

Recent Honors Colloquia Courses (HONR 3000, 3020, 3030)

FALL 2020

Entrepreneurial Foundations, Dale Eesley

Students taking this class will learn how entrepreneurial behavior empowers them to assess risk and take action, leading to the creation of new businesses, social enterprises or corporate practices that have an impact on themselves and others. The course will explore the many paths available to entrepreneurs and will include a special focus on the Lean Startup methodology. Lectures on management, marketing, human resources and finance are specially crafted to address the entrepreneur's most critical needs. The class adopts a hands-on approach: student teams will apply their learning by consulting for a local business and writing a business development plan, and this class will directly connect them with the entrepreneurial community with guest speakers and opportunities to attend local entrepreneurship events and gatherings.

A Case for Ethics, Saundra Shillingstad

At its simplest, ethics is a system of moral principles—a set of rules that describes acceptable conduct in society. They affect how people make decisions and lead their lives. Ethics is concerned with what is good for individuals and society. The concepts most directly associated with ethics are truth, honesty, fairness, and equity. Ethics often cover the following dilemmas: (a) how to live a good life, (b) our right and responsibilities, (c) the language of right and wrong, and (d) moral decisions – what is good and bad? This course will address various approaches and theories to ethics (metaethics, normative and applied).

Creative Citizenship, Todd Richardson

This colloquium will explore the idea of creative citizenship, a concept FDR left incredibly vague, asking questions such as, *What does it mean to be a citizen in the 21st Century? How about the 22nd Century? What does it mean to be a citizen in a digital nation?* While we will first familiarize ourselves with histories and theories of citizenship, the bulk of our time together will be spent considering where citizenship might go rather than where it's been, exploring citizenship as possibility rather than obligation. We must also spend time considering what it means to think creatively. Toward that end, students will complete a number of assignments, many adapted from Lynda Barry's innovative pedagogy, that encourage originality over mastery. Put more simply, I will ask students to generate novel solutions to problems rather than simply execute traditional ones. All of these creative assignments are in support of the colloquium's central project, which will have every student design and carry out an individual endeavor that enacts creative citizenship as they interpret it.

Social Construction of Health and Disease, Aja Kneip Pelster

Health and disease, in the society and culture of the United States, are perceived as clearly defined concepts linked by evidence to scientific and medical truths. However, the definitions of what constitutes health and disease are not so concrete, but influenced by the community in which health conditions occur. This course is designed to explore the subtle, yet critical, relationship connecting society, culture, and politics with physical and mental health both in the U.S. and throughout the world.

SPRING 2020

Computers and Complexity, Dario Ghersi

What do busy interstates, immune cells, ant colonies, social networks, and other natural and artificial systems have in common? This course provides an answer to this question by exploring the fundamental principles of Complexity through the use of simple computer programs. Topics of study will include chaos, self-reproducing computer programs, swarm behavior, and complex networks, with a special emphasis on biological systems. Students will have an opportunity to interact with, modify, and eventually build simple computer programs that will help them better understand the topics addressed in the course. Programming experience is not required, as the course will also cover the basics of Netlogo.

Mexican America, Thomas Sanchez

Ever wonder about who invented the taco and how it came to be such a seminal piece of U.S. culture and cuisine? When did Mexicans start coming to the U.S. and what happened to bring us (the United States) to where we are currently via immigration? The answers to these questions and more are the central part of this course, which will read pivotal books not by academics but by journalists (these books were written for popular consumption and not primarily for the classroom). The class, including the instructor, will fill in the academic pieces and answers to these and more questions about Mexican America and the many ways in which Mexicans and Mexican culture have influenced U.S. society.

Radical Environmental Politics, Beth Chalecki

Why do so-called eco-terror groups destroy things in the name of the environment? Does their viewpoint have any merit? Is obstruction and vandalism the best way to preserve ecological resources, or can we do better? This class will examine the phenomenon of environmental direct action: its antecedents in civil disobedience, the history of environmentalism, and how capitalism clashes with the health of the ecosystem. We will also consider how the FBI and law enforcement respond to terrorism, and if eco-terror groups are on the same level as Al Qaeda. Bring your own dynamite. Just kidding. Don't bring any dynamite.

