalities, finances, regulation, politics and career interests all contend and conflict.

The aim is to prepare students for the ethical problems they will encounter in their work in organizations.

The course will examine three case studies in depth:

The DC-10 aircraft. Design problems with a cargo door were recognized but not adequately fixed because of a combination of economic, regulatory and historical reasons. A horrific crash in a forest outside of Paris killed all 349 passengers – and the door was fixed. This is called “tombstone technology:” when there are enough tombstones the technology gets fixed.

The space shuttle Challenger. Another design problem, but with a heavy layer of politics and the difficulty of shifting NASA from the moon program to the more prosaic space shuttle. It was like asking Ferrari to design buses. Engineers tried to stop the launch: why were they unsuccessful? A video powerfully recreates the teleconference the night before the launch,

Nuclear power and the accident at Three Mile Island. At one time the country was bursting with enthusiasm about nuclear energy. There were plans to use it to dig canals and even power artificial hearts. The accident just up the river at Three Mile Island and other factors changed our attitude toward nuclear power. Now with oil prices rising, there is increased attention to the use of nuclear energy as well as concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons. And what do you do with the nuclear waste that will be radioactive for thousands of years?

Students will write two short papers and participate in a group project to investigate an ethical issue associated with technology. The group will formally present its research to the class and write a term paper.