

## HON Seminars for Spring 2015

**Note concerning GEP Category:** In many cases the course will slot into the designated GEP category in your degree audit. However, this often does not occur for a variety of reasons. Your curriculum may use an alternate GEP list for certain or all categories. The HON 29X courses that have more than one category or that include GK or USD will not automatically slot into the GK or USD category, nor will they slot into a second or third GEP category if more than one is listed. We can almost always manage to get those courses where they belong, so as long as you are trying to a course to satisfy one of the categories we have indicated (as opposed to a category you think they should fit in), we will succeed in doing so. This sometimes cannot happen until after the semester has started, but it does happen.

### **HON 290-001: The Golden Age of Athens**

**GEP Category:** Humanities (History); Global Knowledge

**Instructor:** Dr. Molly M. Pryzwansky

**Days & Time:** TuTh 13:30-14:45

**Location:** HVC Conference 202

**Description:** This class explores Athens during the “Golden Age” of the 5th century BCE, when the polis was at the apex of its wealth and power. The scope of the course is broad, as we shall consider the political and military events of the era alongside its cultural, social and artistic developments.

We begin with the Persian Wars (499-479 BCE), when the Greek mainland was invaded by Persian kings. Athens proved pivotal in defending Greece as a whole, later using this prestige to build its empire. The empire, in turn, threatened Athens’ rival state, Sparta, and Greece was plunged into the Peloponnesian War (431-404) at the close of the century. Although the 5th century is mired in warfare, the age also saw the rise of democracy, the birth of history writing (Herodotus and Thucydides), and the height of Greek theater. It is during the 5th century that some of Greece’s most famous playwrights – Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes – were all active in Athens, making the polis the cultural center of the Greek world. Moreover, some of Athens’ most lasting artistic and architectural monuments, such as the Parthenon, were also creations of this “Golden Age.”

In this class, we shall ask how Athens contributed to the formation and spread of democracy, and how its empire and politics influenced its artistic products. Lastly, we shall ask how it happens that Athens entered the Peloponnesian War as the strongest power in Greece, only to lose the War to Sparta in the end.

In the first half of the semester, there will be three short response papers (3 pp. each) that will teach the mechanics of critical reading and writing in history. In the second half of the semester, each student will produce a research paper on a topic of his/her choice (10 pp.), exploring one aspect of 5th-century Athens. The final paper will be written in stages so as to emphasize the process of research and revision. There will be no formal tests, but there will be two short quizzes (20-30 min.) to test factual knowledge. Active, informed seminar participation will be emphasized and will make up 20% of the final grade.

#### **Instructor information:**

Molly Pryzwansky received her B.A. in Classical Civilizations from Wellesley College (Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude, with honors in Classical Studies). Her Ph.D. in Classical Studies comes from Duke University, where she was the recipient of the Bass Advanced Instructorship in 2006-7. In 2007-8, Dr. Pryzwansky held the Kathryn Conway Preyer Fellowship for Advanced Study in History from Wellesley College for her work on Suetonius, a 2nd-cent. A.D. Roman biographer. Dr. Pryzwansky has also studied

at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, the American Academy in Rome, and the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. Since 2011 she has been a Research Associate (rédacteur) for *L'Année Philologique*, American Office. Her article on the reception of Cornelius Nepos was recently published in the *Classical Journal* ("Cornelius Nepos: Key Issues and Critical Approaches," *CJ* 105.2 [2009-10]: 97-108) and she has recently spoken at the annual meetings of the American Philological Association, the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, and the Archaeological Institute of America.

