

## Honors Featured Course List: Spring 2014

Last updated 1/6/2014

Please consult the Student Administration system for the most up-to-date information about course availability, instructors, meeting times, etc.

Course	Meeting Times	Content Area
<del>CAMS 1103-002: Classical Mythology (online)</del> <b>CLOSED</b>	<del>N/A</del>	<del>CA 1</del>
<a href="#">ECON 4206: Mechanism Design</a> <b>10 seats left for Honors students</b>	TuTh 2:00-3:15	
<del>ENGL 1701-002: Creative Writing I</del> <b>CLOSED</b>	<del>TuTh 2:00-3:15</del>	
<a href="#">ENGL 3803W: Honors III: American Literature – Contemporary American Fiction</a> <b>10 seats left</b>	TuTh 12:30-1:45	W
<a href="#">GEOG 5810-018: Special Problems in Geography – Modern Africa</a> <b>7 seats left</b>	W 2:30-5:30	
<del>HIST/WGSS 3416: Gender &amp; Sexuality in Modern Europe</del> <b>CLOSED</b>	<del>TuTh 11:00-12:15</del>	
<a href="#">MCB 3412-002: Genetic Engineering and Functional Genomics</a> <b>9 seats left</b>	TuTh 9:30-10:45	
<a href="#">NRE 1235-006D: Environmental Conservation</a> <b>17 seats left</b>	MW 10:10-11:00; F 2:00-3:30	CA 1
<a href="#">PHIL 1103: Philosophical Classics</a> <b>2 seats left</b>	MWF 10:10-11:00	CA 1
<a href="#">PNB 3264W: Molecular Principles of Physiology</a> <b>001L: 8 seats left</b> <b>002L: 9 seats left</b>	001L: MW 10:10-11:00; M 2:00-6:00 002L: MW 10:10-11:00; T 2:00-6:00	W
<del>POLS 3817-001: Law and Society</del> <b>CLOSED</b>	<del>W 4:00-6:30</del>	
<a href="#">SOC/ WGSS 3317: Women and Crime</a> <b>2 seats left (WGSS)</b>	TuTh 11:00-12:15	

**Registration note:** For some of these courses, instructors have indicated a willingness to waive prerequisites or required class standings for Honors students. This has been noted in the course description. To request a permission number, email the course instructor. Make sure to explain your Honors standing, your class standing at UConn, and any relevant coursework or experiences that you may have had.

### **CAMS 1103-002: Classical Mythology (online course!)**

**Instructor:** Roger Travis

Origin, nature, and function of myth in the literature and art of Greece and Rome and the re-interpretation of classical myth in modern art forms. Taught in English. The honors section of CAMS 1103 will feature the opportunity to engage in a unique activity only for honors students, which will greatly enhance your learning in classical mythology. You will have the chance to discuss the honors project, which is a collaborative interpretive paper on the cultural treatment of one of the most important Greek myths, the story of the House of Atreus, in a small online discussion group with Professor Travis and the rest of the honors section, with whom you are collaborating on the paper. (You will be graded on your contribution, and not on the group's final product, so you will be evaluated only on your own work.)

## **ECON 4206: Mechanism Design**

**Prerequisite:** ECON 2201

**Recommended preparation:** Well developed mathematical reasoning skills, ability to work in small groups on an independent project

**Instructor:** Vicki Knoblauch

One-semester introduction to mechanism design. Mechanisms are designed to induce people to act in such a way as to promote social welfare. Topics include public goods provision, 2-sided matching markets and peer evaluation of performance. The project in this course may serve as a good start for an Honors thesis or other piece of research.