Science and Society, Zach Darwish

From public health policy to the rise of the electric car, science helps inform and shape our society. While some scientific findings are readily accepted, others face an uphill battle against public opinion. What impacts our willingness to trust science in certain situations? We will discuss how scientific information is disseminated, ethical concerns about conducting research, the spread of information/misinformation, and how all of these factors influence the relationship between science and society. We will examine scientific research pertaining to topics of current societal importance including global climate change, the use of genetically modified foods, genome editing, and the handling of personal genomic data. Special attention will also be placed on discussing misinformation on these topics and avenues for scientists to connect their work to the general public.

Modern and Contemporary Art, Adrian Duran

A study of the most significant developments in art and architecture dating from the mid-19th century to the present. These works of art will be examined within varied contexts (artistic,

religious, political, economic, etc.). The artistic movements covered include Realism, Impressionism, Post- Impressionism, Symbolism, Art Nouveau, Cubism, Fauvism, German Expressionism, Russian Constructivism, Dadism, Social Realism and Regionalism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art, Op art, Minimalism, Post- Minimalism, Neoexpressionism, and Postmodernism.

A History of Ideas in Biology, Mark Schoenbeck

Our understanding of the phenomenon of life has progressed through the coalescence of facts into systematic conceptual frameworks guided by the application of reason. The history of this progress includes moments of inspiration and insight, clashes of world views, and, occasionally, fraud and deception. The history of ideas in biology is one strand embedded within the broad weave of the history of human culture, though its relative impact has, arguably, grown disproportionately in recent years. This course will examine some of the ideas, whether correct or incorrect, that have influenced our current provisional understanding of living systems, the cultural and historical contexts in which these ideas emerged, and their impacts on science and society.

FALL 2019

Entrepreneurial Foundations, Dale Eesley

Students taking this class will learn how entrepreneurial behavior empowers them to assess risk and take action, leading to the creation of new businesses, social enterprises or corporate practices that have an impact on themselves and others. The course will explore the many paths available to entrepreneurs and will include a special focus on the Lean Startup methodology. Lectures on management, marketing, human resources and finance are specially crafted to address the entrepreneur's most critical needs. The class adopts a hands-on approach: student teams will apply their learning by consulting for a local business and writing a business development plan, and this class will directly connect them with the entrepreneurial community with guest speakers and opportunities to attend local entrepreneurship events and gatherings.

Viewing Bollywood, Tanushree Ghosh

This course provides a historical and thematic introduction to Hindi cinema. As we watch films chronologically, we will engage with aesthetics, stylistic techniques, narrative conventions, and viewing contexts very different from Hollywood aesthetics. We will closely engage with Indian history and cultural issues in order to explore how Hindi cinema responds to key events, such as the freedom movement, partition of India, national discourse of progress, the Emergency, and globalization. Course topics will include Nation and Citizenship, "Art" vs. Commercial Cinema, Melodrama and Realism, Film Music and Dance, Diasporic cinema, and Gender and Cultural Identities.

Law, Learning, and Values, Andrew Faltin

Uncertainty is inherent in legal reasoning, and the law is replete with complex ethical and policy consideration. As such, learning the law is an ideal platform for students to explore the development of their learning and normative foundations. This course will integrate cognitive development theory, moral development theory, and legal analysis. Students will read court

cases as well as research on cognitive and moral development theory. The course will cover cases and core legal concepts (e.g. law versus equity, due process, and fundamental liberties). While exploring cases and concepts, students will continuously reflect on how learning about the law transforms their cognitive and moral development.

