



**HONORS CLASSES  
SPRING 2017**

- Biology 104** / MW 8:00 am - 9:30 am (Nisani and Vento) **CRN 36602**  
**Business 201** / MW 12:30 pm - 1:50 pm (Adams) **CRN 36433**  
**Communication Studies 101** / Monday 7:00 - 10:05 pm (Reed) **CRN 30506**  
**English 102** / Tuesday 7:00 - 10:05 pm (Hood) **CRN 33809**  
**English 103** / TR 11:00 am - 12:20 pm (Koritsoglou) **CRN 33379**  
**English 265** / Wednesday 7:00 pm - 10:05 pm (Hoffer and Stepro) **CRN 34700**  
**Geography 101** / TR 9:30 am - 10:50 am (Pesses) **CRN 36771**  
**Health Education 101** / MW 2:15 pm - 3:35 pm (Bingham) **CRN 35919**  
**History 108** / Friday 8:00 am - 11:00 am (Guillen) **CRN 34750**  
**History 110** / TR 12:30 pm - 1:50 pm (Burns) **CRN 36120**  
**Math 150** / MWF 11:00 am - 12:25 pm (Hendrix) **CRN 30941**  
**Music 101** / TR 2:15 pm - 3:35 pm (Fewtrell) **CRN 30959**  
**Philosophy 105** / 8:00 am - 9:20 am (Mendoza) **CRN 35577**  
**Political Science 101** / MW 9:30 am - 10:50 am (Vento) **CRN 33114**  
**Theatre 239** / Thursday 6:30 pm - 10:35 pm (Corona) **CRN 36297**

**Biology 104**                      **MW 8:00 am - 9:20 am**                      **(Nisani and Vento)**                      **CRN 36602**  
The land, air, and waters are polluted, climate is changing, rain forests (and other habitats) are being destroyed, and there are too many people who are putting too much demand on our planet. This does not sound like a great future for us, but hey, where can we go? We can't leave the planet (yet!!!). So what to do? Well, this is the course to take. We will not only explore current environmental issues but will also examine solutions from a variety of perspectives (biological, sociological, political, etc.). We guarantee that this course will make you angry, sad, and more importantly, hopeful. This course will be team-taught by Dr. Zia Nisani and Political Science Professor John Vento. Join us and become part of the solution.

**Business 201**                      **MW 12:30 pm - 1:50 pm**                      **(Adams)**                      **CRN 36433**  
Can a bakery refuse to provide a wedding cake to a same-sex couple? Should Amazon be able to deliver a package to your front door via a drone? Do retailers have the right to use data mining to ascertain your shopping habits? Are increases to the minimum wage a net gain or loss to business and society? These are just some of the questions we will ponder as we delve into how the various aspects of law affect business and industry. Even if you are not a Business major, many of the themes we will discuss are (or will be) relevant to you. Regardless of your major, the topics in this course are relevant to you and your career. If you are into current events and lively discussion, this class is for you!

**Communication Studies 101**    **Monday 7:00 pm - 10:05 pm**                      **(Reed)**                      **CRN 30506**  
After you graduate from college, you will be joining all the others who have done so. What will set you apart is your ability to present yourself professionally. Learning how to critically evaluate messages and distinguish fact from opinion will enable you to stand and deliver with complete confidence. Successfully reading another's "body language" will enable you to understand what someone truly means versus what they may be saying. Whether you are completely confident and want to "fine tune" your skills, or ready to run screaming when you have to do any public speaking, this class is for you. Let communication be the key to your success!



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**English 102                      Tuesday                      7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.                      (Hood)                      CRN 33809**

We use the term “literature” as if we know where the boundaries are, yet even Billy Shakespeare was once viewed with suspicion. Can a cereal box be literature? A video game? What about a rap version of *Hamlet*? This class will enjoy language and celebrate its best achievements, but also question some of academia’s traditional assumptions. Looking at texts from *Beowulf* to Batman and from poetry to traffic reports, we will explore literature’s origins and conventions, but we also will use this semester as an opportunity to create our own personal definitions of the L word.

**English 103                      TR                      11:00 am - 12:20 pm                      (Koritsoglou)                      CRN 33379**

How do we come to terms with the life experiences that shape us and make us see the world in new ways? In *A Sketch of the Past*, Virginia Woolf reveals how the writing of *To the Lighthouse* was a cathartic experience:

I wrote the book very quickly; and when it was written, I ceased to be obsessed by my mother. I no longer hear her voice, I do not see her. I suppose that I did for myself what psycho-analysts do for their patients. I expressed some very long felt and deeply felt emotion. And in expressing it I explained it and then laid it to rest.