*Dr. Knoblauch is willing to waive the ECON 2201 pre-requisite for Honors students who possess the recommended mathematical and analytical reasoning skills.*

## **ENGL 1701-002: Creative Writing I**

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1010, 1011, 2011, or 3800

**Instructor:** Sydney Plum

This Honors section will provide instruction in the craft techniques of writing nonfiction and poetry. Each student will write two nonfiction essays and two poems, as well as complete an analytical assignment. Each unit, or module, includes readings; exercises in invention, discovery, and shaping of writings; workshops; and writings reflecting on process. Readings in contemporary nonfiction and poetry broaden and deepen our understanding and appreciation of the practice of creative writing and develop critical reading skills to help evaluate craft. We will discuss readings in class and will base assignments on these models. This introduction to creative writing will combine workshop practices that require regular attendance with exercises that will be completed online.

## **ENGL 3803W: Honors III: American Literature – Contemporary American Fiction**

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1010, 1011, 2011, or 3800; open to juniors or higher

**Instructor:** Clare Eby

Before focusing on 21<sup>st</sup>-century texts, we'll begin with Thomas Pynchon's zany *The Crying of Lot 49* (1966), long hailed as an exemplary postmodern work. One of the questions we'll keep returning to is whether recent fiction extends postmodernism or breaks from it. For instance, has 9/11, technology, or globalization changed the novel formally or thematically? We will ask also how we might chart the relationship among the white male giants of contemporary fiction and other voices, such as women, minority, or gay writers. Given that proliferation, the segmentation of reading groups, and (once again) globalization, does it still make sense to speak of "the American novel"?

Likely texts (there may be changes): Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*; Franzen, *Freedom*; Roth, *The Plot Against America*; Tran, *Vietnamerica*; Bechdel, *Fun Home*; Lahiri, *Unaccustomed Earth*; Egan, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*; Diaz, *Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.

Requirements: regular attendance, participation, reading quizzes, in-class writing, presentation, final exam, 5 page paper, and several brief written assignments in preparation for the 10 page research paper.

### **GEOG 5810-018: Special Problems in Geography – Modern Africa**

**Instructors:** Carol Atkinson-Palombo, Phoebe Godfrey

Do you want to know more about Modern Africa and how it emerged? Are you interested in how people in developing countries are affected by and adapting to climate change? Would you like to learn more about what is being done to reduce global poverty?

Undergraduate and Graduate students from around UCONN are invited to examine how modern Africa has been shaped by colonialism and development thinking, and to consider how approaches inspired by environmental and social justice—key aspects of the concept of sustainability—are enabling and may further enable communities in modern Africa to better meet basic human needs such as clean water, sanitation, and food security.

**Study abroad opportunity:** Dr. Atkinson-Palombo and Dr. Godfrey will be leading a service learning opportunity in Ethiopia during the summer. This spring course is a prerequisite for the Ethiopia experience.

*This interdisciplinary course meets with SOCI 3703-001 and GEOG 4098-001. Dr. Atkinson-Palombo and Dr. Godfrey encourage Honors students to register for the graduate course. Graduate courses will count towards your Honors graduation requirements if approved by your Honors advisor on your Honors Final Plan of Study, and they do not require a course conversion form.*

### **HIST/WGSS 3416: Gender & Sexuality in Modern Europe**

**Instructor:** Sylvia Schafer

This course introduces students to the study of gender and sexuality in Europe from the late eighteenth century to the present. Using a range of contemporary writings (primary sources) from across this period, students will explore various ways in which gendered and sexed identities were shaped and articulated at different points in the past. We will focus especially on changing ideas about the differences between the sexes -- and differences within sex -- in three types of historical source: literature; authoritative “expert” writing; and autobiographical writing. Students will use these readings to think about larger histories of gender and sexuality in the west, including the production of “deviant” sexuality and the shifting norms that regulated “acceptable” self-presentation and sexual desire, including European constructions of sexual difference and sexuality against the ground of imperial and post-colonial life.

## MCB 3412-002: Genetic Engineering and Functional Genomics

**Prerequisite:** MCB 2410 or 2413

**Recommended preparation:** MCB 2000 or 3010

**Instructors:** Michael O'Neill, Rachel O'Neill

Methods and applications of genetic engineering, including gene manipulation and transfer techniques in prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Emphasis on applications of recombinant DNA technology in the elucidation of gene function. Consideration of recent technological developments in molecular genetics, such as cloning, gene therapy, the patenting and release of genetically engineered organisms, and societal issues related to these developments. The separate Honors section of this course taught by Professors Michael and Rachel O'Neill provides students with opportunities to discuss course material and problems in detail with an advanced graduate assistant. For the weekly Honors sections, students will prepare four short written assignments during the semester as a basis for deepening discussion of course subjects.