### **HON 290-002: The Intersection of Myth and History in the British Isles, 1066-1328**

**GEP Category:** Humanities (History)

**Instructor:** Dr. Helen C. Perros

**Days & Time:** MW 13:30-14:45

**Location:** Withers 246

**Description:** This course analyzes the interplay between myth and history within the different parts of the British Isles in the High Middle Ages as England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales each forged its own sense of identity and destiny. The time covered extends from the Norman conquest of England in 1066, through the gradual imposition of Anglo-Norman control over the largely Celtic parts of the British Isles, to 1328 when England recognized Scotland's independence and its authority in Ireland was receding. The course focuses on the Anglo-Normans' appropriation, refashioning and use of British (Celtic) Arthurian legend to create an empire in the British Isles, and on the impact that they had on the identities and mythologies of the Welsh, Scots and Irish. Much attention is given to the interface between myth and history: how well did the various mythologies adapt to change, align with the realities of political, military and economic power, and reflect the complex, multicultural societies that now existed? Ultimately, the course endeavors to ascertain the part that myth played in the Anglo-Normans' successes and failures in Wales, Scotland and Ireland in the High Middle Ages, and, more broadly, it tries to provide a greater awareness of the role of myth in history.

#### **Instructor information:**

Helen Perros obtained her B.A. in History and Political Science and her Ph.D. in medieval Irish history from Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. Her doctoral thesis examined the role of the Anglo-Normans in Connacht, Ireland, and she has published articles on both Anglo-Norman and pre-Norman Connacht. Her current research is on cultural identity in this frontier society.

Dr. Perros has been teaching in the History Department at NCSU since 1983. She has taught "The Middle Ages" and "The High Middle Ages" and has directed independent studies in "Early Christian Ireland" and "Ireland in the High Middle Ages". She has also given an Encore course on "The Ancient Celts and their Legacy".

An important part of Dr. Perros's teaching practice has been to have students explore a different special topic within the set curriculum every semester. This has made possible a more in-depth study of a wide array of fascinating subjects ranging from marriage and the family in the Middle Ages to medieval military technology to Dante. Special topics that provided some of the seeds for this Honors seminar course include Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain*, which introduced Arthur into European literature, the Arthurian romances of Chrétien de Troyes, and the medieval British Isles. The seminar also, of course, ties in with her research interest in cultural identity in societies that came into conflict and contact with one another as a result of Anglo-Norman expansion.

### **HON 293-001: Representing Animals**

**GEP Category:** Humanities (Literature)

**Instructor:** Dr. John D. Morillo

**Days & Time:** MW 15:00-16:15

**Location:** T0G126

**Description:** How and why have people represented animals in words and images? How has it changed from the classical period to the present? What do different fields suggest can be known about animals, why does that knowledge matter, and to whom? Are they granted consciousness, ethical importance, spirit, or independent agency? Are they seen as more suitable a subject of knowledge for children or for adults? Do they have a place and stake in human politics, and if so, why? Readings will necessarily be selective rather than exhaustive, and will include examples from fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, and from English, American, and some other literatures in translation. As a course grounded in literature and taught by an English professor, the importance of how these fields write about their animal subjects and construct them rhetorically as objects of knowledge and interest will be central, but visual representations (film, video, TV, advertising) will complement the readings.

Authors and texts (from prior offering, may change for Spring 2015): Genesis I, Lucretius Nature of Things, Pliny Natural History, Aesop Fables, Medieval Bestiaries, Reynard the Fox, Elements of Zoography, Cowper poems, Taylor A Vindication of the Rights of Brutes, Kipling Jungle Book, North Rascal, Dick Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, Bennett Soul of a Lion

#### **Instructor information:**

Dr. John Morillo has been teaching Eighteenth-Century and Romantic literature at NC State for twenty years, and directed Graduate Programs in English from 2002-2005. In 2013 he was awarded both the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award and the Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award. He enjoys teaching literature and theories of literary interpretation, the rise and fall of genres, and foundations of research in the humanities. He has taught all ranks and ages of students in graduate and undergraduate programs. He has been a member of the board of directors for First Year Inquiry Classes for freshmen, and has taught classes for that program, as well as English Honors courses. His research has focused on the relationship between the Neoclassical and Romantic periods, and the history of representations of emotion in literature and criticism during those periods in Britain, and he has published in all of those areas. He is now interested in human-animal relations in the same periods. His own undergraduate degree is from Reed College, where he majored in English and minored in French, and his MA and PhD are from the University of Chicago. He likes to play music and to build things, including fish ponds and HO-scale train layouts. His pets include a fire-bellied newt over thirty years old. In the best of all possible worlds he would spend more time playing tennis and music, fly-fishing, and traveling with his family, Andrea Atkin, who works in NCSU's First Year College, and William, who is a student at Broughton High.

