First Year Course

The Global City

The Global City is a year-long course sequence that introduces ways to think critically about the urban environment and the interdependence between the city and the global world. It begins with the study of representations and perceptions of the city, considers the city in historical context, and concludes with the processes that shape the city's geopolitical manifestations.

Completing The Global City sequence satisfies these requirements for a BA, BFA, BM, and BS:

- ✓ 8 credits of arts and letters
- ✓ 4 credits of social sciences
- ✓ lower-division writing requirement

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Time/Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41525</td>
<td>HON 102</td>
<td>Merrow</td>
<td>11:30 – 12:35 MWF</td>
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<tr>
<td>41526</td>
<td>HON 102</td>
<td>Starry</td>
<td>14:00 – 15:50 TR</td>
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<td>41527</td>
<td>HON 102</td>
<td>York</td>
<td>10:00 – 11:50 TR</td>
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<td>41524</td>
<td>HON 102</td>
<td>Fallon</td>
<td>12:00 – 13:50 TR</td>
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<td>44488</td>
<td>HON 102</td>
<td>Westerman</td>
<td>12:45 – 13:50 MWF</td>
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<tr>
<td>44489</td>
<td>HON 102</td>
<td>Wheeler</td>
<td>9:00 – 10:05 MWF</td>
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Resources:
Leena Shrestha, Honors Academic Advisor
UHP 108
leens@pdx.edu
Make an appointment at: 503-725-4005
Honors Office: 503-725-4928
Sophomore Year

Urban Discourses

**HON 201, HON 202, and HON 203 may be taken in any order.**

Degree requirements satisfied sciences for the BA, BFA, BM, and BS:

✓ HON 201 satisfies 4 credits of social sciences
✓ HON 202 satisfies 4 credits of arts & letters
✓ HON 203 satisfies 4 credits of sciences
✓ Completing the 201, 202 & 203 sequence meets the University’s second lower-division writing requirement

**HON 201 Urban Social Science**

In HON 201 we approach the urban through the application of social science methodologies. The development of many social sciences as academic disciplines began in efforts to understand the social impact of industrialization, globalization, and rapid urbanization during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Specifically we will focus on the maps of urban planners and geographers, the qualitative and ethnographic analysis of sociologists and anthropologists, and the archival and contextual investigations of urban historians, with particular attention to concepts of landscape, property, inequity, environment and quality of life, (illicit) economy, and social networks. We will rehearse these skills and models in our own research into the neighborhoods of Portland, producing accessible, self-reflexive reports that simultaneously add to and critique our understandings about our shared home.

**HON 202 Urban Humanities**

**Section 001**

In HON 202 we will emphasize the work of the humanities, a group of scholarly disciplines that took their impetus from the close and careful study of texts. The focus in Professor Merrow’s section will be “Paris Capital of the World.” We’ll read (in translation from the French) Balzac’s Père Goriot and Zola’s The Kill (La Curée) as our core texts. We will also look at scholarship by David Harvey, using his work to think about the differences between Balzac’s Paris in the first half of the 19th century and Zola’s Paris in the second half. We will have opportunity to map the Paris of each text and to think about the experience of space in both novels. The writing assignment will aim to produce work that is modeled on the method of the humanities.

**Section 002**

Our course focuses on the humanities, particularly poetry and art in urban public spaces. How do the humanities, with their emphasis on texts, help us read the city? From sign poetry in Tijuana to ghost bikes in Portland, we will read urban landscapes, moving through research projects while grappling with a series of questions: How do particular sites imbue artwork with meaning? How does the artwork alter the site? How might the history of a site inform the significance of material works located there now? What are some challenges of siting a work in public space? How does art mingle with everyday life, and how might everyday life be constructed like art? We will launch pedestrian investigations, delve into city archives, read texts critically, and research and write about our city streets inscribed with language, stencils, murals, installations, monuments, and memorials.

