“Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press.” From the moment James Madison drafted an early version of these words, the media (which has evolved considerably from meaning simply “the press”) has played a crucial role in upholding, challenging, and even curtailing the democratic process. But for those living in what French theorist Guy Debord called the “society of the spectacle,” what role does the media—whether 24-hour television news, Internet blogging, or pop music played on corporate radio—play in furthering or encumbering the American political experiment? Is today’s increasingly corporate, privatized media more of a burden than boon to democracy? Can popular culture help make us a more informed voter? All these questions and more will be explored in this interdisciplinary course that touches upon philosophy, media criticism, literary studies, economics, and history.

At least one-third of the people we know are introverts. They are the ones who prefer listening to speaking, reading to partying; who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion; who favor working on their own over brainstorming in teams. Although they are often labeled “quiet,” it is to introverts that we owe many of the great contributions to society—from van Gogh’s sunflowers to the invention of the personal computer. Passionately argued, impressively researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, Quiet shows how dramatically we undervalue introverts, and how much we lose in doing so. This book draws on cutting-edge research in psychology and neuroscience to reveal the surprising differences between extroverts and introverts. Extroverts and introverts are both welcome to this class!

The story of cancer is a story of human ingenuity, resilience, and perseverance, but also of hubris, paternalism, and misperception. In his book “Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies” Siddhartha Mukherjee recounts centuries of discoveries, setbacks, victories, and deaths, told through the eyes of his predecessors and peers, training their wits against an infinitely resourceful adversary that, just three decades ago, was thought to be easily vanquished in an all-out “war against cancer.” The book reads like a literary thriller with cancer as the protagonist. The class will read this book and discuss this “Emperor” of diseases.
This course will take students down the dark, twisting paths of several well-known and lesser conspiracy theories and into the Escher-like minds of those who believe and create them. By the course’s end you will better understand why conspiracy theories persist, how influential they have become, and how they get created.

HON 291 - Film, History & Popular Memory (6403) H
3 credits
Tu 6:00PM - 8:30PM
Sarah Dykowski
This course tracks the influence of film on the popular memory of 20th century United States history. Looking at films that depict historical events, we can examine how people’s understanding of the past changes over time and is reflected in and shaped by movies. Our goal is to begin to understand the subtext of historical films, as well as the way the past is remembered. Through discussion we will analyze and critique films based on historical events throughout the 20th century. Students will be given an opportunity to produce their own film project to reflect what they’ve learned.

HON 292 - Conspiracy Theory in America (6294) SS
3 credits
TuTh 12:30PM - 1:45PM
Sam Gruenberg
Who killed JFK? How did the World Trade Center collapse on September 11, 2001? Did the United States land on the moon on July 20, 1969? What are those long, white trails following jet airplanes as they pass overhead? If you think there are relatively simple answers for any of these questions then you are not among the millions of people who believe in what are known as conspiracy theories. This course will take students down the dark, twisting paths of several well-known and lesser conspiracy theories and into the Escher-like minds of those who believe and create them. By the course’s end you will better understand why conspiracy theories persist, how influential they have become, and how they get created.

IDS 399 - World War I in Film (16547)
3 credits
MoWeFr 11:00AM - 11:50AM
Burt Thorp
This summer marks the 100-year anniversary of the first World War. How have writers and filmmakers represented the “Great War?” Music and visual arts may come into our discussions, as will memoir and history.

HON 291 - Scholarship & Career Planning (6282)
1 credit ES: H
MoWe 3:00PM - 4:15PM (09/15/2014 - 10/24/2014)
Joan Hawthorne
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.

HON 250 - Sophomore Portfolio Workshop (6285)
1 credit
We 12:00PM - 12:50PM
Robin David
HON 250 - Sophomore Portfolio Workshop (6285)
1 credit
Th 11:00AM - 11:50AM
Sam Gruenberg
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