Biosocial Human Behavior, Joseph Schwartz

What causes human behavior? Why do people behave differently when exposed to similar circumstances? What accounts for behavioral changes in the same person over time? Out of these questions, a massive number of theoretical perspectives and explanations have proliferated, eventually culminating into the “nature vs. nurture war” that pitted the innate or biological (nature) against socialization processes (nurture). Out of this questioning has emerged a new, more interdisciplinary perspective, which aims to integrate findings from research focused on uncovering the biological and social factors that collectively shape behavior. This perspective—the *biosocial* perspective—demonstrates a new era’s dawn in the behavioral sciences. This course will examine the biosocial perspective more closely with particular emphasis on how this perspective provides greater insight into the development of human behavior.

Storytelling with Data, Sachin Pawaskar

In today’s inter-connected world, whether we like it or not, we all live and work in a world of data—big data; or, “humongous, colossal, ginormous, astronomical data” is much more accurate. This data comes from everywhere: sensors used to gather climate information, posts to social media sites, digital pictures and videos, purchase transaction records, and cell phone GPS signals, to name a few. While most data are unstructured, large amounts of data contain structure and can be used by businesses to help their organizations make better and more efficient business decisions. Data visualization is critical to managing big data, and can essentially be defined as the science (analytical) and art (design) of manipulating and presenting data for expression and cognitive recognition.

SPRING 2019

Self, Genetics, and Society, Bruce Chase

Genetic technologies are advancing at a rapid rate, and it’s easy and inexpensive to identify our individual genetic makeup. For millennia, humans selectively bred crops and livestock, but now can not only modify their genetic make-up at will, but also our own. These technologies reframe longstanding philosophical and sociological questions about how we understand ourselves and our roles in society in a new light. Should those of us who can afford it modify our genome to our perceived advantage? Dare we use genetic and cell culture technologies to circumvent historical ethical boundaries to experiment on human tissues? This class will consider the evolving landscape in which these and other questions are evaluated and regulated. Students will read, discuss and write about recent primary and secondary literature and current law relevant to these issues. This class will also include a service learning component that will help students better understand perspectives of the “common man” and confront the challenges that we, as a society, face in using genetic technologies in an equitable manner.

Loneliness in Literature & Life, Todd Richardson

Loneliness is an increasing threat to public health. More than 1 in 4 Americans lives alone, and a majority of Americans report loneliness as a significant factor in their lives. It is associated with higher rates of depression and anxiety, and prolonged loneliness substantially decreases life expectancy, even more than obesity and smoking do. In this class, we will consider the psychology of loneliness and its effects on wellbeing. As well, we'll consider the cultural effects of "organized loneliness" and how it contributes to decreases in civic participation and communal ties. Central to our discussion will be literature's representation of loneliness, reading texts that have represented loneliness and isolation, paying special attention to the changing nature in "social pain" over the last 50 years.

Geographies of Revolution, Matt Patton

Students will explore and articulate human and physical geographies at the heart of revolutions throughout the world. Included in our investigations will be political, cultural, intellectual, and social revolutions and we will consistently examine our perceptions of revolution. As a country born of revolution, Americans have a unique lens through which all revolutions are framed. This course seeks to unpack the layers of geographies that prime peoples for revolution and shape contemporary and modern analyses of revolutions. By utilizing primary source materials, we will recreate the moments surrounding the beginnings, contradictions, and endings that ultimately make or break revolutions. We will use examples from the past to analyze current paradigm shifts and revolutions.

Art and Visual Culture, Adrian Duran

Every day, we are bombarded by thousands of images: web pages, advertisements, tv, streaming content, tattoos, paintings, drawings, memes. How we absorb and understand this avalanche is one of the central concerns of contemporary life. This class will help students build an arsenal of awarenesses that will help them interpret, critique, and overstand the visual field of everyday life. In addition, students will engage objects and ideas that bridge the assumed divide between High and Low Art, elite and popular culture, thus revealing how these, too, are complicit in the ever-growing visual frenzy of the 21st century. Off-campus trips to museums, galleries, and other sites are planned.

