Seminars for Spring 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.

The Ultimate Cause of the Dog: How We Encounter Reality

HONR 494-001 (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(s): Professors Kent Davis and Chris Organ

Course Description:

How do we know who we are? One way to explore that question is to examine how we react: to new situations, to new ideas, to unfamiliar discoveries. To achieve a better understanding of the way we assess situations and make decisions, it is imperative to study those processes from interdisciplinary angles, from the arts and humanities to the hardest of sciences. In that spirit, this course will be team taught by Chris Organ, an evolutionary biologist, and Kent Davis, a fiction author and actor. Students in the course will be exposed to evocative works of art, classic scientific data sets, and compelling texts from a multitude of disciplines in order to identify the dominant way they react to disparate impulses. Through class discussions and research, students will identify and examine their current tendencies toward assigning value or assessing quality. Once students refine these skills, they will be able to use them to their advantage in their remaining coursework, eventually their chosen vocation, and in the rest of their lives. Self-understanding, and the understanding of the motivations and priorities of others, is an integral part of succeeding in almost every field, from political science to evolutionary biology to electrical engineering to art therapy.
Design Thinking for Our Community

**HONR 494-002 (4 credits)**
**Prerequisites:** UH/HONR 201 & UH/HONR 202, or UH/HONR 301
**Time:** Tuesdays/Thursdays, 4:10-6:00 pm
**Place:** TBD
**Instructors:** Professors Amanda Rutherford, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and Durward Sobek, Department of Industrial and Management Systems Engineering

**Course Description:**

What do the ice bucket challenge, the Community Café, Huffing for Stuffing, and Family Promise of Gallatin Valley have in common? All are innovative responses to a need from the community, whether it’s our global community, or our local Bozeman community. Students will team across discipline boundaries and learn the fundamentals of innovation and design thinking in the context of service to community. Design thinking, popularized by entities such as IDEO and Stanford d.school, is an approach to design with empathy at its core and an emphasis on creative ideation to generate an innovative solution to any type of challenge or opportunity. Design thinking is used by engineers and artists, marketers and architects…virtually anyone can benefit. Creativity and empathy are central to the design thinking approach, thus projects from customers such as HRDC, GVLT, Thrive and others will provide great opportunities for students to explore all aspects of design thinking while providing valuable services to community minded organizations.

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Human Nature

**HONR 494IH-001 (4 Credits)**
**Prerequisites:** UH/HONR 201 & UH/HONR 202, or UH/HONR 301
**Time:** Wednesdays, 3:10 – 6:00 pm
**Place:** Wilson Hall, Room 1139
**Instructor(s):** Professors Robert Rydell, John Miller 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?

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World War I: The Cultural Landscape of War

HONR 494IH-002 (4 Credits)
Prerequisites: UH/HONR 201 & UH/HONR 202, or UH/HONR 301
Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 7:10 – 9:00 pm
Place: Quad F, Room 105
Instructor(s): Professor Ben Leubner

Course Description:

August 2014 will mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One. This interdisciplinary seminar will focus not only on the history of the war but also on the literature, art, philosophy, and music that sprung up around and from it. It will also focus on the lasting impact of the war in the 20th century, on the technology and psychology to which it gave rise, and on its complicated overall relationship to enlightenment idealism and the cultural modernism that supplanted it. Among the subjects/texts we will study are the general history of the war, the Christmas Truce of 1914, the Versailles Peace Talks, Hemingway’s A Farewell to Arms, Virginia Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway, the Battle of the Somme and its monuments, the music of Stravinsky, the paintings of Picasso, the British Trench Poets, the drawings of Otto Dix, and the ethical philosophies of Bertrand Russell and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

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The Art and Science of Medicine

HONR 494RH-01 or 494RS-01 (4 credits)
Prerequisites: UH/HONR 201 & UH/HONR 202, or UH/HONR 301
Time: Monday/Wednesday, 2:10 – 4:00 pm
Place: Quad F, Room 105
Instructor: Professor Don Demetriades, Department of History and Philosophy and University Honors

Course Description:

Designed for students from all academic disciplines, this seminar will focus on just how broadly and profoundly contemporary medicine touches all of our lives. It will examine the underlying
principles of medicine through the lens of literature, science, art and related fields. The why of suffering and disease, the how of healing, and the role both patient and physician play in individual health will be explored. Medical professionals will be invited to visit the seminar.