### **HON 293-002: The Powers of Horror: Horror Fiction and Film**

**GEP Category:** Humanities (Literature)

**Instructor:** Dr. Thomas P. Phillips

**Days & Time:** TuTh 13:30-14:45

**Location:** T0G126

**Description:** As applied to creative disciplines, the term horror has many connotations that reflect diverse aesthetic styles and ideologies over what is arguably a long span of time. Like other genres, horror is also deeply imprinted by the entertainment industry, particularly in the 20th and 21st centuries. This section of HON 293 will examine the genre through a variety of literary and cinematic

texts (among others, including music and painting) with the aim of gaining insight into the central question of why we are drawn to horror as entertainment and cultural practice. Additionally, the course will explore five commonly overlapping aspects of the genre: the psychology of spectatorship, horror as cultural commentary, gender, religion, and the democratization of discursive and visual art forms.

Students will be asked to engage with readings ranging from literary to theoretical texts on the aesthetics and psychology of horror as it relates to each medium. Most films will be viewed outside of class at designated times and places or at the student's convenience, though we will watch clips in class. Evaluation will be based on class participation, one response essay, a longer research-based essay, and a final exam.

#### Fiction

Don DeLillo, *Point Omega*  
Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown"  
Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House*  
M. R. James, "A Warning to the Curious"  
T.E.D. Klein, "The Events at Poroth Farm"  
H.P. Lovecraft, "The Outsider"  
Karl Edward Wagner, "Sticks"

#### Film

John Carpenter, *Halloween*  
William Friedkin, *The Exorcist*  
Alfred Hitchcock, *Psycho*  
Chris Kentis and Laura Lau, *Silent House*  
Stanley Kubrick, *The Shining*  
Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sánchez, *The Blair Witch Project*

#### **Instructor information:**

Having completed a multidisciplinary Ph.D. at Concordia University, Montreal, in 2007, I am currently active as an English lecturer, a fiction and theory writer, and a composer of minimalist, electro-acoustic music. I have had the great fortune of seeing these creative endeavors come to fruition in book publication and in numerous CD releases. I also perform music, alone and in collaboration, on an international scale. However, literary scholarship (most recently on brevity and the contemporary French novel) and pedagogy remain central to my artistic work in so far as they afford an invaluable theoretical foundation, not to mention an immensely pleasurable career.

#### **HON 295-001: Code Breakers: Unlocking the Mysteries of One Human Language**

**GEP Category:** Social Sciences; Global Knowledge

**Instructor:** Dr. Tiffany Kershner

**Days & Time:** MW 13:30-14:45

**Location:** UHP Conference Room 205

**Description:** This course will introduce you to the architecture of one language. As a class we will work from scratch with a speaker of a language that none of us know, with the goal of unlocking the mysteries of that language at all levels—sound system, word formation, sentence structure, semantics and pragmatics. In essence, you will be introduced to techniques of linguistic and anthropological research and analysis through direct work with a native speaker of an unfamiliar language. By working with a native speaker consultant in the classroom, we will approximate in some way what it is like to do

fieldwork. In this class, you will learn how to elicit field data through direct questioning and gathering of texts, how to organize field data, how to prepare entries in a field dictionary, and how to organize and write a grammar. At the end of the class you will be asked to present a mini-description of the language. Students will meet with the native speaker in the class as well as for 30 minutes outside of class to investigate one aspect of the language's grammar. We will also discuss the rewards, difficulties, and responsibilities of fieldwork. No previous courses in linguistics are required. The identity of the language will be revealed on the first day of class.

