

# Honors Seminar Descriptions

Spring 2022

HONR 392

## **Section 1: Philanthropy In Action: Passion To Serve – F. Glycener**

*MWF 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM*

We often wrestle with how to put our good intentions more fully into action in ways that will benefit our community as well as enhance our individual lives. Digging into the meaning of philanthropy which literally means the “love of people” can give us refreshed purpose in understanding why we engage in these endeavors. Volunteering in America is at an all-time record high; however, there can often be challenges between making the world a better place and actually achieving it. This course empowers students to maximize their potential to participate fully in philanthropic service through the lens of alleviating material poverty by investigating theoretical constructs, viewing video examples, incorporating fiction reading, and practical hands-on experience. The call for aid in our world is great—our passion to serve must be greater.

## **Section 2: Freedom in Focus: The Cultural Cold War in Literature and Film – J. Brown**

*MWF 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM*

Spies! Fallout shelters! Communists! The Cold War was at times frightening and comical, thoroughly strange and strangely practical. New buzzwords entered the dinner table conversation and "atomic" was used to describe everything from motels to cocktails. Burt the Turtle taught American schoolchildren how to "duck and cover" while some Americans built bomb shelters in their back yards. This seminar will be a survey of the ways in which films and books tried to capture the terror and the terrible absurdity of the era.

## **Section 3: From the Cradle to the Grave: Abraham Lincoln, what’s up with that Hat? – P. Vaughan Knaus**

*MW 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM*

This semester, as we examine Abraham Lincoln’s life and times, we consider the man, both myths and truths. The focus of this seminar, America’s 16<sup>th</sup> president, provides a portal through which to consider United States society and history. This course provides an introduction to comparative social history, written by an historian and lifelong Lincoln admirer. It uses broad cultural and geographic diffusion of American values and traditions over time to examine diverse and changing social, economic, and political meanings of the world’s then-newest democracy. Examining different cultural settings and emphasizing the ways in which a single individual may alter history provides both challenge and quandary. Although America’s antebellum years, then Civil War and Reconstruction eras demand attention as the most striking examples of Lincoln’s pervasive impact, the course will consider Lincoln as a *global* phenomenon, exploring his impact in some European and African societies, for example. As an introduction, the course will confine itself to English language texts, but it will use a wide range of primary sources, including newspapers and journals, memoirs, correspondence,

promotional materials, and photographs to introduce students to basic concepts of historical method and problems of evidence. Students will be encouraged to consider Abraham Lincoln's impact in particular historical contexts as a 'cultural process,' from the manner of his nature through his adaptation into the White House to the emergence of his distinctive proprietary and patriotic attitudes. Among the many topics absorbed, this course will return periodically to questions of American divisions and US inclusive aspirations, race and class relations, and the emergence and sustainability of a free labor market economy. Students' assignments will require a combination of reading, writing, and research skills, and the course will utilize through readings and discussion--the variety of academic materials available for the study of this vital subject.

#### **Section 4: Why Do They Hate Us: Understanding the Myths, Realities and Limitations of the "American Empire" – K. Jagers**

*TR 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM*

In this seminar we will explore the tension between how U.S. citizens perceive themselves and how, and why, the rest of the world perceives us in a different, and often less flattering, light. At its core, this seminar will focus on the uneasy relationship between the liberal political culture and institutions of the United States and the power-centric and nationalistic ideals that have traditionally governed our country's foreign policy. Particular emphasis will be placed on the motivations and tactics that have fueled the expansionist ambitions of our society over the past 400 years and the forces, both domestic and foreign, which have sought to limit both the size and scope of the "American Empire". We will also examine both the political and moral implications associated with being the world's first global "empire" as well as the social, economic and political forces contributing to anti-American sentiment and political action in Latin America, Asia and the Islamic world since the turn of the 20th century.

#### **Section 5: Friendship in the Western World: Ancient Greece, Modern and Contemporary Perspectives – A. Archie**

*TR 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM*

The purpose of the seminar is to critically analyze the ancient Greek conception of friendship – *philia* - (i.e., Plato and Aristotle) in relation to early modern and contemporary conceptions of friendship. According to Aristotle, friendship has to do with the self. Thus, in reflecting on friendship we enter upon self-discovery. In contrast to the ancients' preoccupation with the self, modern and contemporary reflections on friendship tend to focus on rules and acts. The main question of the seminar is, "Which position on friendship is more compelling: the ancient Greek, modern or contemporary position?"

#### **Section 6: Tikkun Olam – A. Merline**

*TR 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM*

"Tikkun Olam" is a Jewish concept defined by acts of kindness performed to perfect or repair the world. The phrase is found in the Mishnah, a body of classical rabbinic teachings. It is often used when discussing issues of social policy, ensuring a safeguard to those who may be at a disadvantage. This course is about community engagement and activism. Using [Bowling Alone](#), [The Community Resilience Reader](#) and [The Great Good Place](#) we will learn effective community organizing, how to work with

existing municipal, grassroots and other local groups to identify and complete one or several projects that need to be completed in Fort Collins that have to do with human and environmental sustainability.

**Section 7 & 8: You'd be Murdered for This: Art, Political Regimes and Morality – S. Zwick-Tapley**

*Section 7: TR 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM*

*Section 8: MW 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM*

Imagine a painting so scandalous you'd be imprisoned. Imagine a play so threatening you'd be tortured. Imagine a book so controversial you'd be exiled for life. Imagine a film so revolutionary you'd be killed. Throughout history art has challenged dictators, religion and sexual norms and has been blamed for the destruction of morality and civilization. What are these works of art and what made them so threatening? And did these works of art succeed in bringing about the change so feared? This class will explore controversial art from around the world and look at the political, sociological, and psychological frameworks specific to each culture. Art forms covered will include theatre, dance, the visual arts, film and literature. (Warning: The material in this class may be offensive to some students. This class covers extensive sexual violence.)