

The following descriptions are for topics courses that are being offered through the Honors Program in the Fall 2013. All other descriptions are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.

COMMUNICATIONS

Academic Writing

GSW 1120H (3) 10:30-11:20 MWF; Jordan

Course # 71754

Can a video game be considered “art”? While gaming has always been popular, many are skeptical about viewing gaming as anything more than disposable entertainment. In this course, you will analyze video games as serious forms of storytelling and rhetorical persuasion. In contrast to a course in programming or video game design, this course will ask you to examine the *meanings* generated by video games as objects worthy of academic study. While we *will* spend time playing video games, this course also includes substantial amounts of writing about how video games perform an important role in our society.

HUMANITIES AND ARTS

Literature and Religion

ENG 2000H (3) 9:30-10:45 TR; Emery

Course # 77185

In this course, we will examine several distinguished literary works that focus, though in widely different ways, on the topic of religion. These include E. M. Forster’s *A Passage to India*, Flannery O’Connor’s *A Good Man is Hard to Find*, Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter*, Anthony Trollope’s *Barchester Towers*, and Fyodor Dostoevsky’s *Brothers Karamazov*. We will also be reading parts of Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, and shorter poems by Michael Wigglesworth, Edward Taylor, Anne Bradstreet, John Donne, George Herbert, and Gerard Manley Hopkins, as well as viewing the film *A Man for All Seasons*. Course requirements include a series of informal 2-page papers and a take-home final exam. Participation in discussion will be a must.

Early American Horror

ENG 4310H (3) 11:30-12:45 TR; Emery

Course # 77171

This course will focus on Charles Brockden Brown and Edgar Allan Poe, two writers famous for depicting horrible events and horrified characters—and for attempting to instill horror in their readers. We’ll discuss the Gothic literary tradition and its transformation/Americanization by Brown and Poe, investigate the significant psychological underpinnings of the Gothic, note ways in which American literary horror departs from the Gothic, and consider the complex motives and strategies of writers who depict and strive to create horror. We’ll be reading Horace Walpole’s *Castle of Otronto*, which will serve for us as an example of European Gothicism; at least two novels by Brown (probably *Wieland* and *Edgar Huntly*); a few of Poe’s poems; and all of Poe’s horrific fiction, including “The Black Cat,” “The Pit and the Pendulum,” “Murders in the Rue Morgue,” “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Masque of the Red Death,” and Poe’s only novel, *The Narrative of A. Gordon Pym*. Course format: discussion. Course requirements: three 4-5-page interpretive papers, a take-home final exam, and intelligent and energetic participation in discussion. Warning: Course reading not to be done after dark.

SPECIAL SEMINARS

After Fight Club: The “Transgressive Fiction” of Chuck Palahniuk, 1999-2012

HNRS 4000 (2) 9:30-11:20 M; Diehl

Course # 71946

American writer Chuck Palahniuk is widely known and lauded for his first published novel, *Fight Club* (1996); indeed, it is this early work, along with its 1999 big-screen adaptation, that solidified Palahniuk’s reputation as a formidable presence on the contemporary literary scene. Yet Palahniuk has produced a rich and diverse body of work post – *Fight Club*, one not only equally worthy of the kinds of critical (and cult-like) accolades heaped upon his first novel, but also one that invites serious scholarly investigation and critique. This course will focus on seven of the novels that Palahniuk has written since *Fight Club* originally was published – from his second novel, *Survivor* (1999) to his most recent offering, *Invisible Monsters Remix* (2012). Through our reading and discussion of these works, we will explore not only how Palahniuk charts new ground with his “transgressive fiction” but also how his work builds on and relocates Palahniuk’s work within the socio-historical landscape of contemporary America, examining the ways in which his work reflects and responds to the concerns and preoccupations of the current age.

Perspectives on the Art and Practice of Leadership

HNRS 4000 (2) 11:30-12:20 MW; Folkins

Course # 75623

This seminar will explore conventional and unconventional ideas about what it takes to be a good leader. It will be of interest to students from all disciplines and with all career objectives, as comparisons will be made about governmental leadership, business leadership, educational leadership, arts leadership, military leadership, and religious leadership. Even if one does not plan to be a leader, the seminar will be of interest as we are all influenced by leaders. In addition to professional perspectives, there are lessons for leading ones family and leading one's life.

The course will be taught as a seminar and class meetings will center on discussion of assigned readings and student presentations. This course is open to any Honors student regardless of class status.