Race & Politics in American Sports, Dan Hawkins

We have all heard American sports fans declare that "politics have no place in sports" or that "athletes should just shut up and play." Such statements ignore that all social institutions, including sport, reflect and respond to the political environment of the era. In particular, in the U.S., the intersection of politics and sports cannot be understood without exploring the unique role that race plays in both arenas. In this course, we will examine figures and phenomenon from the world of American sport and beyond, from the O.J. Simpson trial to Americans' continuing dislike of soccer to the varied reactions to Colin Kaepernick's kneeling protest. In doing so, we will learn how sport can be used to both reinforce and challenge the political and racial status quo in the United States.

FALL 2018

Social Construction of Health and Disease, Aja Kneip Pelster

Health and disease, in the society and culture of the United States, are perceived as clearly defined concepts linked by evidence to scientific and medical truths. However, the definitions of what constitutes health and disease are not so concrete, but influenced by the community in which health conditions occur. This course is designed to explore the subtle, yet critical, relationship connecting society, culture, and politics with physical and mental health both in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Jane Austen's England, Lucy Morrison

Elizabeth Bennett and Marianne Dashwood struggle to get through the mud and challenges of polite society to find a husband in Austen's world—but what else are we missing in her texts? This course will explore the heroines' (and others') journeys within the larger context of Britain during Jane Austen's lifetime. We will indulge in the author's biography as it informs our understanding, and students will read and discuss Austen's novels while learning about the customs of life at the time and how history and culture inform our understanding of the texts.

OmahaArt: Omaha's Public Murals, Matt Patton

In this course, students will participate in a semester-long service learning project with the Joslyn Art Museum. Working with experts there, we will determine the essential elements that constitute murals, including the means by which we evaluate large public works of art. Concurrently, students will immerse themselves in Omaha's murals, first by mapping the locations of various murals and then by gathering feedback from neighborhood residents to gain insights into how these murals impact local communities. Throughout the semester we will use historical records, feedback from Omaha residents, and knowledge gained from Joslyn staff to produce a final coffee table book of the murals evaluated.

SPRING 2018

Sacred Places, Matt Patton

What does sacred mean? What makes a place sacred? Does a sacred place have to be somewhere you can visit? In Omaha and Nebraska, natural and built landscapes, art installations, and works of literature surround us. These places and items may or may not be interpreted as sacred. In this course, we will discuss the nature of sacred. How do humans construct sacred spaces and places? Is sacred reserved for holy sites or can we label anything as sacred? In addition to reading about sacred places, we will be visiting local sites that can be interpreted as sacred. We will explore sacred views in religion, literature, history, art, geography, and other subjects. We will have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers discuss the nature of sacred and visit sites that may be considered sacred.

Sacred and Violent, Ramazan Kilinc

This course will investigate the complex relationship between religion and violence in the three major Abrahamic traditions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), covering a wide span of states and societies from the Middle East to the United States, from ancient times until the modern era,

with more emphasis on the latter. This interdisciplinary course will examine historical, political, economic, sociological, anthropological and psychological reasons behind religion-related violence in a comparative perspective. Building on historical experience the course will also identify the conditions for co-existence and religious pluralism. To analyze the individual stories of religious co-existence, students are expected to conduct fieldwork and interviews with members of Omaha's Tri-Faith Initiative and, in so doing, will connect the theoretical knowledge on religion, violence and peace with practical experiences of real people from the community. This service learning project will produce an informal history of the emergence of the Tri-Faith Initiative and teach the students the challenges and opportunities of religious pluralism in an era of increasing global polarization.

Maverick Start-Ups, Dale Eesley

Students taking this class will learn how entrepreneurial behavior empowers them to assess risk and take action, leading to the creation of new businesses, social enterprises or corporate practices that have an impact on themselves and others. The course will focus on the Lean Startup methodology, which applies the scientific process of validating hypotheses to radically improve the odds of startup success. Lectures on management, marketing, human resources and finance are specially crafted to address the entrepreneur's most critical needs. Students will read books from the popular business press as well as make use of an online platform designed to guide them through the lean startup process. The key deliverable for each student team will be a presentation of a validated business model canvas for a new product or service. The class is taught as a workshop with numerous guest speakers.

