Seminars for Spring 2019

*Please know that the following criteria will be considered for registration for all Honors Seminars:

1. Seniors will be given priority to register for Honors seminars.
2. We will consider the student’s progress towards the completion of their Honors Baccalaureate (i.e. number of Honors credits taken, second language fulfillment status, and a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and above).
3. The seminar is advantageous towards the student’s field/s of study and/or future career plans.

SPECIAL NOTE: It is highly recommended that you put your name on multiple seminar lists that work in your schedule or peek your interest to ensure that you are placed in at least one of them.

Design Thinking for Our Community

HONR 494-001 (4 credits)
Prerequisites: HONR 201 & HONR 202, or HONR 301
Time: Monday/Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:50 am
Place: CHVR 102
Instructors: Professors Amanda Rutherford, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and Brad Stanton, Department of Industrial and Management Systems Engineering

Course Description:

In this upper division seminar course, seminar students will learn to expand their abilities to solve real-world design problems by applying the methods of Design Thinking. Students will collaborate in multi-disciplinary groups to design and implement human-centered solutions. Students will utilize campus innovation resources such as the DSEL space in Cheever Hall and the MSU Makerspace. While ALL majors are highly encouraged to register for this seminar, we especially seek arts, humanities, business and health sciences majors. The seminar is capped at 18 and no more than 50% of its students will be from any given college.

Mandy is a full time instructor and a graduate of the MSU Honors program (2001). Currently, she teaches Multidisciplinary Engineering Design in the College of Engineering and is the faculty point of contact for the newly launched MSU Makerspace. Prior to MSU, she was a Technical Staff Member at Los Alamos National Laboratory.
Brad taught high school English for five years before going back to school for engineering where he studied the bidirectional reflectance distribution of various snow surface morphologies as part of a NASA funded research project. He now teaches for MSU in both the engineering and honors colleges. He is interested in inspiring students to explore interdisciplinary design through collaborative efforts between educators across all colleges and see the MakerCAT space as an excellent focal point for this effort.

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Critical Perspectives in Leadership

HONR 494-002 (4 credits)
Prerequisites: HONR 201 & HONR 202, or HONR 301
Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 5:10 – 7:00 pm
Place: NAH, Room 331
Instructor: Professor Richard Broome, Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship

From local news to world events, leadership issues permeate every aspect of our daily lives. The purpose of this course is to encourage students to develop and exercise critical thinking skills about the changing character of leadership. Students will discuss and examine in depth the many significant, diverse issues that impact leadership in the 21st century.

Student will explore:

-- Historical and contemporary theories of leadership
-- The explosion of technological advances in the 21st century, which in conjunction with massive globalization, are having a significant impact on world leaders
-- Crisis leadership
-- Recent societal changes that impact leaders
-- New definitions of global power within a cyber world
-- The impact of evolving values and ethics on decision-making
-- Gender, race and the cultural intelligence aspects of leadership
-- The looming leadership takeover by the millennial generation

During this course, students will be encouraged to embrace the belief that their generation does have the potential to transform the world via their understanding of these emerging global leadership issues.

Professor Broome has several years of significant leadership experience. He is a faculty member in both the College of Business and the Honors College where he currently teaches courses about leadership and entrepreneurship. He is also appointed to the faculty of The George Washington University where he helped create the curriculum and now teaches the leadership courses for a B.S. degree in Leadership for Global Disaster Response designed for military members of the U.S. Special Operations Command (Navy Seals, Army Special Forces). For almost nineteen years he held organizational leadership positions at the NASDAQ stock market, Computer Sciences Corporation and Booz Allen Hamilton. Prior to this, Professor
Broome spent twenty-seven years in the U.S. Army, entering as a private and retiring as a full Colonel. Professor Broome was asked by two Presidents of the United States to serve on the White House staff at the National Security Council, where he was a member of the crisis management leadership team at the NSC. He has a B.S. degree in Psychology from Utah State University, an M.S. degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and an M.S. degree in Information Systems from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. He currently serves on the editorial board of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle and on the board of directors of HAVEN, a shelter for women who are victims of domestic violence. He is also the author of two suspense novels.

Honors Read

HONR 494-003 (4 Credits)
Prerequisites: HONR 201 & HONR 202, or HONR 301
Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 3:10 – 5:00 pm
Place: NAH, Room 331
Instructor: Professor Kent Davis, Honors College

Course Description:

This seminar will offer students the opportunity to contribute to the selection of texts for "Hike and Read," as well as "Texts and Critics: Imagination and Knowledge", respectively. Seminar participants will each identify and champion a text for possible inclusion in the Honors curriculum for the upcoming academic year. Through vigorous research and debate, students will collaboratively create guidelines for selecting the texts. Seminar goals: the synthesis of new and unexpected texts, real-world exploration of the intersection between pedagogy and pragmatism, and engaging a community of enthusiastic, diverse, upper-division students; who are excited about challenging and inspiring their fellow Honors students.

Kent Davis has taught in the Honors College since 2009, and has spent most of his life making stories as a writer, actor, and game designer. His novel for kids, A RIDDLE IN RUBY is slated for release by HarperCollins' Greenwillow Books in September, 2015. He holds a B.A. in English from the University of Pennsylvania and an MFA in Theater from UC, San Diego.
**World War I: The Cultural Landscape of War**

**HONR 494-004 (4 Credits)**  
**Prerequisites:** HONR 201 & HONR 202, or HONR 301  
**Time:** Tuesday/Thursday, 7:10 – 9:00 pm  
**Place:** NAH, Room 331  
**Instructor:** Dr. Ben Leubner, English and Honors College

**Course Description:**

August 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of what eventually came to be called, in this country, at least, the First World War, a war that, at the time of its outbreak, most people thought would be over by Christmas. As it turned out the war did in fact end before Christmas—of 1918. By 1915 it had become abundantly clear that the war would be a long one, and that it would be a war unlike any other seen before. It would also be a war that dictated the shape of the century that followed, a century just now, technically, coming to an end on Armistice Day 2018. And the First World War would shape the next hundred years not only politically (most prominently in laying the groundwork that all but ensured World War II) but also culturally, literarily, artistically, philosophically, and so on. Our purpose in this class is to familiarize ourselves with both the war itself and its legacy, along all of these different “fronts” (history, culture, literature, etc.). While we will discuss the war as a whole to some extent, the majority of our attention will be confined to material concerning the infamous Western Front.

