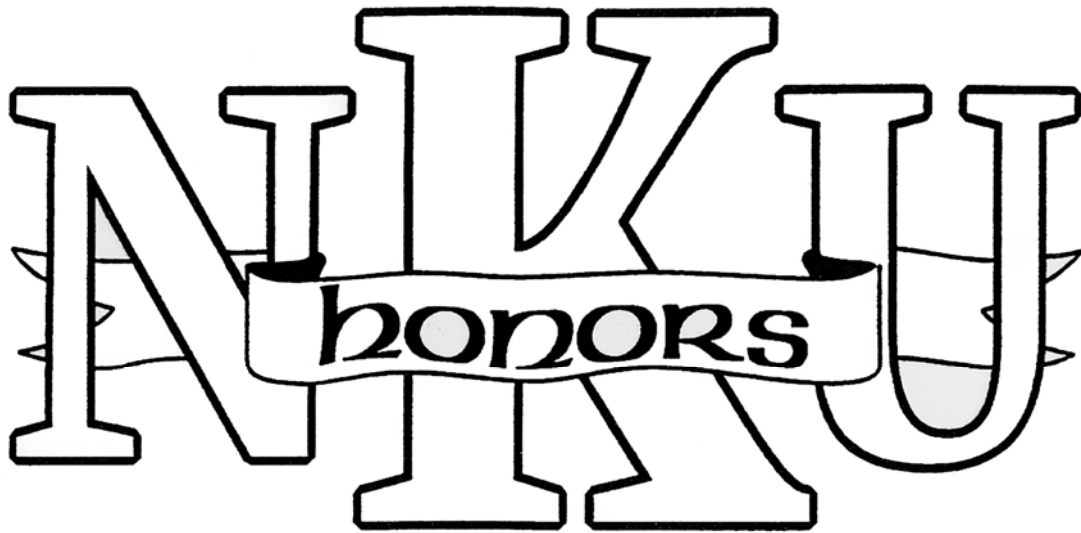


GUIDE TO HONORS PROGRAM AND HONORS NETWORK COURSES

SUMMER & FALL 2009



Find more information at
honors.nku.edu

SUPER-PRIORITY REGISTRATION through Norse Express for Honors students is on **Wednesday, April 01, beginning at 10:00 am.**

Honors Courses for Summer 2009

HNR 303-001 MWTRF 9:30-12:30P

A Sense of Place

Instructor: Nick Bonner

Call Number: 11135

Course runs May 11 through May 30—Session I

We will be creating a site-specific piece in the woods behind the Honors House. (You may visit the previous installation in the Honors House woods now: go to the stone marker at the edge of the woods and keep on walking down the path!)

This course will provide you with a glimpse into the experience of what actually goes into conceiving and manifesting a large-scale environmental piece. We will experience the concept of true collaboration as we leave a physical manifestation of our creative process on the landscape. We will also gain some insight into how and why artists create the work they do.

Although all human beings are creative, most pursue careers in fields other than the creative arts. This course is intended to provide you with a glimpse into the power and pitfalls of creating art and specifically outdoor sculpture, as well as illustrate how you can investigate your own creative potential. We will take some of the mystery out of the “art experience,” yet also reinforce that mystery! We will work collaboratively, so our results will be determined entirely by the potential that we each bring to the table. *This course is open to Art and Non-Art majors! No prior art experience is necessary.*

Nick Bonner teaches in the Art Department at NKU. The result of his previous Honors outdoor sculpture class can still be seen by taking a walk in the HoHo woods.

HNR 301-011 MTWRF 9:30-11:20A

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Instructor: Andy Miller

Call Number: 10614

Course runs June 1 through July 3—Session B

Cross-listed with ENG 358-011.

“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.” - Cicero

During this summer course, we will explore the idea of the garden in literature and in folklore, in hands-on experience and in writing. We will plan out a garden, plant the garden by the Honors House, and create written projects around the theme of gardens and gardening. This summer I would like to plant a modern Victory garden and donate the produce to those who need it.

Assignments will include planning a “magical” or themed garden based on the folklore of plants; a profile of a neighborhood public or private garden; and a major creative project due on the last day of class. This can be a choice of a creative non-fiction essay, a short story, or a collection of poetry with the garden or gardening as the theme. We will be looking at models that do similar things.

Class schedule will be flexible as we may be at the mercy of the weather. Hopefully, we will have class time at the beginning of the class and garden work in the second part, before noon. Students may want to purchase gardening gloves and wear older clothes and shoes for this class. Contact Andrew Miller at millera@nku.edu with questions.

P. Andrew Miller is Associate Professor of Creative Writing and English in the Department of Literature and Language. He has published many short stories and poems on a variety of subjects, including gardens. Though he hated working in his father’s garden as a youngster, he has since come to appreciate the idea and work involved in growing plants and producing a garden.

