

J-Term 2016 Honors Course

HON 370: The History and Literature of Apartheid in South Africa

Profs. Matthew Bender and Mindi McMann

Faculty-led Study Tour (January 2-22, 2016)

The study tour to South Africa focuses on the phenomenon of apartheid in South Africa. We will briefly cover the pre-colonial and colonial histories of South Africa, and the origins of the apartheid system, and then focus mostly on the rise and effects of apartheid, ending the course with an examination of what post-apartheid South Africa looks like. This course is interdisciplinary, and over these three weeks, you will read both historical accounts and arguments regarding apartheid in South Africa as well as short stories and novels written during this period. The first half of the course will be taught in Johannesburg, while the second half will be taught in Cape Town. The tour's excursions include one weekend at Pilanesberg Game Reserve, the Cradle of Humankind, Robbin Island Museum (where Mandela was a prisoner for 18 years), a township tour, and a soccer or cricket match, among many other day and afternoon trips. The course can satisfy liberal learning requirements in: Global Perspectives (including Honors Global), Social Changes in Historical Perspective, Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts, and Race and Ethnicity. The course is open to TCNJ students in any major, at any level. For more information, contact Dr. Matthew Bender (bender@tcnj.edu) or Dr. Mindi McMann (mcmcanm@tcnj.edu).

Spring 2016 Honors Courses

ECO 102-H1 Principles of Macroeconomics

Prof. Michele Naples

TF 9:30 – 10:50AM Business Building 224

A introduction to the measurement and analysis of the aggregate level of economic activity including unemployment, interest rates, inflation, exchange rates and economic growth. Government fiscal and monetary policies are examined along with international economic interactions. Pre req: MAT 095 or MAT 096, or an SAT math score of 550 or better or an ACT score of 24 or better (BSCP)

HON 202-A (42057) General Chemistry II Honors

Prof. Mirela Krichten

Lecture TF 8-9:20AM Science Complex C121

A01-Lab Tu 9:30-12:20PM Science Complex C114

A02-Lab Fr 9:30-12:20PM Science Complex C114

A presentation of the laws and principles describing states of matter and the energy relationships among them. Practical applications of chemistry in such areas as organic, nuclear, biochemical, and environmental are included as are the historical and philosophical relationships between chemistry and other disciplines. Laboratory experiments are coordinated with the lectures. Students taking these courses may not also take CHE 201, 202. (Sci/Lab)

Honors 230-01 (42306) Islam in Comparative Perspective

Prof. Mohamoud Ismail

MR 12:30-1:50PM Social Sciences 323

Background and formation of doctrine, law, beliefs, and practices; the life of the Prophet Muhammad; the nature and function of the Qur'an; Islamic mysticism; major movements and trends in renewal and reform. The dialogue between Islam and other traditions.
(Honors P/R & Honors Global) (Global; RE; WVWK)

HON 270-01 (41486) Aesthetics

Prof. Richard Kamber

MR 2-3:20PM

Bliss Hall 148

Course examining the principal issues and theories in the philosophy of art and beauty. Readings include works by philosophers of historical importance such as Plato and Aristotle as well as the writings of contemporary aestheticians. Consideration is also given to selected issues associated with particular arts such as meaning in music and the interpretation of poetry, and the cinematic in film. (Honors P/R) (WVWK)

HON 270-02 (42307) Philosophy of Technology

Prof. Mort Winston

MR 3:30-4:50PM

Bliss Hall 114

This course will focus on the ethical, legal, and social (ELS) aspects of autonomous robots and superintelligence, a field of study that is sometimes called “roboethics.” The prospect that we will soon have self-driving automobiles, weaponized battlefield robots, autonomous drones, and artificial intelligence (AI) that surpasses human intelligence (superintelligence) has raised important ethical and legal issues. A central issue concerns the control of these kinds of autonomous intelligent robots: is it possible to program robots to behave ethically? A related question concerns the ascription of moral and legal responsibility: When a robot or AI system interacts with humans in ways that cause unintended harm who is responsible: the software engineers, the company that built the robot, or the agency that deployed it? Readings for the course will be drawn from recent articles and books on roboethics and AI, in particular, Wendell Wallach and Colin Allen, *Moral Machines: Teaching Robots Right from Wrong* (Oxford, 2009) and Nick Bostrom, *Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, and Strategies* (Oxford 2014). Course requirements include article presentations and a term paper. (Honors - P/R) (WVWK)

