

Fall 2017 Honors College Special Topics Courses



UHC 397-991-51483; Colloquium: *The Holocaust & Human Experience-HONR*; Dr. Kenneth Elkins; MWF 3:35-4:25, Strong 350

At a symposium on “The Holocaust Century: Implications and Anxieties” in 1973, Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and one of its most outspoken and influential Witnesses, observed that “As the central event of our lifetime . . . [t]he implications of the Holocaust are endless, covering all areas of human endeavor. The Holocaust calls into question all that was obtained through knowledge for the last thirty centuries.” Join us as we consider these most enduring questions about human experience and nature: about our struggles with good and evil, about what the Holocaust means, and about what we can learn from it. Beyond these broader questions, we will also have the opportunity to consider your questions about this most terrible of human events. Throughout our studies, reflections, and conversations, we will also explore many of the wide range of human expressions about the Holocaust: memoirs, scholarly works, fictional works, poetry, theater, documentaries and movies, various art forms, music and song, architecture, and more as we seek to grasp our own insights and lessons from what Wiesel declared “there is no tragedy like it.”

Pre-requisite: 50 credits hours

UHC 397-994-51364; Colloquium: *The South: Planters, Slaves, Populists-HONR*; Dr. Worth Miller; MWF 10:10-11:00; Strong 404

The American South has always been a bit different from the rest of the nation. The interplay between planters, slaves, and Populists has defined the South’s peculiar development. This course will examine the American South’s social, economic, political, and intellectual distinctiveness, with an emphasis on the plantation system, slavery, sectional conflict, Populism, disfranchisement, segregation, Dixie Demagogues, and the Civil Rights Movement.

Pre-requisite: 50 credits hours

UHC 397-998-48838; Colloquium: *Education & Modern Culture-HONR*; Dr. Steven Jones; TR 11:00-12:15, Craig 321

This course examines the purposes and processes of education in the context of modern culture that makes powerful and seductive demands. It examines how the goals and purposes of education—from kindergarten through the university experience—are shaped and often distorted by modern culture. That is, the course investigates what in our social world seems to beckon toward education—enticing

students to desire certain things and not others, and commanding or encouraging schools to serve its purposes. The course describes how educational institutions respond to those social forces and it explores what we gain and lose in responding to the demands of modern culture. The course examines social contexts that limit, interfere with, or deform the “self-making” of students as they engage in learning experiences. In particular, the course examines the effect of modern culture on the liberal arts.

Pre-requisite: completion of 50 credit hours.

UHC 397-999-47043; Colloquium: Great Ideas in Science-HONR; Dr. Saibal Mitra; W 5:30-8:15, Strong 350

This course will explore great ideas in science, ideas that have changed the course of human thought and history. Topics will include the theory of gravity, the heliocentric view of the solar system, the theory of relativity, the Big Bang theory, the search for extraterrestrial life, and more. Special emphasis will be placed upon the relationship between scientific thought and human society.

Pre-requisite: completion of 50 credit hours.

UHC 410-994-51460; Senior Seminar: Beyond Ferguson: Criminal Justice Reform in America-HONR; Dr. Bernard McCarthy; TR 9:30-10:45, Strong 350

This course will provide students with an overview of the criminal justice system in the United States and the identification of systemic problems such as racial disparities, police use of force, and mass incarceration.

Recommended for students with 75+ credit hours.

UHC 410-998-51313; Seminar: The 1960s: Understanding American Then & Now-HONR; Dr. James Baumlin; TR 12:30-1:45, Sicheluff 412

Though a half century has passed, the 1960s continues to fascinate, irritate, puzzle, and inspire Americans today. Lyndon B. Johnson and “The Great Society,” Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement, Barry Goldwater and the Modern Conservative Movement: the political and cultural crises facing America today are informed by these and other legacies of the 1960s. Hence, a governing premise of this senior seminar is that America now cannot be understood fully without coming to terms with America then. In addition to the subjects abovementioned, seminar topics will include music and popular culture, the Cold War, and Vietnam.

Recommended for students with 75 or more credit hours

UHC 410-999-47044; Seminar: Topics in Mayan Civilization-HONR; Dr. John Chuchiak; W 5:30-8:15, Strong 407

This course will examine topics in the development of the Mayan Civilization, with a special emphasis placed upon the study of primary source materials.

Recommended for students with 75 or more credit hours