Seminars for Fall 2015

*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.

Honors Read

HONR 494-001 (4 Credits)
Prerequisites: UH/HONR 201 & UH/HONR 202, or UH/HONR 301
Time: Monday/Wednesday, 4:10 – 6:00 pm
Place: Quad F, Room 105
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.

******************************************

Dark Romanticism: The Nocturnal Side of the Human

HONR 494-003 (4 credits)
Prerequisites: UH/HONR 201 & UH/HONR 202, or UH/HONR 301
Time: Monday/Thursday, 7:10 – 9:00 pm
Place: Wilson Hall, Room 1128
Instructor: Professor Steve Kirchhoff, Department of English

How much of our world are we not permitted to see, when we look at things reasonably? This seminar starts with the assumption that imaginative works enlarge our perception of reality by including emotional and psychological experiences that often escape and confound reason. Dark Romanticism focuses on imaginative works that reveal the “nocturnal side of the human”—that is, the dark, irrational aspects of human creativity. Dark Romanticism investigates a variety of genres, including visual art, music, literature, film, Japanese manga, and cartoon journalism, with selected
works from Francisco de Goya, Emily Dickinson, Marilyn Manson, Kanye West, Sigmund Freud, Salvador Dali, Sylvia Plath, Frida Kahlo, Franz Kafka, Nine Inch Nails, and F. W. Murnau, among others. Confronting these works can allow us to see that much of our deepest experience is emotional and irrational, and that our very knowledge about such experiences might only be expressed through fantastical images that often evade our complete understanding. Students may appreciate that the focus on monsters and the “supernatural,” on the uncanny and strange, on the frightening, alienating, violent, and insane dimensions of creativity can provide a means, possibly, for a more integrated experience of self and world.

*A native of Bozeman, Professor Kirchhoff has been a teacher for 25 years, the last 18 at Montana State University, where he instructs courses in composition and political science, in addition to seminars in the Honors College. He also served as the Mayor of Bozeman during the first of two terms (1999-2007) as an elected official on the Bozeman City Commission. Interesting fact: Steve has never texted; he loves nature, poetry, and culture.*

******************************************************************************

**Shakespeare in Performance**

**HONR 494-004 (4 credits)**

**Prerequisites:** UH/HONR 201 & UH/HONR 202, or UH/HONR 301

**Time:** Tuesday/Thursday, 4:10 – 6:00 pm

**Place:** Quad F, Room 1

**Instructor:** Professor Joel Jahnke, former Artistic Director of Shakespeare in the Parks

**Course Description:**

"Discovering Shakespeare". This seminar will focus on the great works of William Shakespeare. Not only will these pieces be dissected from an academic and literary standpoint, but they will be analyzed in the way the Bard intended them to be, through performance. Led by Joel Jahnke, former artistic director of Montana's Shakespeare in the Parks for over thirty years, this seminar will analyze the works of Shakespeare from all facets including dramaturgical analysis, analysis from the actor’s perspective, including verse work and choices of interpretation, and directorial interpretation of the plays. Shakespeare's intent was never to have his plays read, but to rather be shared through performance. This course will therefore culminate in an end of the semester performance.

*Joel Jahnke is a Professor Emeritus in Theatre Arts at MSU and is a past recipient of the Phi Kappa Phi Fridley Teacher of Distinction Award as well as being honored with the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce Award of Excellence in Teaching numerous times. He served as the Artistic Director of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks from 1980 until his retirement and has extensive experience in both professional and academic theatre having acted in, directed and/or designed well over 300 productions.*
The Science of Happiness

**HONR 494-005 (4 credits)**

**Prerequisites:** UH/HONR 201 & UH/HONR 202, or UH/HONR 301

**Time:** Monday/Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:50 am

**Place:** Quad F, Room 105

**Instructor:** Dr. Sarah Allen, Health and Human Development and Honors College

**Course Description:**

Is happiness an important part of your life? Do you want to be happier? Are you skeptical of popular self-help models? Then the Science of Happiness course is for you! This course explores the habits of happy people and the roots of a fulfilling, flourishing, and meaningful life. You will engage with some of the most provocative and practical lessons from this interdisciplinary science informed by the fields of psychology, biology, neuroscience, philosophy, and more. You will also discover how cutting-edge academic research can be applied to your own life through a series of self-directed weekly happiness projects designed to improve your own happiness. Topics explored include gratitude, empathy, forgiveness, spirituality, volunteering, self-discipline, grit, finding flow, meditation, optimism, and curiosity. Come join MSU’s first ever Science of Happiness Course!

*Dr. Allen graduated from the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario Canada with a degree in Family Relations and Applied Nutrition. She has taught Family Law and Public Policy and Race, Class and Family Diversity in the Health and Human Development Department, as well as Texts and Critics in the Honors College. Her research interests are broadly captured under the goal of enriching human well-being in social, intellectual, economic, emotional, and physical dimensions.*

Disconnected Science: Exploring Climate Change Policy Deadlock

**HONR 494CS-01 (4 credits)**

**Prerequisites:** UH/HONR 201 & UH/HONR 202, or UH/HONR 301

**Time:** Tuesday/Thursday, 1:10 – 3:00 pm

**Place:** Quad F, Room 1

**Instructors:** Dr. Scott Powell and Tony Hartshorn, Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences and Douglas Fischer, Journalist and Founding Editor of The Daily Climate

**Course Description:**

This seminar consists of an in-depth investigation of the scientific and political debates over climate science, looking at the broader role that science plays in informing public dialogue of important environmental issues facing society. The course will lay a basic foundation in atmospheric and climate science, introduce the scope and scale of greenhouse gas emissions, climate impacts and potential solutions, then culminate with a tour of potential political responses on local, national, and international scales. Class meetings will consist of short field trips and seminar-format discussions facilitated by faculty, students, and a wide-variety of guest discussants drawn from a range of disciplines. Student debate and critique will be at the forefront of this class.
Tony Hartshorn is a faculty member in the Department of Land Resources & Environmental Sciences (LRES) at MSU and has developed climate literacy initiatives since 2009, when he started teaching at James Madison University. One course he designed built student awareness of how choices relating to “Gas, food, lodging” can translate into globally significant “forcings” relating to greenhouse gas emissions. In 2009, Hartshorn led two training workshops for two Native American tribes in the measurement of soil carbon in Guyana to support UN REDD initiatives funded through Norway. Since arriving at MSU, Hartshorn has developed a climate literacy Pecha Kucha as part of a faculty workshop.

Scott Powell is a faculty member in the Department of Land Resources & Environmental Sciences (LRES) at MSU and has been conducting extramurally funded climate science since 2000. His research focuses on the quantification of carbon sources and sinks and the critical role that forests play in the global carbon cycle. Powell recently presented his research on this topic at the ForestSAT conference in Riva del Garda, Italy (November 2014). His teaching emphasizes climate science and literacy and he has played a leadership role in the development of an online MS in LRES program, through which he was awarded the 2015 Excellence in Online Teaching Award.

Douglas Fischer is Director of Environmental Health Sciences, publisher of the nonprofit news sites DailyClimate.org and EHN.org. He has spent 20 years in journalism, including stints at the Oakland (Calif.) Tribune and Newsweek. His reporting has won numerous national and regional awards.