**Happiness is the meaning and purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence.** – Aristotle

Shakespeare’s tragedy dramatizes many themes we still care about: misunderstanding between parents and children, the blindness of fathers and the ingratitude of sons and daughters, sibling rivalry, betrayal and loyalty in politics—all set in the strange atmosphere of pre-Christian Britain. Many odd moments and twists of fate occur in the play, as do many moving lines of poetry. We are lucky, also, to have some fine performances available on video.

**HON 391: Censorship in a “Free Country”** (11196) (3 cr: ES=HUM)
MW 11:00AM - 11:50AM - K. Powell

Free speech is not absolute. Government has had to balance free speech with the need to protect the public. While we call ourselves “the land of the free,” there is a history of censorship in America, including books, politics, music, art, and cinema. This class will explore the history of banned material, and we will read some banned books and watching forbidden films. In addition, we will explore censorship in current events, such as copyright infringement, corporate media, violence in the media, textbook authors, and “self-censorship.”

**HON 391: Writing Across Disciplines** (11192) (2 cr: ES=HUM)
TuTh 10:00AM - 10:50AM - Brian Schill

Are you writing a thesis? If so, consider taking “Writing Across Disciplines.” This 2-credit writing workshop will help you write a better thesis not only by helping you explore the form and content of academic scholarship in several fields, but by giving you a small group of fellow writers to bounce ideas off of and receive valuable feedback from. This course is designed for those who will graduate in May 2013, but summer and fall 2013 graduates will benefit as well. Get more credits for work you are already doing anyway!

**HON 392: Happiness and Positive Psychology** (11205) (3 cr: ES=SS)
MW 8:30AM - 9:45AM - K. Powell

Why do some people find fulfillment, happiness, and purpose in life, but others do not? Based on the most-popular class (in recent history) at Harvard University, we will explore the social, philosophical, and historical thoughts about happiness, flow, and well-being. We will try exercises to explore our character strengths and virtues. We will examine what makes us happy—as individuals and as society. The class will also focus on the relatively new field of Positive Psychology. This is no silly “self-help book” class; it’s an academic study of the past, present, and future perspectives of well-being.

**HON 392: The Collapse of Community: Social Isolation in America** (TBD) (3 cr: ES = SS)
TuTh 1:30PM - 2:45PM - Sam Gruenberg

The rise of social media websites have made it easier than ever before for people to stay connected with friends, family, and acquaintances; however, social media has not kept Americans from being lonelier than they have been before. Why is this? Why, in such a “connected” world, do people report having fewer close friends and confidence? Why are people involved in fewer service organizations or recreational clubs? Why do neighbors no longer know each other? The answers to these questions are complex and, perhaps, represent the inevitable effects of the complex world in which we live. In his 2001 book Bowling Alone, Robert Putnam investigates these questions and sheds light on what the new, lonelier, and less social world means for all of us.

**HON 391: Hemingway in Japanese Literature: A Comparative Reading of Style** (15373) (3cr: ES=HUM)
MW 3:00PM - 4:45PM - Alex Cavanaugh

Some Japanese critics shun fellow writers who produce fiction that is too “Americanized”, yet American influence has shaped Japanese fiction in striking ways. This course will look at the prose of Ernest Hemingway, one of American Literature’s major modern heavyweights, alongside some of Japan’s most famous modern novels. We will engage these texts through examining comparative theory, narratology, and character development. Hemingway, who is widely considered one of the major forces behind the modern novel, will be our battery; Japanese fiction that came both before and after Hemingway’s time will be our radio. The class will cover three of Hemingway’s novels. The selected Japanese texts will be diverse and seemingly unconnected—it will be our responsibility to find the connections and tease out a greater understanding of how fiction functions in both short and long works. This class is designed for students in any major and will involve close reading, thoughtful discussion, short in-class writings, and three outside papers of varying lengths.

**HON 391: Technology in Humanity’s Present and Future** (15372) (3 cr: ES = HUM)
MW 12:30PM - 1:45PM - Shawn Boyd

Our modern world is dominated by technology, upon which we depend for our most basic daily functions: comfort, nutrition, transportation, communication, work, education, and so forth. Technology is such a part of us that we often cannot divorce ourselves from it. This course will ask students to step back from this web of inventions that makes our daily lives livable and critically engage with technology from various standpoints. The questions we will explore in this course include the following: How does technology impact our understanding of ourselves as human beings? What are the ethical questions that arise with the introduction of new technologies? How is technological progress affecting our youngest citizens, and how, or should we, govern adolescents’ interactions with technology? What does technology mean for the maintenance or creation of local and global communities? Can we make value judgments about new technologies, or should we only be concerned about how they are employed? Should limits be set on specific technologies, and why? How can we imagine the future relationship of humanity and technology and what should we do to prepare for that future?

**HON 250: Sophomore Portfolio Workshop** (11179) (1201) 01-07-2013 through 03-01-2013 (1 cr)

(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 open to all students on the edge of a portfolio.)