Honors Courses for the Fall 2009 Semester

HNR 301-001 TR 1:40-2:55P

Ecofeminism

Instructor: Donelle Dreese

Call Number: 13813

What is the connection between global warming and women having the right to vote? Why should women who want to earn the same salary as a man care about the condition of our environment? Is the environment a feminist issue?

This course will explore the intersections of ecology, gender and culture by examining how environmental degradation, feminism and race theories have come together to investigate issues of social justice and its relationship to our ecological development and future environmental forecasts. We will study ecofeminist thought as it relates to religion, colonialism, class, science, literature and other disciplines as we consider the reasons why ecofeminism interrogates, challenges, and calls for the dismantling of Western patriarchal ideologies.

Donelle Dreese specializes in Multicultural and Environmental Literatures. A writer, poet, teacher, and trail walker, she is currently writing a book on natural areas of the northeast U.S.

HNR 301-002 TR 9:25-10:40A

Darwin & Philosophy

Instructor: Rudy Garns

Call Number: 13815

Cross-listed with PHI 348-001.

In this seminar we will examine neo-Darwinian views on evolution and natural selection. Critics suggest that these views force us to question, and perhaps devalue, important aspects of human nature like the nature of thought, morality, freewill, creativity and the effects of culture. We will consider several attempts that use evolutionary principles to provide naturalistic explanations for these important features of human existence.

Rudy Garns is an Associate Professor in the Philosophy Program. He has taught Honors courses on Androids, Zombies & Brains; Nanotechnology; and Creationism & Science. He shares more than 98% of his genes with the chimpanzee.

HNR 301-003 MWF 11:00-11:50A

Evolutionary Psychology

Instructor: Dave Hogan

Call Number: 14367

Cross-listed with PSY 301-001.

This course introduces students to the relevance of the theory of evolution in understanding human behavior and mental processes. Readings, lectures and assorted educational media from the internet will be used to illustrate how principles of biological evolution can be used to explain personality traits, pro-social behaviors of altruism and cooperation, anti-social behaviors of aggression, warfare and deception,

mental disorders, and the cognitive processes of perception, learning, memory and other aspects of human psychology, as time permits. The course will illustrate how modern evolutionary theory integrates behavioral data from human and animal studies in psychology, biology and anthropology to achieve a parsimonious explanation of human nature.

David Hogan has a Ph.D. in experimental psychology with an area of specialization in learning, cognition and behavior in animals. His formal education and research on behavior processes of animals introduced him to the relevance of evolutionary theory for understanding species similarities and differences at core behavioral levels. More recently, his research has focused on the influence of personality factors on the accuracy of causality judgments in college students and the efficacy of diversity courses in reducing prejudice.

HNR 302-001 MW 2:00-3:15P

Volunteerism & Social Change

Instructor: Ali Godel

Call Number: 13820

In the *Wingspread Statement on Student Civic Engagement*, college students indicate that volunteerism is the primary means through which they participate in the political process and make change in their communities. Many of us have or do volunteer, but we often don't think about what volunteerism means to our society. Volunteering makes us powerful, helps us and others, and addresses crucial issues and needs in our world.

In this course, students will learn more about:

- the cultural significance of volunteerism
- the many reasons people volunteer
- the variety of benefits reaped by volunteers and the communities they serve
- what it takes to keep volunteers happy and engaged
- the importance of volunteerism to community-building, cross-cultural awareness and civic engagement
- the role of college students as volunteers

Students will evaluate local organizations and become regular volunteers. Because of the volunteer requirement, the course will be web-enhanced, meaning that the class will meet on campus only on select days (approximately 25% of the time). Otherwise, students will be expected to contribute on Blackboard via essays and discussion boards.

Ali Godel is an Honors faculty member who is certified in Nonprofit Management, including volunteer coordination. She teaches services learning courses each year and has been the recipient of several course-related grants sponsored by government agencies and the Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement.

HNR 303-001 TR 12:15-1:30P

Supermen & Wonder Women

Instructor: Andy Miller

Call Number: 13735

Look, up in the sky! Is it a bird? A plane? A cultural icon?

For seventy years, Superman and the super hero have been apart of American culture. In this class, we will look at super heroes throughout American history and discuss what those heroes represent and stand for. We will be taking a critical look at Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, the X-men, the Watchmen, and other super heroes in a variety of mediums. You will discover why Superman is so popular, why Wonder Woman has her magic lasso, and what mutants might really represent.

Students will be writing a major research paper on a super hero, exploring the character's relationship to American culture. Student will also be asked to create their own super hero and villain at the end of the class.

