

Honors Program Courses: Spring 2009

Core Seminars

HUM 127 0H1: Intro to Philosophy, Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 -10:45, Room 2735, Instructor: Carlos Briones

EGL 228 0H1: Gender, Identity and Literature, Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 – 12:15, Room 2735, Instructor: Marian Staats

This learning community addresses the social construction of identity through the literature and philosophy of erotic love, including intersections of race, gender, and sexuality. Who we are and how we identify as subjects depends largely upon whom we imagine we can become, and philosophy, literature and the cinema offer spaces to play with such dimensions of subjectivity, adopting roles, adapting to new expressions of identity, and sometimes rethinking these categories altogether. Reading literary and film texts in conjunction with philosophical essays about love and sexuality will help us flesh out significant metaphysical, epistemological, ethical and sociopolitical debates: Are sexuality, gender and race essential aspects of identity, or are they socially constructed? Do different historical periods have equally valid ways of reasoning, or is there a best set of concepts and a privileged point of view for gaining access to knowledge? Can we determine what is moral through reason, as most male philosophers have argued, or should we do this by emphasizing care and the emotions, as some feminists propose? Does the traditional family offer the best structure to engender a just society, or does it ensure the continued oppression of women and other minority groups?

Carlos Briones holds an MA in Philosophy from the University of Houston and Marian Staats holds a Ph.D. in English from Loyola University in Chicago.

Both courses meet IAI requirements for transfer.

EGL 129 0H1: Introduction to Literature, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 – 10:45, Room 2735, Instructor: Madhuri Deshmukh

PHL 240 0H1: Philosophy of Religion, Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 – 12:15, Room 2735, Instructor: Joo Lee

This Honors Core Seminar combining Philosophy of Religion with Introduction to Literature will explore the “Big Questions” of human existence that the world’s great religions and the world’s great literature have sought to address, such as the meaning of suffering, the reality of death, and the difference between good and evil. We will read ancient religious texts, such as “The Book of Job,” the *Bhagavad Gita*, and Buddhist tales, alongside works of philosophy, poetry and fiction from diverse traditions. We will not only interrogate the differences and similarities in the ways that philosophy and

literature approach these “Big Questions,” but we will explore the *diversity* of religious and literary approaches.

Madhuri Deshmukh holds a Ph.D. in English from Loyola University in Chicago and Joo Lee holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Pennsylvania State University.

Both courses meet IAI requirements for transfer

Single Section Honors Courses

**English 102 0H1: Composition II, Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 – 1:45, Room 2735
Instructor: Marian Staats**

The primary objectives of English 102 are that you further develop your analytic abilities and that you become effective, resourceful research writers. In this section, focused on questions of “reconstructing gender,” you will be deepening your understanding of gender issues from diverse **cultural** perspectives, exploring how sex and gender shape our desires, experiences, identities, and relationships. You will also have the opportunity to collaborate on the topics and develop assignments for this course.

Marian Staats holds a Ph.D. in English from Loyola University in Chicago.

**English 201 0H1: Creative Writing: Tuesday, 2:00 – 4:45, Room 2735, Instructor:
Sylvia Stacey**

Become a working writer. Share your work. Read stories and poems by contemporary writers. Analyze. Examine. Satisfy your creative impulse.

Sylvia Stacey holds an MA in English from Loyola University in Chicago.

**Psychology 240 0H1: Social Research, Friday, 9:30 – 12:15, Room 2735, Instructor:
Joan Warmbold-Boggs**

This course will introduce students to the basics of research in the social sciences by exploring scientific principles, processes and methods of inquiry. Content will include critical evaluation of research studies, major research designs and methodologies, statistical analysis of data and interpretation of research data. Students will design, conduct, and interpret an original research study.

Joan Warmbold-Boggs holds an MA in Psychology from Western Michigan University.

**Speech 103 0H1: Effective Speech, Monday and Wednesday, 12:30 – 1:45, Room
2735, Instructor: Kathleen Carot**

Studies show that oral communication skills are the top factor in determining professional and personal success. Through formal and informal solo and group projects, we will develop techniques for creating powerful oral presentations and improving interpersonal and small group communication skills. As a Women's and Gender Studies special section, our course will place special emphasis on current research and theoretical approaches to gender communication, in order to think critically about how gender impacts all aspects of culture and society, including education, media and politics. Critical thinking, social justice issues and communication ethics will all go into the classroom mix. If you would like to refine your oral presentation abilities in a supportive yet challenging environment, then this is the course for you. Honors Speech 103 satisfies a communications general education requirement.

Kathleen Carot holds an MM in Theater Arts from Roosevelt University. She is also the coordinator of the Women's and gender Studies Program at Oakton Community College.

PHL 290 0H1: Advanced Political Philosophy: Violence, Political Action and Justice, Wednesday, 2:00 – 4:45, Room 2735, Instructor: Thomas Bowen

The 20th century, like so many others, was primarily a century of war and violence. If the early years of this first decade are any indicator, the 21st century will also be defined in terms of the wars and acts of violence that mark it. However, the 20th century also saw the collapse of European colonial rule throughout much of the world, the growth of Solidarity in Poland, the so-called Orange Revolution, the more or less peaceful collapse of Apartheid in South Africa, and, various nonviolent movements for social justice and peace (e.g. Gandhi, MLK, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa). This class will explore the question of “violence” and its role in political life and activity. Specifically, we will address three general questions: what is the role of violence and force in the construction of identities (as American, white, black, male, female, heterosexual, homosexual)? What is the role of violence in the search for and enforcement of justice and law, as well as in the very formation of states? Finally, what possibilities are there for reimagining or enacting a different way of political action not based on violence?