But was it laid to rest? Using Sigmund Freud’s “Mourning and Melancholia” to guide us, we will examine the language of grief, the use of writing as catharsis, the line between fact and fiction (or, as Woolf calls it, granite and rainbow), and the difference between mourning and melancholia. Our readings will be drawn from a variety of genres, including fiction, poetry, art, historical documents, essays, and creative nonfiction. We’ll use these texts to practice critical thinking and argumentative writing skills through a blend of research, awareness of language, and the study of the basic principles of logical analysis, while measuring them against Freud’s observation that “[i]n mourning it is the world which has become poor and empty; in melancholia it is the ego itself.” Bring your ego and get ready to react.

**English 265                      Wednesday                      7:00 pm - 10:00 pm                      (Hoffer and Stepro)                      CRN 34700**

Take this team-taught Honors class and see how the clash, crash, and mish-mash of popular culture make film such an awesome medium. English instructor Hoffer and History instructor Stepro—as they continue a year of team-teaching that began with last fall’s ENGL 259H: Gender, Image, and Rhetoric—will take students through a vibrant tour of cinema and highlight film’s relation to and impact on social views and forces. This course will validate the entertainment value of both literature and film, while prompting students to find even more pleasure in a greater analytical, critical, and cultural awareness of art. Major box office names and titles will co-mingle with established greats in the genre, offering up the likes of Nolan and Kubrick, Hitchcock and Lynch, in a course that promises to both delight and challenge every time the lights go down (and back up).



**HONORS CLASSES**  
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**Geography 101**                      **TR**                      **9:30 am - 10:50 am**                      **(Pesses)**                      **CRN 36771**  
Physical Geography ain't your father's science class. Yes, we'll cover the basics like gravity and molecules and all that, but we'll use those to understand how the Earth works. We'll go back 4.6 billion years and explore the evolution of the rocks under our feet, the atmosphere we breathe, and the rivers of the world, as well as how we humans developed our unique upright postures. Because this is an Honors class we'll take more time to explore physical artifacts and conduct some experiments. Because this is a Geography class we'll discuss how the Earth wants to kill you, why polar bears are dating grizzlies, and how geographers were the ones who really tracked down Osama bin Laden. *Can you really afford to miss this class?*

**Health Education 101**                      **MW**                      **2:15 pm - 3:35 pm**                      **(Bingham)**                      **CRN 35919**  
Health is our greatest resource for success and happiness in life. We don't often consider it but our health supports our academic and personal success. In this seminar-style class, we will go beyond the basic information and explore the issues that face Americans related to their health. Do we have a health care system or a sick care system? If the majority of chronic diseases are preventable, why are so many people developing them? How does our political system affect public health policy? Does the FDA ensure a safe food supply and do you have the right to know what is in your food? Why are 1 in 3 children born this year expected to develop Type 2 Diabetes and what does this mean to our future? Our research will not only be related to public health issues, but also personal issues as we explore our own values and practices through critical reflection.

**History 108**                      **Friday**                      **8:00 am - 11:05 am**                      **(Guillen)**                      **CRN 34750**  
Noam Chomsky once said, "Propaganda is to a democracy what the bludgeon is to a totalitarian state." How accurate is Chomsky's statement? Can propaganda ever only effect negative change? My History 108 student historians will explore these and many other propaganda-related questions, as they investigate the political, social, and economic developments of the United States (1877 - present) through the lens of propaganda. Students will also conduct in-depth research into a propaganda-related topic of their choice, compose a research paper worthy of scholarly publication, compose a short video to accompany their propaganda-related research, and present their findings in a simulated conference setting in our classroom. **CAUTION:** you may become propaganda masters by the end of the semester—use these skills wisely!

**History 110**                      **TR**                      **12:30 pm - 1:50 pm**                      **(Burns)**                      **CRN 36120**  
Imagine taking an afternoon stroll through your home town, observing friends and family going about their everyday chores, careers, hobbies, and games. Standing on the perimeter of this peaceful scene, you are suddenly knocked out cold. Coming to, with a bag over your head, you find that your feet are chained to others. Stumbling through the countryside, you are completely confused and disoriented. When the bag is finally removed, you find yourself in a strange fortress, with hundreds of strangers who do not speak your language, all looking out upon a vast body of water. This was the experience of millions of Africans, prior to being transported in a tight-packer to the New World. The history of the African American Experience is a story of European hegemony in Africa and the New World, involving the tragic separation of millions of Africans from their homeland and families—along with the creation of America's "Peculiar Institution" of slavery. Their struggles, suffering, adaptation and survival have been recorded in their blood, sweat and toil, on plantations large and small, throughout the American South. In this Honors course, we will explore their journey and history in-depth, in seminar-style discussion. *Be prepared to be disturbed!*