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**Human Nature**

**HONR 494IH-001 (4 Credits)**  
**Prerequisites:** HONR 201 & HONR 202, or HONR 301  
**Time:** Wednesday, 3:10 – 6:20 pm  
**Place:** Wilson Hall, Room 2274  
**Instructor(s):** Professor Robert Rydell and Distinguished Guests

**Course Description:**

What exactly is human nature and why do answers to that question matter so much? This seminar examines the problem of human nature from multiple perspectives in the sciences, the humanities, the social sciences and the arts with a view towards encouraging students to “dive deeper” (the phrase is from Moby Dick) into issues that
have been fundamental to thinking of ourselves—and our future—as human beings. To what extent do we have free will? How important is “nurture” to understanding our “nature” and vice versa? How do ideas about human nature inform thinking about government and society? Why do ideas about human nature change? Does human nature itself change?

Professor Rydell is a historian who specializes in the study of American thought and culture. He is especially interested in understanding the intersections between science, the arts, and the humanities and the questions these areas of inquiry raise about the human prospect. Foundational to understanding the human prospect is trying to understand human nature—that is, our complex biological and cultural identities and our capacities to change ourselves and our world for the better or otherwise.

Antigone and After: Politics, Agency and Otherness in Tragic Drama

HONR 494RA/RH-001 (4 Credits)
Prerequisites: HONR 201 & HONR 202, or HONR 301
Time: Monday/Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:50 am
Place: NAH, Room 331
Instructor: Dr. Tanner (J.J.) McFadden

Course Description:

Antigone is an inspiring but also tragic figure: Claiming a central role in politics as a sister and a woman, she presents an ancient example of the powerful agency of those whose voices are often marginalized; yet she triggers a set of shattering consequences that ultimately consume her and the state itself, depicting the tragic choices and unpredictable consequences inherent in political action. Taking inspiration from Sophocles’ play, this seminar will read tragedy as political theory. We’ll try, first, to understand tragedy as a genre—its history, its political functions, and its enduring appeal. We’ll also ask what tragedies can teach us about the nature of political action and the dynamics of performance and recognition that allow some to appear as political agents and tragic protagonists, while others (defined, at different times and places, in terms of gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, origin, or political ideology) are silenced or marginalized as political actors. Readings for the seminar will include tragedies by Sophocles, Aeschylus, Shakespeare, Berthold Brecht, Lorraine Hansberry, August Wilson, Sarah Ruhl, and Tarell Alvin McCraney, along with interpretive work drawn from philosophy and political theory, literary criticism, feminist theory, critical race theory, and performance studies. Students will be asked to participate in and lead seminar discussions, to perform and critically respond to performances of live theater, and to complete an independent related to the themes of the course.

J.J. has been a Faculty Fellow in the MSU Honors College since 2016. A political theorist by training, he teaches in the Honors College, the department of Political Science, and the College of Letters and Science. His research focuses on autonomy, agency, and meaning.
The First Amendment: Free Speech Past, Present and Future

HONR 494IS-001 (4 Credits)
Prerequisites: HONR 201 & HONR 202, or HONR 301
Time: Monday/Wednesday, 5:10 – 7:00 pm
Place: NAH, Room 331
Instructor: Professor Susan Dana, College of Business

Course Description:

Despite a century of Supreme Court decisions interpreting the First Amendment, free speech remains a controversial issue in the United States. This course is designed to give you an understanding of the evolution of the U.S. Supreme Court’s jurisprudence of the First Amendment and to help you develop your own philosophy of free speech. The course begins with an overview of the history and theories of the First Amendment, and then moves on to some of the key areas in which the Supreme Court has developed and grappled with these theories, including national security, defamation, obscenity and indecency, and commercial speech. We then consider some currently controversial areas, including hate speech, free speech on campus, campaign funding, and free speech on the Internet. Finally, the course explores free speech protection/regulation in other countries and alternative theories of the First Amendment.

The course is modeled after a law school seminar in which our primary sources will be U.S. Supreme Court opinions and law review articles, supplemented by other scholarly articles and books. Discussions will be conducted through a friendly Socratic method in which we ask each other questions to better understand both legal concepts and our own underlying assumptions and values. Assignments, which will strongly emphasize critical thinking and persuasive writing, will include law school-type case briefs, leading several class discussions, a moot court oral argument on a pending case before a federal court, and an in-depth research paper on a current free speech issue. The course should appeal to those interested in free speech issues as well as those interested in law.

Prof. Dana has an A.B. in Classics from Brown University and a J.D. from Stanford Law School where she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Stanford Journal of International Law. She has worked for a leading Washington D.C. law firm, clerked for a judge, and taught at the University of Montana School of Law. Since coming to MSU she has taught a variety of courses at the Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship including Introduction to Business Law, served as Associate Dean for ten years and Interim Dean for one year, and served as the MSU Pre-Law Advisor. Her research interests include human resources management, free speech in the workplace and campaign finance law. She has won numerous teaching awards at MSU, including the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award.