

UMBC Honors College

Seminars

SPRING
2021



HONR 200: The Macabre Tale [12233]

Instructor: Norman Prentiss, Honors College, Wed. 4:30-7:00pm, Online

This course, taught by a Bram Stoker Award-winning author, will explore how storytellers have attempted to scare us, and why we let them. Beginning with a brief survey of earlier literature (excerpts from *The Arabian Nights*, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Hamlet*, and fables by the Brothers Grimm), we will focus on the short story form from Poe to Shirley Jackson to modern authors such as Stephen King and Joyce Carol Oates. We will also consider how macabre elements operate in Young Adult fiction (the *Goosebumps* series), and in other narrative media such as feature films or a TV anthology series like *Twilight Zone* or *Black Mirror*. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to connect the themes and techniques of these stories to their own interests: favorite movies or video games; their hobbies or areas of academic study.

HONR 300-01: Biology of Obesity [7231]

Instructor: Sarah Leupen, Biological Sciences, Mon./Wed. 10:00-11:15am, Online

Everyone has ideas about obesity: what makes some people fat and some people thin, how to avoid being obese, the degree to which it is a personal vs. societal problem, and so on. In this course, we will explore the physiology of energy metabolism and the science of how to lose weight and keep it off, as well as the role of exercise. We will also consider the roles of behavior, free will, the food system, and public policy in the obesity epidemic. Students will draw on these different aspects and disciplines in team work, reading responses, analysis of scientific papers and literature reviews. No prior experience in biology is required.

HONR 300-02: Race, Poverty, and Gender in Baltimore [7237]

Instructor: Jodi Kelber-Kaye, Honors College, Thurs. 4:30-7:00pm, Online

Social categories of race, class and gender provide structure for and organize people's lives. These categories intersect with one another, reinforce one another's effects, and can, at the same time, cut against one another. In this course, we will explore how these main social categories operate in the lives of people living (or who lived) in Baltimore. We will first explore how race, class, poverty and gender are defined and then examine how they operate and interact within the context of Baltimore. As any city with a unique history, Baltimore provides a location through which we can examine social phenomena like block busting (neighborhood segregation), health disparities, food access, proliferation of crime and drugs, the judicial system, and more. Students will be engaged with projects in Baltimore. Some short papers and a longer final presentation/paper that incorporates the Baltimore work will be required.

HONR 300-03: Race and Human Rights in the United States [8295]

Instructor: Jeffrey Davis, Political Science, Tues./Thurs. 1:00-2:15pm, Online

Unlike any other nation, the United States was born from a promise. Its founders proclaimed the right to national existence based on the self-evident truth that people possessed rights simply because they were born human. However, from the moment of our nation's birth to the present day, slavery and race have poisoned liberty and equality and have driven Supreme Court justices to extinguish some rights and built impenetrable obstacles to enforcing others. In this course, we will explore many questions, including: What are human rights, where do they come from, and how are they protected in law? Are education and healthcare human rights? Using a comparative approach with cases in the US, South Africa, Europe and Latin America, we will learn more about to what extent can human rights facilitate racial justice, truth and reconciliation.



HONR 300-04: Be Your Best Self in Real Life [9741]

Instructors: Simon Stacey, Honors College; David Hoffman and Romy Huebler, Center for Democracy and Civic Life, Tues. 4:30-7:00pm, Online

This course investigates institutions and the ways they can suppress or liberate people's agency: the capacity to make choices and shape our world. Students will develop a sophisticated understanding of how people can become agents in three key institutional realms: education, employment, and civic life.



HONR 300-05: Mediated Space: Representations of Social Identity in the Shopping Mall to the City [9891]

Instructor: Liz Patton, Media and Communication Studies, Mon./Wed. 2:30-3:45pm, Online

How does the way that society depicts our social places and spaces, such as homes, schools, and prisons, shape our perceptions of aspects of our identity, e.g. gender, race, or class? In this course, we will look at ways that TV, film, and advertising portray spaces and places (what we call mediated spaces) and how that representation affects our understanding of social identity and gives those spaces an underlying meaning. During the course, we will explore questions such as: How do mediated spaces reflect gender stereotypes or expectations? How are race and space co-created in the media? How do such presentations affect the audience's understanding of aspects of social identity? We will probe these questions from different theoretical perspectives.

HONR 300-06: Integrative Health in Aging [10197]

Instructor: Robin Majeski, Erickson School of Aging Studies, Tues./Thurs. 10:00-11:15am, Online

The course presents an interdisciplinary examination of an integrative approach to wellness promotion in aging which brings together conventional western and complementary/alternative (CAM) modalities to promote health in aging. We will use philosophy, history, health, biology, and psychology to answer key questions. We will analyze patterns of and motivations for the use of CAM modalities of health care among older adults, a key component of an integrative health approach, and examine the importance of an integrative approach to addressing health conditions which are common in older adults