Communication, Meaning and Culture, Abbie Syrek

Communication, Meaning, and Culture is a dynamic course that explores the many ways in which communication affects our personal, professional, and social lives. We will consider a wide range of communication phenomenon and learn how unique contexts shape our creation and interpretation of verbal and nonverbal messages. The course will examine how communication symbolically shapes our world and how we interpret and assign meaning to our environment. Students will apply communication theory to a variety of issues, including our intrapersonal self talk, family dynamics, romantic relationships, gender, culture, race, physical appearance, the media, and even the meaning behind the food we eat and its personal and social significance. The course will also prepare students to analyze and critique the communication of others and implement problem-solving solutions into personal, professional, and civic life. Students will gain skills to improve their use of communication as a tool for success and empowerment.

Viruses and Society, Bill Tapprich and Lucy Morrison

Viruses surround us, lurking on door handles, on coins, in the very air we breathe. But what happens when we encounter new viruses—and how does society react? In this Honors colloquium, students will be exposed (pun intended) to the establishment, history, and development of two viruses in particular, considering their scientific origins and evolution as well as how they infiltrated real and popular human society and culture. We'll start with HIV in the 1980s and consider literary reactions to as well as the fundamental science of its progress around the globe. Then we'll move to a more recent threat: Ebola. Students will be challenged to

follow the science and literary creations of these viruses and explore both disciplines' reactions to and manipulations of viruses.

FALL 2017

American Immigration History & Literature, Danielle Battisti & Chuck Johanningsmeier

Students must take both courses: a course devoted to American Immigration History and another focused on U.S. Immigrant Narratives. The United States historically characterizes itself as “a nation of immigrants,” with the Statue of Liberty as its greatest symbol. Yet when this claim is examined more carefully, the emerging picture is much more complicated. These two linked courses will expand students' knowledge of the actual history of immigration to the United States, how immigrants have been treated by people already here, and the ways in which immigrants have responded to their experiences. The courses will examine how and why certain groups migrated to the United States, how immigrants shaped the development of the nation, and how immigrants and ethnic groups in America were in turn shaped by American society, politics, and laws.

Free Expression and Social Media, Jeremy Lipschultz

This course explores historical ideas about free speech, the First Amendment and international law, as well as policies and ethics, to understand current interest in social media. Through case studies and best practices, students will learn about successes and failures of communication within social network sites. Computer-mediated communication offers challenges and opportunities for learning about human behavior through core concepts of identity, interaction and community. By examining “big data” analysis techniques, privacy policies and media (journalism, PR, advertising and marketing) literacy, students will be empowered to use social media more effectively, cultivate a “personal brand,” and make meaningful professional network connections.

City of Omaha, Lucy Morrison

How does a city work? This course asks students to engage in their own urban environment and explore some of the many facets that make Omaha the city it is. This course will include experiential opportunities (there will be field trips) that illuminate how the city beyond UNO came to be established, developed, and has grown and adjusted over the years. Students will be expected to develop and pursue their own lines of questioning in researching and documenting an area of interest within the city beyond those addressed in the course; service learning with Omaha's City Planning Department will be part of our class work. Students will read from a variety of genres and sources as well as developing their own writing and researching practices. Journey through Omaha with fellow Honors students!

SPRING 2017

Eiseley's Century: Naturalist & Modern Shaman, Chris Dando, Bing Chen & George Engelmann

In this interdisciplinary seminar-style course, we will explore the works of Loren Eiseley, a native Nebraskan whose intense curiosity and keen observation led him to a career in science as an anthropologist. But his most influential and enduring legacy has been his essays and other writings that communicate his unique perspective on the nature of the universe at all scales—as well as our place in it. Eiseley’s territory is the intersection of science, philosophy, art and environmentalism. Given current concerns about our environment as well as our place in the universe, it is wholly appropriate that we examine Eiseley’s writing and its power to communicate, evoke, and inspire. Join us in this colloquium as we enter into and explore Eiseley’s world.

