**Fall 2011 Honors Program Courses**

**Stupidity: Is America More Dumber Then Ever Before?**

**HON 293** (11122) ES: SS - Gruenberg, S.
TR 12:30-1:45
3 credits
This course will use the recent Charles Pierce book, *Is America as a Jumping Off Point to Engage in a Semester-Long Discussion About Whether or Not America is Slouching Toward Idiocy*. This course will also focus on *A Academically Adrift* a text that argues college students are not learning much while at college. Finally, the second half of the course will examine and respond to arguments that seek to explain the rise of the anti-intellectual, beginning with Nicholas Carr's *The Shallows*.

**Artists and Scientists: Studies in Creativity**

**HON 391** (10906) ES: HUM / 393 (10895) ES: MST - Kirby, M.
TR 9:30 - 10:45
3 credits
In this class we’ll explore the larger questions of creativity. What do we mean by that word? Can it be measured? Is it innate? Is it responsive or proactive? How is it best nurtured or developed? How will our own definitions and ideas change over the semester, especially through the lens of the lives of artists and scientists. We’ll spend time with books that address creativity as a concept, and also reading memoir, biography, and other writings by artists. The book list below will be supplemented by readings from various journals, interviews, and individual research presentations.

**Natural Disasters**

**HON 292** (16645) ES: SS / 293 (10951) ES: MST - Pyle, S.
TR 11-12:15
3 credits
With our current global communications we quickly hear about natural disasters around the world. In this class we’ll study the science behind these natural disasters, like earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and tsunamis. In addition, we’ll study the kinds of problems that occur in the aftermath of these incidents and examine the toll they take on human and animal life. We will then see how we, as a global society, respond to these disasters and determine what we, as individuals, can do to help in times of crisis.

**Prospectus Development**

**HON 395** (10894) ES: MST - Thorp, B.
TR 2-2:50
1 credit
The year 2011 is the quatercentenary, the 400th anniversary, of the publication of the King James Bible. In this course we will study this particular bible translation, what makes it distinctive, and some of the history of the book. We will encounter some ‘disasters,’ like earthquakes, hurricanes, floods and tsunamis. In addition, we’ll surprise, including the fact that the KJB that most people read is altered from the original 1611 version.

**Sophomore Portfolio Workshop**

**HON 250** (10904) - David, R.
W 12-12:50
1 credit
Are you ready to become a Full Member of the Honors Program? Are you wondering what the SHP really entails? The course gives SHP writers a chance to polish submissions by discussing and revising in peer groups. This eight-week class is open to all students on campus.

**Senior Portfolio Workshop**

**HON 350** (10905) - Gruenberg, S.
R 11-11:50
1 credit
Like to discuss movies, culture and politics? Then join me this fall for an exploration of empire and film. We will discuss such timely issues as the politics of multiculturalism and identity, neocolonialism, colonial stereotypes, and images of race and ethnicity. We will watch familiar films, like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981) and not so familiar films, like *Battle of Algiers* (1965); Hollywood films, like *The Searchers* (1956) and “Bollywood” films like *Earth* (1998); contemporary films, like *Tsotsi* (2005) and classics, like *Stanley and Livingston* (1939). As well as practicing critically viewing and discussing film, we will work on writing about film like professionals.

**Other Depts.**

**ISLAM**

**RELS 355** (12727) - Stone L.
W 10-10:50
3 credits
This course will provide a scholarly introduction to the Islamic religious tradition. Students who enroll will study the formative historical background of the tradition; foundational texts such as the Qur'an and Hadith; theological, philosophical, and methodological considerations in the study of Islam. Students should be aware that this course is reading and writing intensive.

**Community Development**

**GEOG 458** (10741) - Hansen, D.
MWF 10-10:50
1 credit
Are you ready to become a Full Member of the Honors Program? Are you wondering what the SHP really entails? The course gives SHP writers a chance to polish submissions by discussing and revising in peer groups. This eight-week class is open to all students on campus.
BYSR: "Hot, Flat and Crowded by Thomas L. Friedman"  
Hon 393 (10899) ES: POWELL, K.  
M 3:30 - 4:45 (First Half of Semester Only)  
1 credit  
Thomas L. Friedman’s no. 1 bestseller The World is Flat has helped millions of readers to see globalization in a new way. Now Friedman brings a fresh outlook to the crises of destabilizing climate change and rising competition for energy—both of which could poison our world if we do not act quickly and collectively. His argument speaks to all of us who are concerned about the state of America in the global future. Friedman proposes that an ambitious national strategy—which he calls “Geo-Greenism”—is not only what we need to save the planet from overheating; it is what we need to make America healthier, richer, more innovative, more productive, and more secure.—quote from author’s website.  
This three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning writer for the New York Times makes headlines each week. Published in hardcover in 2008, Hot, Flat and Crowded became Friedman’s fifth consecutive bestseller, and was cited by the White House as a book that President Barack Obama was reading on a summer vacation.

Rock and Roll: A History  
Hon 391  
(10903) ES: HUM - SCHILL, B  
TR 11-12:15  
3 credits  
Beginning with the Gospel, Country & Western, and soul-selling Blues music that would inform the work of Elvis and Jerry Lee Lewis and culminating with contemporary pop-rock, this course will explore not the history of rock and roll, but a history of it—one interpretation. With the ad of not only the actual record albums themselves, but theory, fiction, and film, students will explore all of rock’s major, and some minor, genres in this “dialectical” history: punk, metal, indie, prog, disco, power-pop, and many others in this history of devil’s tunes. Along the way, multiple non-rock genres will necessarily be covered as well. I know: it’s only rock and roll. But I like it.

Politics of Economic Development  
Hon 391 - (10900) ES: HUM - DOCH AND P. O’NEILL  
TR 12:30 - 1:45  
3 credits  
This course provides first and second year students with hands-on preparation for scholarships and career planning. Students who complete this course will have developed plans for their progress through the academic, extracurricular, and personal growth opportunities available during college. They will have charted tentative paths for post-college: and clarified strategies regarding graduate school and/or starting a career. They will have gained insight into how people in gatekeeping roles (i.e., those who award scholarships, sit on grad program entrance committees, act in a hiring capacity) view various application strategies and tactics. Students who aim to prepare themselves for scholarship competitions will develop the skills and knowledge to do so. Those who aim for top opportunities for internships, grad schools, or careers will be similarly better prepared.

The Monstrous in German Literature  
Hon 391 - (10907) ES: HUM - BOYD, A.  
TR 9:30 - 10:45  
3 credits  
Witches, Freaks, and Automatons: The Monstrous in German Literature and Film  
This course will examine the origins and significance of monstrous beings in German literature and film. We will read primary literature on witches, vampires, side-show freaks, puppets, and robots, but our investigations will focus primarily on monster theory, the uncanny, the fantastic and the grotesque as tools for socio-historical and cultural analysis. In-depth analysis of these topics will include not only possible German origins and applications of these literary themes, but also the manifestation and transformation of these themes in American popular culture.