HON 270-03 (42308) American English

Prof. Felicia Steele

MR 2-3:20pm

Bliss Hall 234

American English examines the range of dialects spoken in the United States, the history of those dialects, and the history of the disciplines of dialectology and sociolinguistics. Special attention will be paid to the dialects of New Jersey and New Jersey settlement and migration history. In addition, the course will address the social construction of the categories “Race” and “Ethnicity” as they are relevant to discussions of language, linguistic privilege, and linguistic discrimination, and will include a community-engaged learning component arranged through the Bonner Center. (RE/CEL)

HON 270-04 (42309) Literature by Latinas & Latin American Women

Prof. Lisa Marie Ortiz-Vilarelle

MR 9:30-10:50AM

Bliss Hall 235

We will approach this course with a sampling of contemporary texts by Latina and Latin American women writers in a variety of genres, including fiction, memoir and historical fiction. In our study of Puerto Rican, Chilean, Cuban-American, Argentinian, Dominican-American, and Nicaraguan women’s writing in English, we will analyze the literature in terms of its literary stylistics and extend our inquiry into the relationships between thematic content and socio-historical context. As we study these texts in their literary and historical contexts, we will raise questions about writing one’s womanhood has shaped and is shaped by various forms of feminism staged both in the US and Latin America. (Honors-Global) (LVPA/GLOBAL/RE)

HON 270-05 (42716) Nomads, Warriors, Poets: The Poetic and Epic Traditions of Central Eurasia

Prof. Harriet Hustis

W 3:30-6:20PM

Bliss Hall 228

This course will focus on the literature and literary history of the poetic and epic traditions of Iran and Central Eurasia, paying particular attention to the interrelationships between nomadic and sedentary societies and the literature that they produce. We will work with texts that span a broad geographical spectrum and encompass a substantial chronological timeline in order to examine the trajectories of literary production and movement on the Silk Road and its surrounding areas, and to think about the effects of intersecting cultural, spiritual and literary motifs and traditions in the diverse regions south, west, and east of Caspian Sea. (Honors-Global) (LVPA/GLOBAL)

HON 270-06 (42717) Asian American Literature

Prof. Harriet Hustis

M 3:30-6:20pm

Social Science 328

This course examines how issues of identity (class, race, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity) have intersected with debates about literary history and tradition (aesthetics, canonicity, and questions of cultural “value”) in Asian American literature. In particular, this course focuses on how the Asian American literary tradition and its surrounding contexts have changed in response to, among other things, new patterns of immigration and new debates about the scope, definition and value of the overarching term “Asian American.” (LVPA/GENDER/RE)

HON 370-01 (42312) Photography in India

Prof. Deborah Hutton

R 5:30-9:20pm

AIMM 214

An exploration of photography in India from the medium’s invention in the 1840s through to the present day. The course will examine photography’s relationship to major historical and social changes in India: British colonialism, the Indian nationalist movement, independence and partition, and, more recently, India’s growth as an economic power and its booming contemporary art scene. The course also will focus on some of the larger theoretical issues surrounding photography as a medium: the tension between photography as documentation versus photography as fine art, the relationship between photography and memory, the politics of representation (who takes and views the pictures versus who or what gets captured in them), and the role of the photographer as agent of social change. SPECIAL HOUR BECAUSE OF SEVERAL FIELDTRIPS (Honors Global) (LVPA/GLOBAL)

HON 370-02 (42318) Ancient Greek Culture & Civilization

Profs. Riccardi and Haynes

TF 11-12:20PM

AIMM214

This course will examine ancient Greek civilization from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman conquest, focusing not only on its achievements in democracy, literature, philosophy, and art, but also on the lives of its people. We will examine their culture and their values; how they structured social, economic, and political life; and how they developed new styles in the visual and literary arts. We will draw on a wide variety of sources from both literature and material culture. The course will also explore our own fantasies of the Greek past and the ways in which the idea of Greece has been interpreted over time. (LVPA)(Honors-Global)