Nostalgia, Todd Richardson

Nostalgia (OED defined as a sentimental longing for or regretful memory of a period of the past, esp. one in an individual’s own lifetime) occupies a prominent yet fraught place within American culture. Often, nostalgia is viewed as a foolish sentimentality or, worse, as a perspective that glosses over past injustices; nostalgia can be beneficial to individuals, particularly in terms of mental health and social engagement. This colloquium will interrogate nostalgia’s complicated nature, considering its personal, cultural and political aspects through addressing American expressive culture in literature, films and television. Studying Willa Cather’s *My Antonia*, a complex literary representation of (and meditation on) nostalgia, will lead us to *Red Cloud*, Cather’s hometown and the novel’s setting. We will also consider the foundational role nostalgia plays in television programming, along with more personal expressions of nostalgia (e.g. the sharing of photographs), and the class’s major projects will encourage students to read and analyze everyday performances of nostalgia (this course has a service learning component).

Information, Biases, and Decisions, Jennifer Riley

Do people seem smarter if they use big words? Are you more likely to purchase something labeled “half off” or “save 50%”? Judgments we form and decisions we make are based on information we receive and how we process it. In this course, we will examine business and accounting information and how it is used to make decisions; we will also consider a variety of cognitive biases (the brain shortcuts that lead us to make decisions based on distortion, shortcuts, perceptual blindness, irrationality and ego) that contribute to bad decisions and misjudgments. We will need to address how information can be used to take advantage of cognitive biases to manipulate and influence others’ decisions. Our primary method of study will center around analysis of business and everyday world cases where information is used and misused—and where cognitive biases played a role.

Maps and Society, Matthew Patton

Maps are all around us and can contain limitless information. In “Maps and Society: Stone Age to Present Day” we will explore the nature of maps throughout history. We will view and analyze maps as works of art, community engagement, historical records, interactive media, politics, propaganda, religion, and as tools. Through the examination of select maps and map styles, students will gain a better understanding of how societies have portrayed their homelands and the world. We will also discuss the cartographic elements that make some maps more effective forms of communication than others. Over the course of the semester, we will create, interact with, and critique maps and implications for their use and interpretation. Through this process, we will discover there is more than one way to view a map.

FALL 2016

Hate Groups & Domestic Terrorism, Gina Ligon

This colloquium focuses on domestic hate groups and violent extremism; much of our energy will be spent examining why people hate, the factors that help produce domestic terrorism, and what society should do to counter this type of extremism. Students will cultivate two different types of cognitive and emotional skills: critical thinking and empathetic understanding. I will stress self-initiative, independent research and reading, and creative expression in response to both the assigned material and to the material you discover on your own. Class sessions will feature lively discussions of the material and current events as they unfold, and there may be some challenging texts and subjects with which we will have to engage. Come and learn more about the world around you—and some of the challenges we face in it today.

Innovation Unbound, Arthur Diamond

The “Great Fact” of economics is the spectacular rise in the length and quality of life that took off in the West about 250 years ago; understanding that “Great Fact” is key to continuing the human flourishing and economic dynamism most of us want. My in-progress book on Innovation Unbound, to be published by Oxford University Press, looks at the causes and effects of innovation, and this colloquium will explore the interdisciplinary roots of innovation and its progress. Sources include economics as well as management, philosophy, psychology, sociology, anthropology, history and biology; students will review and write and edit and explore. Come and innovate!

Literature and War, Lucy Morrison

What happens beyond the battlefield? This course considers war’s fringes—fictional looks at what happens when soldiers come home or while soldiers are gone. How are other-than-soldiers impacted by war, both in the country where combat is situated and those left at “home”? We’ll consider 20th century fiction, pairing Rebecca West’s Return of the Soldier with the “saddest story” of Ford Madox Ford’s The Good Soldier, before reading William Styron’s Sophie’s Choice, Gil Courtemanche’s A Sunday at the Pool in Kigali (viewing Hotel Rwanda); and more. Although the course’s subject matter is full of sadness, the glory of the prose will underscore art’s power to create beauty even from the ravages of humanity’s worst experiences.