Spandex suit and cape not required.

P. Andrew Miller is Associate Professor of Creative Writing and English in the Department of Literature and Language. He has published his poetry and fiction in magazines, anthologies, and online (www.alwaysi.com). He teaches creative writing and a variety of literature courses, as well as a course on gardening and writing in the summer.

HNR 303-002 TR 9:25-10:40A

Dream of a Perfect Language

Instructor: Kevin Kirby

Call Number: 13816

What are the limits of language? What lies beyond? Is language all there is? Is it a prison? Is it a virus? Does it have a body? Can it be perfected? In this seminar we will examine what has engaged and confused humans past and present as they have reflected on the science and myth of language.

In the first part of the seminar we will read *The Search for the Perfect Language* by Umberto Eco. We follow Eco's path from the languages of Eden, past the tower of Babel, on to linguistic mysticism (especially the *kabbala*), pictorial languages, and the languages of artificial intelligence. Along the way we will read fiction by Borges and Delany, view a few unusual films (*Pi*, for example) learn some Chinese characters, and weave some hypertext.

In the second part of the seminar, we want to get a sense of the extremes of language. We explore issues of linguistic diversity, cultural-linguistic relativity, and language death. To make this concrete, we study a fragment of Mayan grammar. We end by seeking the limits of language in poetry, music, and beyond. Participants are urged to explore connections with their own majors.

Kevin Kirby is chair of the Department of Computer Science. At NKU since 1994, his research areas include artificial intelligence and biocomputing, but linguistics is his enduring obsession. He is a past winner of the NKU Outstanding Junior Faculty Award and the Mathematical Association of America's George Polya Award. He also writes a monthly column for the Korean-language newspaper Hanguk Ilbo, and has been taking students to Mexico in the Alternative Spring Break service learning program since 1999.

HNR 307-001 TR 1:40-2:55P

American Movie Musicals

Instructor: Jodi Ferner

Call Number: 13819

Cross-listed with CIN 494-002.

American movie musicals have long been a part of our social fabric. The genre continues to earn new fans thanks to films like *Moulin Rouge*, *Chicago*, *Rent* and *Hairspray*. While some of these films first found their voice on Broadway, many in the genre's tradition were written specifically for film. We will examine the tradition of the Hollywood film musical from the 1930's to today. We will focus our attention on the critical reactions and social criticism these films have engendered, along with the social and historical contexts in which the genre thrives.

Jodi Ferner, long-time Honors faculty member, believes there is nothing better than “a willing suspension of disbelief and a good movie musical.”

HNR 394-002 Hours To Be Arranged
Peer Advising
Instructor: David Kime
Call Number: 11747

Enrollment in this course is through application only.

HNR 490-001 Hours To Be Arranged
Honors Thesis: Disciplinary Research
Call Number: 11749

This section of the Honors Capstone is designed for students in either the research or presentation stage of their project who are unable to enroll in HNR 491. Contact David Kime (HR 007) for details. *You must have departmental consent before enrolling in this section.*

Note: There will be a one-time mandatory meeting for this course that meets on Tuesday, August 25th at 3:15 pm in the Honors House. Contact Jodi Ferner for details.

HNR 491-001 Hours To Be Arranged
Honors Capstone I: Research
Call Number: 11751

During the first section of this two-semester sequence, students begin work on their capstone project carried out under the guidance of a faculty member who serves as mentor. Students must complete a proposal or abstract for an independent research project and have it approved by their mentor. The Honors Capstone Project is designed to prepare Honors students for graduate or professional school and careers as well as represent a serious achievement of their undergraduate studies.

Note: There will be a one-time mandatory meeting for this course that meets on Tuesday, August 25th at 3:15 pm in the Honors House. Contact Jodi Ferner for details.

HNR 491-002 Hours To Be Arranged
Honors Capstone II: Presentation
Call Number: 11752

During the second section of the Honors Capstone, students complete their project under the guidance of a faculty mentor and present their work at the Conference of Honors.

Note: There will be a one-time mandatory meeting for this course that meets on Thursday, August 27th at 3:15 pm in the Honors House. Contact Jodi Ferner for details.

*Students interested in **HNR 491-002** must have completed **HNR 491-001**. Contact Tom Zaniello if you have any questions regarding HNR 491.*

HNR 491-003 Hours To Be Arranged
Honors Capstone Research
Call Number: 11753

This section of the Honors Capstone is designed for students in either the research or presentation stage of their project who need a variable-credit course to fulfill program requirements. Contact David Kime (HR 007) for details. *You must have departmental consent before enrolling in this section.*

Note: There will be a one-time mandatory meeting for this course that meets on Tuesday, August 25th at 3:15 pm in the Honors House. Contact Jodi Ferner for details.