HON 370-03 (42319) Postmemory & the Holocaust

Prof. Ellen Friedman

W 8-10:50AM

Bliss Hall 153

In this Honors class, we will examine post-Holocaust representations, from genres such as

novels, memoirs, photography, film, monuments and art—although literary representations will dominate our concern. The class will explore how the traumatic experiences and history of the Holocaust are transmitted to subsequent generations and how, as Marianne Hirsch writes, they “constitute memories in their own right.” The class will think about how representations of postmemorial writing relates to longstanding issues about Holocaust representation, such as determination of the authenticity of a Holocaust text and the question of limits to Holocaust representations. The class will also consider how these postmemories transmit trauma, transform the Holocaust and convey it to future generations. In addition to primary texts of literature and art, the class will study theoretical writing about memory, traumatic transmission, cultural transmission of memory, authenticity and postmemory. Students will work to develop their own critical voice in a sustained research and writing project, as well as shorter writings. (LVPA)

HON 370-04 (42320) Afghanistan

Prof. Jo-Ann Gross

R 3:30-6:20PM

Social Sciences 232

The Soviet-Afghan War, the tragedy of 9/11 and subsequent American-led invasion of Afghanistan, the US military presence in Afghanistan, the resurgence of the Taliban, the withdrawal of US troops in 2014, and the continued instability in the region have brought Afghanistan to the attention of political analysts, military strategists, historians, and, through the popular media, American households. Despite this attention, and due to a predominant focus on strategic interests and threats, most Americans have a quite limited media-based understanding of the history, culture, economy, society, and politics of Afghanistan. This course aims to move beyond popular representations by closely examining the modern history of Afghanistan. We will consider issues of state formation, ethnic, religious, and tribal identities, political ideologies, colonialism, gender, Islamic movements, and development strategies. Topics include the centralizing and modernizing attempts in the late nineteenth-twenty-first century, British and Russian Imperialism, the Soviet-Afghan War and the Islamic resistance, the rise and rule of the Taliban, the post-Taliban Karzai period and current Ghani era, personal and political challenges of continued insurgency and post-war recovery, migration, and the role of external powers, particularly the United States and Pakistan. A variety of interdisciplinary sources will be utilized, including history, anthropology, political science, literature, art, and documentary and feature films. This course meets the seminar requirement for History majors and is available for the minor in Religious Studies, the interdisciplinary concentration in Religious Studies and in Asian Studies, the International Relations major in Middle Eastern Studies and the minors in Middle Eastern Studies and Central Eurasian Studies.

(Honors Global) (GLOBAL; SCHP)

HON 370-05 (42321) Economic & Social Development in China

Prof. Rebecca Li

R 5:30-8:20PM

Social Sciences 324

In this course, we will examine the rapid social change in China triggered by the economic reform initiated by Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s. A brief overview of the pre-reform communist rule in China, including the Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution, provides us with an understanding of the Chinese experience that helped shape people’s response to policies that opened China to the world. We then discuss reform policies that unleashed China’s economic dynamism and gave Chinese people opportunities and freedom few had ever experienced. The drastic social change in China that followed will be explored in topics including: the emergence of middle class, rapid urbanization, mass migration, rising inequality and social unrest. Implication of China’s rise to the U.S. and the world will also be discussed. (GLOBAL) (Honors Global)

Other Honors Course Opportunities

Honors By Contract:

Students also have the option of doing HBC (up to 2 of the 5 required Honors courses can be HBC). Remember that the course must be 200-level or above and taught by a full-time faculty, but apart from those two requirements, ANY course (in your major or not) can be taken as HBC, so long as the professor agrees and your project proposal is approved by the Honors Coordinator. Full instructions for submitting an HBC proposal can be found here: <http://honors.pages.tcnj.edu/honors-by-contract/>

The deadline for proposal submissions is the 4th Friday of the semester, which for Fall 2015 will be **September 18th**. You may also do an HBC for a J-term, Maymester or summer course, including faculty-led study abroad courses. In those cases, your application must be **in at least 3 weeks before the course begins**. Applications received after that cannot be considered.

Study Abroad:

If you plan to study abroad for an entire semester, remember that one of your courses taken abroad can be used to fulfill an Honors requirement. Just come see me with the course equivalency form and some info on the courses you plan to take, so that I can sign off on it.

Other Opportunities:

There are several other ways to fulfill your Honors requirements, depending on your major, which you may want to keep in mind. For example, Biology has an Honors research course, and several other majors have the 2-semester Honors thesis option (History and Psychology, for example); if you choose that option, one of the thesis courses can count towards your Honors Program requirements. If you do pursue any of these options, please make sure you email Tiffany Youngblood (youngblt@tcnj.edu) so that she can update your PAWS records. Each of these needs to be manually entered into your Honors course history.