Early in our term, we’ll read and map the language in our immediate neighborhood. We will address Robert Musil’s statement that “[t]here is nothing in the world as invisible as monuments” by, in fact, noticing our city’s monuments, both by reading Jena Osman’s lyric treatment of Philadelphia’s monuments and plunging elbow-deep into our city’s archives to
research our own. We will grapple with concepts regarding art in public space through controversies around Richard Serra’s Tilted Arc installation, stencil-artist Banksy’s recent trip to New York City, and legal challenges to mural art in Portland. We will consider how site contributes significance, from Lawson Inada’s poetry carved in stone at the site of the former Japantown to Isaka Shamsud-Din’s Vanport mural sited on Portland State’s campus; and how a public installation leads to more research, such as the Walk of Heroines on our campus. Throughout the term, you will extend course concepts to your own research project around a public artifact in Portland.

HON 203 Urban Ecology
In HON 203 we will approach the urban through the lens of science, taking to the field of the city to explore how science has both shaped cities and how cities shape scientific practice. In this quarter we will look at trees, water, soil and air as the elements of the urban landscape around us. We will learn about research related to the ecological systems of Portland, and practice applying the scientific method by planning research projects that add to and critique our understandings of the city.

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<tr>
<td>41528</td>
<td>HON 201 – 001 8:00 - 9:50 TR</td>
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<tr>
<td>41529</td>
<td>HON 202 – 001 2:00 - 3:50 MW</td>
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<tr>
<td>41530</td>
<td>HON 202 – 002 8:15 - 10:05 MW</td>
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<tr>
<td>41531</td>
<td>HON 203 – 001 10:00 - 11:50 TR</td>
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Resources:
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UHP 207
leens@pdx.edu
Make an appointment at: 503-725-4005
Honors Program Office: 503-725-4928
Junior Seminars

HON 407-001 Exploring Socio-Ecological Systems
CRN: 41540  Meets: 14:00-15:50 MW  Prof. Mohammad
This discussion based seminar will explore the development of literature on socio-ecological systems, including key authors in this field. We will cover concepts, such as "resilience," as well as topics that span the theories and various metrics which researchers or practitioners draw upon to inform this field.

HON 407-002 Theatron
CRN: 41539  Meets: 10:00 – 11:50 TR  Prof. Wheeler
A theatron was, in ancient Greek, the place where the audience sat to watch performances of the plays in the dramatic festival. But the word means "place of observation"; in this seminar we think about the complex act of observation (what is observed, under what conditions, with what import?) in several historical perspectives and by examining several instruments of observation (classical tragedy, film, blog, among others). From the evidence of those artifacts we'll together think about how observation is rich in its attachment to (and corresponding representation of) its culture and epoch. A seminar paper/presentation will be expected.

HON 407-003 19th Century History Thought
CRN 41537  Meets: 12:00-13:50 TR  Prof. Merrow
In this Honors junior seminar we are going to think about the problems of historical method and historical theory, as these have been inherited from the methods and practices developed in the nineteenth century when history became a professional discipline and chairs in history were established for the first time. The "founders" of this new discipline made claims for its objectivity such that a scientific truth could be produced about the past grounded in the practices of the seminar and archival research. Perhaps the most famous statement that expresses this understanding is Ranke’s: "To history has been assigned the task of judging the past, of instructing the world of today for the benefit of future years. The present attempt does not claim such an exalted function; it merely wants to state what actually happened (wie es eigentlich gewesen)." This last phrase has been a rallying cry for historians who insist upon the objectivity of historiography ever since—and a point of attack for those who question this. This is an old question that persists into the present. One thing this quotation also expresses is that professionalizing history as a practice entailed the foreclosing and rejection of other forms and methods of historical inquiry—philosophical, philological, archeological, and literary, that continued to exist alongside it well into the nineteenth century. Our approach to this will be oblique, even perverse, as instead of reading the standard texts (Ranke, Macaulay, Gibbon, etc.) we are going to read several texts (Nietzsche and Burckhardt) that in the nineteenth century are highly critical of these disciplinary practices and assumptions and that refer back to those foreclosed methods and practices. We will use them as a way of setting Rankean views of the objectivity of historical writing in relief, reading them together with a classic text (Coulanges) that places itself within the boundaries of the vision of history as truth and fact. Even here, however, our readings should show that the story is not that simple.
HON 407-004 Science, Technology, and Politics
CRN: 41536  Meets: 14:00-15:50 TR  Prof. Manson

