Fall 2015 300-Level Honors Courses

HNRS 320
Ethics and Performance
Monday/Wednesday/Thursday 11:30 am - 12:40 pm
Dr. Peter Campbell

Course Description
This course examines ethics and representation in the realm of theatrical performance. Focusing on the staging of violence, and reading texts from ancient Greece to the present, from the Americas to Europe to Japan, we will explore various historical and contemporary definitions and iterations of the terms “ethics” and “representation,” and use diverse case studies to characterize, understand, and interrogate those various definitions. We will read philosophical, theoretical and historical material and study plays and other historical artifacts to examine the specific ethical issues that theatrical performances engender.

Course Objectives
Through extensive reading, discussion, observation, and writing, students will be able to effectively articulate, critique, and contextualize the concepts of ethics and representation as they are manifested in different cultures and modes of performance. They will also develop, expand, and defend their own personal philosophy, aesthetic, and ethic about theatre/performance, and integrate this analysis into their understanding of ethics as it relates to other disciplines and experiences. Finally, they will develop strategies of critical reflection at the written, verbal, and aesthetic levels.


HNRS 320
Ethics in a Global Age
Monday/Thursday 3:15 pm - 5:05 pm, A110
Dr. Mia Serban

Our planet is increasingly interconnected and interdependent, which has at least two consequences: first, it increases the number and complexity of moral, political and legal dilemmas that confront us; second, it changes the way we understand our roles as local and global citizens, and potentially assigns greater weight to our decisions and actions. This course examines ethics in a global context, with a particular focus on the intersections of law, politics and morality. On the basis of key principles in applied ethics, we will explore challenging issues in today’s world, such as the ethics of modern wars and conflicts, ethical choices in dealing with global inequality and poverty, global environmental ethics, and ethics and human rights. Students in the course will choose specific topics within these broad areas, and will be responsible for leading some of the class discussions. The materials for the course include articles, primary sources (cases, statutes, etc.), videos, hypotheticals, and various shorter pieces.

Dr. Serban is an Assistant Professor of Law and Society. Her teaching and research interests include constitutional law, human rights, and law and society in Eastern Europe. She is currently working on a book manuscript provisionally entitled *Law, Property and Subjectivity in Early Communist Romania (1945-1965).*