SPRING 2016

The Melting Pot, Pamela Smith

This “issues raising” seminar is intended to probe, in-depth, notions, theories and attitudes that inform our American perspective on national culture and ethnicity. It begins with the genesis of the notion, “melting pot,” as created by Israel Zangwill in his 1908 play, The Melting Pot. Of interest and concern are how the many theories developed from Zangwill’s serious but idealistic notion have circumscribed the increasingly xenophobic responses to the realities of race relations and matters in America (as reflected in both the academy and in the everyday lives of the rank and file). What/who is/was American, then? Who/what is or is being allowed to be American? How will Frenchman de Creve Coeur or his fellow Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville characterize and define today what they respectively characterized as American freedom in the

18th century and democracy in the late 19th century? We will explore American writers' perspectives on the immigrant experience in America and the integrationist-segregationist spectrum from the early twentieth century integrationist ideal of Zangwill to the oppositional, Eurocentric stance of the late 1980s and 1990s and our post-2012 election.

Issues, Trends and Innovations in Education, Sandra Shillingstad

This education colloquia synthesizes political, theoretical, social, economic (opportunity gap) and practical topics in a 21st century context. Students in this course will consider and become familiar with and conversant about various issues, trends and innovations of public education practice; students will learn more about their own educational background and where the field is going. Topics that hold relevance to the current state of education in the United States and abroad will be discussed based on expertise of special speakers and pertinent selected readings. Students will emerge better informed about public education and its many issues and ramifications. Education fuels the future for us all, so seize the opportunity to understand the directions education can take us.

Information Technology and Start-Ups, Sajda Qureshi

Mobile applications, web tools and an ever faster internet (and all our devices) bring many opportunities, especially for small businesses and start-ups. But only 20% of small businesses survive. What can be done to increase this number? Using electronic commerce tools and techniques can help start-ups to grow more than three times their initial size. In this colloquium, we will explore the needs in peoples' lives that can be improved using electronic commerce. Students will learn about mobile applications, web 2.0 and 3.0 tools, and will develop business plans to improve people's lives. No technological background is required, but a willingness to learn, experiment, and participate in service learning is. Bring the talents you have and join the effort and enterprise!

FALL 2015

Free Expression and Social Media, Jeremy Lipschultz

This course explores historical ideas about free speech, the First Amendment and international law, as well as policies and ethics, to understand current interest in social media. Through case studies and best practices, students will learn about successes and failures of communication within social network sites. Computer-mediated communication offers challenges and opportunities for learning about human behavior through core concepts of identity, interaction and community. By examining "big data" analysis techniques, privacy policies and media (journalism, PR, advertising and marketing) literacy, students will be empowered to use social media more effectively, cultivate a "personal brand," and make meaningful professional network connections.

Israel and Palestine, Dr. Moshe Gershovich

It's been in the news for six and a half decades, but what do you really know about long-standing disputes and ongoing concerns surrounding the Arab-Israeli conflict? Amid continued violence and belligerent rhetoric, the Palestinian question remains uncertain. This course will outline the history of the conflict over Palestine/Israel, examine its present status, and explore its likely

unfolding in the future. It seeks to provide a broad and concise understanding of the historical events which have shaped the relations between Israelis and Palestinians, as well as a keen awareness of the challenges and prospects related to their future. Students will contribute, via discussions and essays about historical documents, literature, and films, to an improved understanding of this conflict and potential outcomes.

City of Omaha, Lucy Morrison

How does a city work? This course asks students to engage in their own urban environment and explore some of the many facets that make Omaha the city it is. From the Omaha World-Herald to the Storm Chasers, the course will engage in experiential opportunities (so there will be required field trips on some Friday afternoons) that illuminate how the city beyond UNO came to be established, developed, and has grown and adjusted over the years. The course will consider sports, media, transport, and other layers to be determined, and students will be expected to develop and pursue their own lines of questioning in researching and documenting an area of interest within the city beyond those addressed in the course. Students will read from a variety of genres and sources as well as developing their own writing and researching practices. Journey through Omaha with fellow Honors students!