## HONORS CLASSES SPRING 2017

**Math 150**                      **MWF**                      **11:00 am - 12:25 pm**                      **(Hendrix)**                      **CRN 30941**

“How do you tell your asymptote from a hole in the graph?” and “Will your coffee cool more quickly if you stir it?” These and other questions will be answered in Math 150 through a series of discovery exercises. Calculus is the study of change and as such, is applicable to a variety of interesting problems. In this course, we will develop important theorems and solve nontraditional problems. There will also be some additional reading, along with written responses, about the history and development of calculus.

**Music 101**                      **TR**                      **2:15 pm - 3:35 pm**                      **(Fewtrell)**                      **CRN 30959**

The great American composer Aaron Copland said, “So long as the human spirit thrives on this planet, music in some living form will accompany and sustain it.” In this class, we will listen to music spanning more than 2,000 years, from ancient Greece to the latest global performance via the internet. What common traits unite all music through the centuries? How can we listen to music on a deeper level? And in what ways does the evolving character of classical music correlate to social, political, and artistic movements through the centuries? You will hear a broader range of musical styles than you probably thought possible, including some of the most beautiful and amazing music ever written.

**Philosophy 105**                      **TR**                      **8:00 am - 9:20 am**                      **(Mendoza)**                      **CRN 35577**

Mark Twain once noted the strange encounter between the Lord of the Garden and Adam and Eve. Adam noted the exchange between them by saying to Eve that the act of eating from a certain tree would cause them die. “It is the tree of good and evil,” Adam said. Eve responded by asking, “What is good, and what is evil?” In this ethics course, we will be asking the same question as Eve: what is good, and what is evil? Do they even exist? We will explore those questions by looking at different theoretical perspectives that answer the questions by looking into intention, pain, virtues, God, psychology, and feminism. After the foundations of theory have been built, a multicultural approach (Buddhist, Islamic, African American, Latin American, Asian, Feminist, etc.) will be applied to help us look at the different perspectives of applied ethics as they relate to the death penalty, free speech, animal rights, violence, abortion, euthanasia, and equality, among other topics. In the wise words of Michael Scott and Holly Flax (from *The Office*), “Let’s get ethical; ethical! I want to get ethical!”

**Political Science 101**                      **MW**                      **9:30 am - 10:50 am**                      **(Vento)**                      **CRN 33114**

There has been an active debate about whether the American democratic system ensures freedom, equality, and individuality for all citizens. This Honors class will provide a springboard to analyze the American democratic system and whether or not it works. We will focus on major political events, such as the 2016 and 2008 presidential elections, the war with Iraq, and the recall of Governor Gray Davis. We will also examine the terrorists’ attacks of September 11th and the impeachment of President William Jefferson Clinton. Each of these events has demonstrated the various roles of government and provides us with the opportunity to examine the American democratic system at work. We will depart from the traditional classroom format and employ a seminar-structured environment that uses the Socratic method of learning. **Taking this class will improve your health—both physically and mentally.**



## HONORS CLASSES SPRING 2017

**Theatre 239**                      **Thursday**      **6:30 pm - 10:35 pm**                      **(Corona)**                      **CRN 36297**  
The Honors **Intercultural and Women's Theatre** course is for students who want to explore ethnicity, diversity, sexuality, and women's voices on the American stage. This course covers Latina/o, Chicana/o, African American, Asian American, and Native American plays as an entry point into the wide range of American multicultural theatre. Also, this course will explore women's roles and themes of sexuality on stage. Students will navigate this world of theatre and performance through play readings, discussion, and practice. Through engaging and reflective assignments, discussions, and analysis of theatre, students will gain transferable skills such as interpersonal communication, public speaking, critical analysis, and broader modes of thinking. Students will be audience members at live theatrical productions, practitioners through group presentations, and critics through analyses. Theatre is not only entertainment, but is a medium for personal, cultural, and social dialogue in our everyday lives. Does theatre reflect the society we live in? Do characters on stage look like you or me? Has theatre moved in a direction of diversity and inclusion? In this class, theatre is more than Shakespeare and *Oklahoma!* Enroll and find out how.