## NRE 1235-006D: Environmental Conservation

**Instructor:** Jason Vokoun

Overview of the history of natural resource use and environmental conservation policy development from prehistoric to present times. Examination of the emergence of the 20th century conservation movement in North America and the transition to the environmental movement is used to highlight recurring environmental issue themes such as: private ownership vs. public trust doctrine; commercial trade in natural resources; development vs. protection; sustainability; and the role of society and governments in regulation. Through selected readings and case studies, students are challenged to begin development of their personal ethics regarding the development, conservation and protection of the environment.

## PHIL 1103: Philosophical Classics

**Instructor:** Donald Baxter

We will read selections from such philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, and Hume. The class emphasizes discussion and entering into philosophical debates. The goals of the course are:

- (1) to introduce students to some of the great thinkers and great issues of western philosophy.
- (2) to train students in critical thinking, complex reasoning, and clear, persuasive speaking and writing.
- (3) to encourage students to be reasonable: to have good reasons for their own views while being open to learning from the views of others.

## PNB 3264W: Molecular Principles of Physiology

**Prerequisites:** PNB 2274 or MCB 2410, 2210, or 3010; ENGL 1010, 1011, 2011, or 3800

**Instructor:** Rahul Kanadia

This W course with a lab component will focus on giving students a thorough understanding of the molecular mechanism underlying physiology. Students will start with a case study of a disease,

followed by the underlying genetic defect that results in the molecular abnormality, which in turn manifests as physiological symptoms. Course topics include:

- Case study of a disease
- Inheritance patterns
- Genetic defect
- Underlying molecular defect (Transcription defect; RNA processing defect; protein function defect)
- Physiological defects (Photo-transduction defect; photoreceptor degeneration)
- Laboratory:
  - Learn to characterize a gene (Bioinformatics; expression analysis; harvest mouse retina; make RNA & cDNA; RT-PCR, cloning & sequence analysis)
  - Wild-type and mutant mice (Retinal histology; retinal degeneration)

*Instructor consent is required. Please email Dr. Kanadia ([Rahul.Kanadia@uconn.edu](mailto:Rahul.Kanadia@uconn.edu)) to request a permission number. In your email, briefly explain your preparation to take this course.*

### **POLS 3817-001: Law and Society**

**Instructor:** Kristin Kelly

The focus of this seminar is the relationship between law and U.S. society. Law will be approached as both a political and a cultural institution that constitutes and is constituted by society within which it operates. The seminar will be organized thematically and will include topics such the evolution of law, law's violence, law and identity, feminist legal theory, law and social change, law and the "problem" of litigation, and law and popular culture. Students will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss and analyze weekly readings. Grading will be based on seminar participation, short response papers, and one 15-20 page research paper.

*The course is open to juniors and seniors in the Honors Program. Honors sophomores very close to junior status (54 credits), as well as high-achieving juniors and seniors not in the Honors Program, may request enrollment by permission number from Professor Kelly ([kristin.kelly@uconn.edu](mailto:kristin.kelly@uconn.edu)); in your email, very briefly explain your preparation to take the course and the basis of your interest in it.*

### **SOCI/WGSS 3317: Women and Crime**

**Instructor:** Lynne Goodstein

This course is designed to examine the topics of gender and criminological theory, women as offenders, women as victims of male violence, legal rulings affecting women differently than men, and women as professionals in the criminal justice system. Students interested in criminal justice, criminology, law, gender studies, human rights, and other social sciences would enjoy taking this course.

*Even though this is a 3000-level course, Dr. Goodstein welcomes strong freshmen and sophomore Honors students who are interested in the content.*