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**Spring 2020**

HON 39X course descriptions

**HON 392: CULTURE, RACE, AND DEMOCRACY**

*David Camacho*

This is an interdisciplinary course that examines the experiences of people of color in the United States. Anthropological, historical, sociological, economic, and political evidence offers an understanding of issues relevant to the study of race and ethnicity in the United States. At the most basic level, an understanding of the experiences of people of color must account for social, political, and economic factors shaping their experiences.

**HON 393: HOT MESS: ECOLOGICAL FICTION**

*Ted Martinez*

This advanced seminar will analyze science fiction and climate fiction writing as a means to understand public perceptions of science, the science of global climate change, and the limits and opportunities available in science communication. Students will produce fiction writing in the genre of climate fiction using information provided by climate science research. Other means of communication such as poetry or art may also be submitted. Class assignments will center on understanding the science in science fiction, fiction writing, character development and plot development, climate science, global climate change adaption and mitigation strategies.

**HON 393: THE BIOLOGY OF CANCER**

*Melissa Schonauer*

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S., so everyone is affected by this disease in some way. In this class, we will dive into the molecular mechanisms of the disease in order to better understand the causes of cancer as well as to investigate past, present, and possible future treatments for the disease. We will also look into how the field of cancer research began and how it influences the decisions we make as individuals and as a society.

**HON 393: RADIOACTIVE!**

*Kara Attrep*

From World War II to *Godzilla*, nuclear power plants and mines to biomedical research, radioactive materials have been utilized for both destructive and constructive purposes. In this course, we will examine the science and history behind radiation, nuclear weapons, and nuclear medicine through classroom lecture and discussion as well as site based field trips to places such as Los Alamos National Laboratory, Trinity Site, and other related nuclear sites throughout the Southwest.

**HON 394: PUBLIC POLICY AND DEMOCRACY**

*David Camacho*

This course, Public Policy, Politics, and Democracy: Understanding Policy as a Political Choice and its Consequences, will present approaches to understanding the public policy process. In examining particular policy areas (health policy, environmental policy, water policy, immigration policy, gun policy, or freedom of speech), students will understand not only a topology of policy, but the effects of certain policy types. The policy process will be placed within a framework of politics. Students may want to consider such concepts as equity, fairness, justice, and individual freedom. There will be inherent tensions to consider; indeed, democracy itself can be understood according to its political tensions. This is an interdisciplinary course as economic, anthropological, sociological, and psychological insights will be considered. We will include readings from the humanities, film, and poetry.

**HON 394: CULT: IN TOO DEEP**

*Robyn Martin*

This course explores the history, sociology, and psychology behind cults around the world by studying selected cults, from national to global, and their group members and motivations in order to better understand why cults exist and thrive. We will examine how and why society responds, sometimes negatively and sometimes not, to these groups, when and how cults become dangers to others (local to global), and finally finding different ways to relieve threats from particular cults around the world.

**HON 394: CHILDHOOD IN WAR**

*Tammy Mielke*

This interdisciplinary seminar will consider of the child in the context of war. Children make up more than 50% of displaced populations. The average time a person is displaced is 17 years; that’s an entire childhood. In this class, we will consider what can be done to change this situation.  We will look at the complexities of childhood shaped by war, and how war has been shaped by children from child soldiers to the uses of children as the propaganda for war itself. Additionally, we will examine the work of groups such as War Child, who focus on protection, education, providing livelihoods, and campaigning for children affected by conflict. Have we learned from past and present conflicts in order to protect children from wars in the future?

**HON 394: DISABILITY CULTURES**

*Staff*

In this course, Disability Cultures: Embodiment, Media, and Activism, we will look at the history of various institutions and cultural practices as they relate to shaping, confining, or limiting people with different embodiments. We will think about the cultures and politics that arise within communities of people who share similar disabilities: for example, deaf culture, murderball players, and amputees. We will critically examine “crip theory,” which is an emerging—and at times controversial—interdisciplinary field that looks at queering the so-called “able-body” and challenging the institutions that enforce specific ideals of embodiment and ability: one of its radical premises is that people are not inherently disabled, but rather it’s the ways in which society has been structured that disable people. We will engage with activists, educators, and people who can share unique perspectives on these issues. And we will examine our own ideas and ideologies about norms, bodies, and disability as they play out in everyday life.