

**The following descriptions are for topics courses that are being offered through the Honors College in the Spring 2017. All other descriptions are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Academic Writing: How can I write to promote social change?  
GSW 1120H (3) 1:00pm-2:15pm; Carlton Course # 11190**

This section of Honors 1120 will focus on writing as a means to inquiry and civic participation. This section of GSW 1120 will address the critical thinking and writing skills that are central to both academic success and to deliberative democracy. We will begin with a focus on campus issues such as free speech, sexual assault, college athletes, concealed carry and then students will be free to branch out to social issues they care about on and beyond college campuses. The course will be working in conjunction with BGSU's Center for Community and Civic Engagement to enrich your understanding of the power of writing to influence social change.

### **HONORS SPECIAL SEMINARS**

**Exploring the "Dark Places: of Domestic Noir  
HNRS 4000 (2) 9:30-11:15 T; Diehl**

**Course # 17635**

Since the publication of Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* in 2012, Western publishers have flooded the literary marketplace with works of domestic noir fiction. Coined in 2013 by author Julia Crouch, "domestic noir" is a subgenre of the classic thriller, typically merging crime fiction with elements of the film noir to explore the dark side of domestic life, including but not limited to marriage. According to Crouch, who has been dubbed "the queen of domestic noir" ("Domestic Noir"), the genre "takes place primarily in homes and workplaces, concerns itself largely (but not exclusively) with the female experience, is based around relationships and takes as its base a broadly feminist view that the domestic sphere is a challenging and sometimes dangerous prospect for its inhabitants" (qtd. in Dugdall). Given that the genre focuses on the lived experiences of female characters, and that the bulk of its practitioners are women, it is perhaps not surprising that some critics have attempted to undermine the significance of this current literary phenomenon, some even going so far as to demeaningly dub the genre "chick noir" (Stock) and "marriage thriller" (qtd. in Dugdall). Yet the prominence of this genre within twenty-first-century Western culture is undeniable. In this seminar, students will read representative works of "domestic noir" fiction as a means of understanding better this literary phenomenon and the culture that has given rise to it.

**Finding Meaning in Life: An Exploration of Existential Issues  
HNRS 3000 (2) 1:00pm-2:40pm T; Vickio**

**Course # 11566**

This seminar will provide honors students with the opportunity to crucially consider the following: The nature and scope of Existentialism, key existential themes, implications of the course material for students' personal lives, different ways that people may derive a sense of the meaning in life. This course will be highly interdisciplinary in nature. It will draw heavily from psychology, philosophy and popular culture. Required reading will include the books, *Man's Search for Meaning* and *The Discovery of Being*.

**WTF!?! The Academics of the F-Bomb (This is an explicit course)  
HNRS 3000 (1) 4:00pm-4:50pm T; Rzicznek**

**Course # 15725**

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.

### **The 2016 Presidential Election: A Retrospective as if Critical Thinking Matters**

**HNRS 3000 (2) 6:00pm-8:00pm W; Browne**

**Course # 15725**

The critical thinking skills taught to freshmen in the Honors Program resemble other skills in that their longevity depends on reinforcement and persistent practice. I want to use this course to briefly review the skills taught in the freshman critical thinking class and then encourage a complementary set of critical thinking skills. I will use speeches, advertisements, essays and excerpts from blogs pertaining to the 2016 Presidential election as the basis for the assignments---all serving the purpose of providing practice of the skills I will be trying to nurture. In addition, we will read Albert O. Hirschman's *The Rhetoric of Reaction*, an outstanding synthesis of the common assumptions providing the basis for political arguments in the United States. Besides completing the practice exercises, the course requirement will be to apply the lessons of the class to speeches, advertisements, essays, and excerpts from blogs related to any election other than the 2016 Presidential election in a paper demonstrating mastery of the critical thinking skills encouraged in the class. A secondary objective of the course is to heighten awareness of the quality of political arguments in democracies.

### **Additional Seminars in Psychology:**

#### **Social and Personality Development**

**PSYC 4400H (3) 11:30am-12:45pm MW; Tisak**

**Course # 17459**

Psychology 4400H will cover the major topics in social and personality development from infancy through adolescence. The emphasis will be on current research, with influences on age, gender, and culture. Some of the topics will include diversity in parenting, immigration and development, friendships, moral development, ethnic attitudes and behaviors etc.

#### **Good and Evil: Evolutionary and Social Psychological Perspectives**

**PSYC 4400H (3) 1:00-3:50pm M; Gordon**

**Course # 17461**

How has evolution shaped human nature such that humans are capable, under specific conditions, of perpetrating acts of horrific evil as well as acts of supreme compassion and altruism? What do scholars within social psychology say about the roles of basic categorization, unconscious influences on behavior, free will, and individual responsibility for evil actions that are strongly situational in nature? In this course we will read about and discuss racism, sexual violence, obedience to authority, organizational evil, prisons and prisoners, terrorism and terrorists, as well as forgiveness, helping in emergencies, volunteerism, and heroism. This course will be taught in the form of a seminar, with a heavy emphasis on discussion, participation, and the grading of written assignments.

#### **Animal Intelligence**

**PSYC 4400H (3) 6:00pm-8:50pm M; Bingman**

**Course # 15149**

Do animals experience mental states like humans? This is a question we can not answer, but we can explore the remarkable range of intelligent animal behavior, such as communication, problem solving, tool use, social cognition and spatial navigation, and its underlying nervous system control. The intent of this *SEMINAR-LIKE* course is to provide students an opportunity to explore their interests in some aspects of animal intelligence. After two weeks of lecture by Dr. Bingman, each student, or perhaps pair of students, will be required to prepare a thorough ppt presentation on a topic of their choice. All students will need to participate in a subsequent discussion of the student presentations. Grades will be based on student ppt presentation, independent research paper on the ppt topic and class participation (no exams will be given).