**Instructor information:**

Hailing from a small coal-mining town in northeastern Pennsylvania, Dr. Tiffany Kershner began her training in anthropology at the University of Iowa where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and with Distinction and Honors. After Iowa, she received a Masters Degree in Anthropology from SUNY-Albany. Her training continued at Indiana University where she focused on linguistics and African languages, completing another MA and then her doctorate in Linguistics. After several years teaching at Kansas State University, Dr. Kershner recently joined NC State in Fall 2011 as their new Coordinator for Distinguished Scholarships and Fellowships. Dr. Kershner has an extensive background in linguistic and cultural anthropology, descriptive linguistics, and African languages. She has done intensive fieldwork amongst the Sukwa culture of Malawi, through which she received funding through a Fulbright Fellowship and a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant. She also served for two years as an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Carleton College. Some of her current research interests in language and culture include folk ethnobiological classification systems, African oral literature, language and gender, cultural semantics and pragmatics, and tense, aspect, and verb classification systems. She began a new linguistic documentation project in Comoros in the summer 2008.

**HON 296-001: Fiction and the Sciences**

**GEP Category:** Interdisciplinary Perspectives; Humanities (Literature)

**Instructor:** Dr. Catherine Mary Mainland

**Days & Time:** TuTh 10:15-11:30

**Location:** WN 00012

**Description:** This course will examine critical points of convergence between the sciences and fiction. The classes will consider a variety of approaches to fiction that will draw on discussions of topics ranging from the physical sciences to sociology. The aim will be to develop the students' understanding of the symbiotic relationship between technological, social, and scientific change, and the necessary artistic process of imagining a changed world.

**Instructor information:**

Catherine Mainland studied German in her native Scotland before moving to North Carolina in 2001. She received her MA and PhD in Germanic Languages and Literatures from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2006, then a second MA in English Literature from NCSU in 2008. She has taught a range of American and Western World Literature survey courses, both at NCSU and Campbell University. Given this diverse background, she considers herself a generalist, and has published and presented on Kate Chopin, Georg Hermann, Mary Shelley and ETA Hoffmann, literature pedagogy, and Scottish literature of the fourteenth century. In her spare time, Dr. Mainland reads in English, German, Dutch, and French, and talks about literature with her book club. If no-one else is available, she'll also talk about literature to her increasingly senile cats, who enjoy this immensely.

### **HON 296-002: Politics and Literature**

**GEP Category:** Interdisciplinary Perspectives

**Instructor:** Dr. Sandy H. Kessler

**Days & Time:** TuTh 15:00-16:15

**Location:** HVC Conference Room 202

**Description:** This course explores important political ideas and issues through the lens of great literature. During our time together, we will focus chiefly on two topics of great current interest: the role of science and technology in modern life and the moral and political significance of religion. The tentative readings for the science unit are Bacon's *New Atlantis*, Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (selections), Hawthorne's "The Birthmark," E.M. Forster's "The Machine Stops," and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. The tentative readings for the religion unit are Aristophanes' *The Clouds*, Plato's *Apology*, Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, Montesquieu's *The Persian Letters* (selections), Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* (selections), Kafka's *The Trial*, Wiesel's *Night* and Bolt's, *A Man for All Seasons*. If time permits, we may also consider the effects of democracy on good character and on the relationship between the sexes. The tentative readings for this unit would be Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* and Aristophanes', *The Assembly of Women*.

#### **Instructor information:**

Sanford Kessler teaches political theory and American political thought at NC State. He was a Park Faculty Scholar for five years and currently teaches in NC State's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and serves as a faculty adviser (with Aaron Stoller) for Cavedwellers, an informal philosophy discussion group for undergraduates. Dr. Kessler also taught for many years in Central Prison as a volunteer and at Duke University as an adjunct associate professor.

