**Honors Fall 2021 Class Descriptions**

HNRS 101-01 Honors First Year Seminar, Yvette Kisor (Prof. of Literature)

This course will take as its focus a genre that is spread across cultures and times: the fairy tale. We will focus on a number of classic fairy tales and examine their cultural variants as well as their modern adaptations. Our approach is diachronic and interdisciplinary and we will explore fairy tales through a number of critical lenses, including the socio-cultural, structuralist, psychoanalytic, and feminist, as well as those of folklore and film studies.

HNRS 101-02, Peter Campbell (Dean of the School of Contemporary Arts)

As our world deals with multiple crises – of the COVID-19 pandemic, of racism and violence, of global climate change – what is the role of the arts? This course will explore the ways that crisis has inspired art and how the arts have helped in times of crisis from ancient Greek drama to Beyonce’s *Lemonade*, from cave paintings to Zoom dance videos. Through contemporary and historical examples from visual arts, film, media, music, and theater, we will examine how art and artists thrive in times of crisis and help us cope with radical change.

HNRS 101-03, Joost Monen (Assoc Prof of Biology)

This section description is not yet available.

HNRS 110-01, Honors Social Science Inquiry, Leah Warner (Professor of Psychology)

This course focuses on contemporary social issues and inequality through an interdisciplinary social science lens.  Focusing on gender, race, class, sexuality, and (dis)ability, we explore how individual and societal factors impact and perpetuate inequalities, and we start to brainstorm solutions for addressing these social problems.

HNRS 110-02, Honors Social Science Inquiry, Emily Leskinen (Assistant Prof of Psychology)

This course focuses on contemporary social issues and inequality through an interdisciplinary social science lens.  Focusing on gender, race, class, sexuality, and (dis)ability, we explore how individual and societal factors impact and perpetuate inequalities, and we start to brainstorm solutions for addressing these social problems.

HNRS 201, Honors Studies in Arts & Humanities, Steve Rice (Professor of American Studies)

This section of Honors Studies in Arts and Humanities focuses on ideas about “utopia” and “dystopia” from the ancient world to our own time. What would the “perfect” society look like? Would such a world even be possible? Would it be desirable? Why do utopian dreams so often become dystopian nightmares? The four books that will be required for the course are Plato’s Republic, Thomas More’s Utopia, B. F. Skinner’s Walden Two, and Octavia E. Butler’s Parable of the Sower. These will be joined by a number of shorter readings, including weekly poems that take up the themes of the course. Students will be encouraged to bring into class discussion the various treatments of utopia and dystopia that are very much a part of our contemporary culture, from The Hunger Games books and movies to television shows such as “Black Mirror” and “The Handmaid’s Tale” to the many post-apocalyptic video games.

HNRS 220, Honors Global Awareness, Tae Kwak (Assoc. Professor of History)

The United States and East Asia have had profound influences in shaping each other’s history over the past two centuries.  From destabilizing the Tokugawa Shogun and Christianizing Chosŏn Korea in the nineteenth century to contemplating a competitive Chinese superpower in the twenty-first, this course will explore the cultural, political, economic, and strategic relations between the United States and China, Japan, and Korea as well as the Philippines and Vietnam.

HNRS 325-01, Honors Values & Ethics, Marta Vides (Associate Professor of Philosophy)

This course includes theory and practice concerned with the moral and ethical issues raised in resolving conflict. It includes readings in philosophy, ethics, textual interpretation, communication, law. Readings will include study of western, eastern, and indigenous dispute resolution. It involves exercises (1) exploring the default styles of the participants in resolving conflicts to determine, (2) how negotiation skills contribute to ethical decision-making in dispute resolution strategies, (3) how participants receive and communicate information and what skills contribute to understanding, and (4) mediation and conflict resolution skills – for one-on-one use and also in group settings, as well as (5) a range of systems and models for effective, ethical conflict resolution, including consideration of particular professional ethics requirements as applicable.

HNRS 325-02, Honors Values & Ethics, Lisa Cassidy (Associate Professor of Philosophy)

This section will focus on Ethics, Biotechnology, and the Family. Ethics asks how humans ought to live and the kinds of people they ought to try to be.  The focus of this course will be the ethical intersection of humanity’s most ancient institution, the family, and its most recent, biotechnology.  Classic ethical theories (such as virtue ethics, deontology, utilitarianism, and care ethics) can be brought to bear on the biotechnological choices of today.  For example, what does genetic ancestry testing really tell us about our families?  What are the ethics of reproductive technologies?  Which human enhancements should be pursued, or any beyond the pale?  How will biotechnology impact family decisions at the end of life?  We will learn through conversation, reading, working and teaching in groups, and writing papers.