

The following descriptions are for the Seminar courses that are being offered through the Honors College in the Fall 2018. All other descriptions are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Honors Seminars

WTF: The Academics of Swearing

HNRS 3000 (1) W; 3:30-4:20pm Rzicznek

Course # 73997

Despite the stigma associated with taboo language, people indulge in the act of swearing daily with little thought. Students in this English Studies course will be required to speculate why there is so much shame, controversy, aggression, and empowerment surrounding swear words. Through a multidisciplinary approach, they also will be required to investigate the biological, sociological, and psychological effects of cussing; the ramifications of swearing in the classroom, workplace, and home; the scholastic theories based on cussing; the gentrification of swearing; the construction of social identities and personal narratives through cussing; and the politics associated with dropping the F-Bomb. In other words, in this course, we will study the multifaceted science of swearing.

Creativity 101

HNRS 3000 (2) T; 3:00-4:50pm Fasko

Course # 75728

The purpose of this seminar is two-fold: (1) to stimulate an understanding of, and appreciation of various forms of creativity, and (2) to develop creativity and creative thinking skills. The main reading is written by James Kaufman and is entitled *Creativity 101*. This reading will be supplemented by reading research on several supporting topics including the development of creativity. Initially, the concept of creativity, will be introduced, including creative thinking skills and dispositions via specific presentation of research on creativity, with discussion and with hands-on group activities. A presentation about a specific area of interest chosen by the student will be the culminating activity.

Honors Project Preparation Seminar

HNRS 3000 (1) F; 10:30-12:20pm Devine

Course # 77252

This seminar will acquaint students with understanding the research process and how to prepare for their interdisciplinary honors project. This course will explore narrowing the research/project topic, inquiry-based learning, and other fundamentals of research and strategic resources.

Finding Meaning in Life: An Exploration of Existential Issues

HNRS 4000 (2) M; 6-7:50pm Vickio

Course # 73946

You are invited to spend a couple hours each Monday with exploring some of the "big questions" in life. These questions involve what existential psychologists and philosophers call "ultimate concerns" or "basic human conditions" and include the following:

- What makes life most meaningful and worthwhile?
- How do I contend with mortality?
- What did Sartre mean when he said that we are "condemned to be free"?
- Is it possible to experience happiness in the midst of suffering and hardship?
- To what degree can I ever truly "know" another person?

This seminar will be heavily discussion-based. To help fuel our class discussions, we will make considerable use of film, music, and literature along with scholarly work from the fields of psychology and philosophy. I intend to routinely present students with controversial ideas to consider as well as apparent contradictions or paradoxes in life. My hope is that this seminar will prove to be much more than an intellectual exercise and will have serious implications for how you experience life.

Music and Healing

HNRS 4000 (2) Time/Day TBD- Witulski**Course # 73995**

The course will explore the historical role of music in healing traditions across the world. We will explore the depth of healing practices in both Western and non-Western societies including those based around dance, religion, ritual, and modern health care methodologies. Central themes that will guide the material include the place of healing practices in religion and cultural identity, the commodification of these artistic products in the modern context, and the relationship of traditional and Western conceptions of wellness. After an introductory narrative of Western rational thought its changing perspectives on arts-based healing practices, we will utilize a series of ethnographic case studies from North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, modern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and the United States to better understand contemporary realities of health and wellness.