Science, technology and politics are constantly showing up in unique and often controversial interactions. From climate change, vaccines, health care and wire tapping - science and technology are core to the work of government and central to our political debates. Why does some science become important in policy debates, while other scientific findings seem to be overlooked or actively ignored? This Honors junior seminar will explore the relationship between science and politics, how the two compete at times and depend on each other at other times. The role and control of technology in our society will also be explored, including asking if there are more just or democratic ways to manage technology. This seminar is designed to be accessible to an interdisciplinary group - science, social science, and history all play a role in exploring these issues. Participants in the seminar will be asked to analyze a science or technology topic of their choosing and to explore the scientific and political dimensions of the issue.

HON 407-007 Science and Society
CRN: 45653  Meets: 10:15-11:20 MWF  TBA

This Honors junior seminar examines how the models in the sciences and the social sciences inform social practices and policies, promote or impede human flourishing, and support or threaten democratic institutions. Theoretical topics include the promise and possibilities of explanation, prediction, and laws in the social sciences; interpretative approaches to social explanation; fact-value interrelations and their justification; the place of rational choice and functional explanations; and individualism and holism. We will then leverage what we have learned about these topics to explore questions of social epistemology, democratic representation (e.g., by voting or by public participation), expertise, and legitimacy in public policy. Honors Students will carry out a research project on the Federal Government's Race to the Top fund and investigate its impact in Oregon and other parts of the United States. The class will devote careful attention to the reasoning and standards of evidence used to support school reforms such as privatization, the increased reliance on charter schools, standardized testing and common core standards. Students will complete a research paper that investigates and evaluates how social science has been mobilized to legitimate and justify policies. The course also offers the opportunity for honors students to participate in the PSU Philosophy Department’s Philosophy in the Schools activities that may include the design and implementations of Philosophy activities in afterschool programs, assisting IB students with Philosophy and Theory of Knowledge requirements, and supporting philosophy-based critical thinking in the schools. Participation in these activities is contingent on instructor permission and will depend on the opportunities available during the winter term.

JST 407H-001 Jewish & Israeli Dance
CRN: 45645  Meets: 10:00-11:50 TR  Prof. Spiegel

WR 333H-001 Advanced Composition
CRN: 45679  Meets: 12:45-1:50 MWF  Prof. Clemenzi-Allen

Essay writing with particular attention to student’s area of specialization. Advanced practice
This course will examine the obsession with crime in American fiction and the popular imagination. What are the roots of this obsession? How does it manifest itself within narrative form? What kinds of anxieties does it express? How has this obsession been harnessed towards various political and economic ends? Is it the social and cultural destiny of crime fiction to serve conservative and reactionary aims by representing threats to the body politic? Or is there a radical and critical edge to certain iterations of the genre? What constitutes the difference between these functions? We will read a selection of canonical crime fiction and film. We will also attempt to re-envision the conventional understanding of this genre, its roots, and its offshoots. What is the relation between crime fiction and the Western’s representation of the lawless frontier? Or between these, the neo-slave narrative, and the specter of the slave revolt? To what extent can these narratives help us rethink the relationship between our understandings of crime and the modern histories of violence against the indigenous, non-citizens, slaves, prisoners, and others thought of as enemies of the state? This is an Honors section of ENG 467 offered by the Department of English.