**BYSR: King Lear** (11191) (1 cr: ES=HUM)
MW 2:00PM - 2:50PM (01/07/13 - 03/01/13) - Burt Thorp
HON 293: The Business of Health (11204) (3 cr: ES = MST)
TuTh 11:00AM - 12:15PM - Brian Schill

“The Business of Health” is a broad, interdisciplinary course designed to help students explore the non-medical side of the healthcare industry. Several topics will be addressed over the course of the semester, including the history, medicine, government’s role in medicine (FDA, Medicare/Medicaid), health economics, medical ethics, technology, the role media and multinational corporations play in the nation’s health, the concept of “dis-ease” and medical knowledge, and even issues of race, class, and “human rights” in healthcare delivery. While the main topic in question is healthcare, the course is open to all majors as discussion will naturally and necessarily involve questions of philosophy, politics, popular culture, and sociology as well. Strongly recommended for both pre-health students and those going into public administration and social development work.

HON 395: Prospectus Development (11187) (1 cr.)
M 12:00PM - 12:50PM - Brian Schill

Are you a junior considering writing an Honors thesis in the next year? While the notion of an extended senior project may seem overwhelming initially, the first step to a successful thesis is developing a sound prospectus, which is what this course is designed to help you do. In brief, Hon 395 will: help you gather your thoughts on thesis processes; suggest strategies for writing your prospectus (mapping crucial background information, developing methodology, and clarifying the focus of your thesis, and so on); and engage you in a preliminary research. This course is recommended for students who plan on writing a thesis next year.

HON 372: Service You Should Do: Refugee Integration (11206) (3 cr: EW = SS, U)
TuTh 2:00PM - 3:50PM - Robin David and Beatrice Hill

While it’s tempting to see resettlement as a happy ending to refugees’ stories, their arrival in the U.S. is actually the start of a whole new journey. How can we as a community foster successful integration? Students in this class will serve as youth mentors to immigrant students at Red River High School through a Global Friends Coalition pilot program. We’ll spend about half our time doing service and half reading, writing, watching films, listening to speakers, and discussing. (Tuesdays will generally be service days and Thursdays discussion days.) This is a great class for anyone who might work with refugees: healthcare providers, teachers, social workers, lawyers, public administrators, etc.

HON 392/393: Drugs and Addiction (11189/11183) (3 cr: ES = Offered either as a SS or MST)
MW 1:30PM - 2:45PM - Sally Pyle

What is addiction? What are the signs of addiction? Why do some people become addicted when others do not? What are the most common psychoactive drugs and how do they alter brain function? This course will try to answer these questions and more. We will cover drug dependence and addiction, with emphasis on biological, psychological, social, and clinical concepts. Other “addictive” behaviors, such as compulsive gambling and overeating, will also be explored. There is a high comorbidity for other types of psychological illness among addicts, and these will be discussed. This course is ultimately an integration of psychology, pharmacology, and neuroscience, a topic called neuropharmacology. It’s offered as both an Advanced Social Science and Advanced Science Colloquium since it integrates these disciplines.

HON 391: Tolkien’s World: Journey’s Through Middle Earth (11203) (3 cr: ES = HUM)
MW 10:30AM - 11:45AM - Sally Pyle

“When Mr. Bilbo Baggins of Bag End announced that he would shortly be celebrating his eleventh-first birthday with a party of special magnificence, there was much talk and excitement in Hobbiton.” And so begins a journey through Middle Earth that introduces us to Hobbits, Elves, Orcs, Ents, Ring Wraiths, heroes, and villains. We will even ourselves in a war. J.R.R. Tolkien’s book “The Lord of the Rings” has sold many copies worldwide than any book except the Bible! So who was this Professor of Philology? Why is his work so enduring and popular? What inspired Tolkien to write his books? Is his morality of good and evil as simplistic as some critics have claimed? Find out, as we journey through Middle Earth and explore the writings and thinking of J.R.R. Tolkien in this class.

HON 292: Hail to the Victors! Sports and the University (TBD) (3 cr: ES = SS)
TuTh 9:30AM - 10:45AM - Sam Gruenberg

The highest-paid employee at many universities can be found coating the court or on the field. In fact, most college’s athletic departments lose money, yet athletic budgets continue to increase, along with student tuition and fees. However, through a university’s athletic teams, lifelong bonds of loyalty (and potentially millions in the form of alumni donations) are created. How do college athletics fit into the mission of the present-day university? What benefits do college athletic programs provide for the universities, their students, and the student athletes? Is it time for universities and their athletic programs to part ways? These questions are only a few that this course will seek to answer in this semester-long discussion about the role sports plays in the university.

HON 291: Scholarship and Career Planning (11185) (1 cr.)
TuTh 3:00PM - 4:15PM - Joan Hawthorne

01/28/2013 - 03/08/2013

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 399: Independent Study

Sally Pyle

HON 489: Senior Honors Thesis

Sally Pyle

HON 393: Building Brain Awareness. (11183) (1 cr., ES = MST)
M 4:00PM - 5:00PM - Sally Pyle & Karen Cisek

Ever wonder what it would be like to be the “teacher”! That’s what you get to do in this class. Students enrolled in the course go to regional Elementary, Middle or High Schools, or attend community events like Super Science Saturday, and give presentations/ workshops on the brain. Students choose the age group they wish to work with and, with their peer group and instructors, develop presentations and activities. In March and April you will give your presentations. This course is an excellent opportunity to apply hands-on learning in a classroom while focusing on a rapidly expanding scientific field. You don’t have to be a neuroscience to take this course, but you do have to be willing to learn on your own and work with a group of your peers. Open to all students, not just Honors students. So, bring your friends!