Dr. Kessler's chief research interests are in the relationship between religion and modern political thought and in the political thought of Alexis de Tocqueville. He has written a book entitled *Tocqueville's Civil Religion: American Christianity and the Prospects for Freedom* (SUNY Press, 1994), edited an abridged edition of *Tocqueville's Democracy in America* (Hackett Publishing Co., 2000) and co-edited (with Traci Reid) *American Debates on Sexual Equality* (Bloomsbury Press, 2013). He has also published articles in *The Journal of Politics*, *The Review of Politics*, *Polity*, *Interpretation*, and *The Journal of Church and State*.

### **HON 296-003: Creative Non-Fiction as Civic Discourse: Reading, Writing, & Making Environmental Literature**

**GEP Category:** Interdisciplinary Perspectives; Humanities: Literature

**Instructor:** Dr. Sheryl A. Cornett

**Days & Time:** MW 13:30-14:45

**Location:** HVC Conference Room 202

**Description:** When NCSU's distinguished Walt Wolfram gave his Aims of Education Address at UHP's Fall-2014 Convocation, he quoted Einstein's famous line "Imagination is more important than Knowledge." As Wolfram's career attests, both are vital to making new information and applying it concretely to the here and now.

The purpose of this seminar is to join the public conversation and debate on local and global environmental concerns affecting our daily lives in North Carolina, with some emphasis on food culture/security and agriculture. While examining selections of contemporary Creative Non Fiction (sometimes known as literary journalism, narrative non-fiction, or the researched personal essay) we will practice analytical, evaluative close reading, critical response-writing, and imaginative/creative non-

fiction writing. The aim in generating original works of reflection and inquiry is to participate in (by contributing new material to) the ongoing public discussion on environmental and agricultural issues at our time in history. Making new Environmental Literature, via writing our own experiences, takes into consideration the ever-evolving knowledge bases, political platforms, and cultural aspects that inform current conversations. There will be an optional experiential service-learning opportunity to “farm” a campus vegetable garden (1-2 hours per month); the produce from this will be donated to “Feed the Pack” food pantry.

**Instructor information:**

Sheryl Cornett has taught a wide range of writing and literature courses at North Carolina State University, where she is the 2014-2015 University Honors Program Scholar in Residence. Her recent poems, stories, scholarship, criticism, and creative non-fiction appear in the *Southern Women's Review*, *North Carolina Literary Review*, *Image*, *Pembroke Magazine*, *Mars Hill Review*, and *The Independent Weekly* among other journals and magazines; and in anthologies such as *In a Fine Frenzy: Poets Respond to Shakespeare*. Recent conference presentations include “A Jane Austen for Our Time” at Ireland’s West Cork Literary Festival, which was selected to appear in the essay collection *The Global Jane Austen* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.) Current research interests include the role of World War Two in North Carolina’s literary landscape and the significance of domestic architecture and gardens in creating fictional characters and story settings.

She holds degrees from Miami University, Ohio, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Seattle Pacific University and is the author of the forthcoming novella *Mourning into Dancing*.

**HON 297-001: Pollination: Biology & Economics**

**GEP Category:** Interdisciplinary Perspectives

**Instructor:** Dr. John T. Ambrose

**Days & Time:** MWF 13:30-14:20

**Location:** FYC Commons 104

**Description:** The pollination of our foods is of utmost importance to our society and to our standard of living, both in the US and throughout the world. This course takes a look at the seemingly wide array of biotic pollinators including insects, birds, bats, small mammals, man, etc. Emphasis is placed on the honey bee as our premier pollinator with a close look at its biology, behavior, economics, and association with man. We then go on to compare the other pollinators with the honey bee which is unfortunately seriously declining in numbers throughout the world. We also look at the economics of pollination and the impact of such factors as succession and global warming on our pollinators. We finish the semester by examining a world without honey bees: what it would be like and what we could do about it.

**Instructor information:**

Dr. Ambrose is a long time faculty member and administrator at NC State University. He earned his MS and PhD degrees from Cornell University in Apiculture (honey bees) and Social Insect Behavior. He is also a retired US Navy Captain. He started work at NC State in the Dept. of Entomology as an Assistant Professor and the Extension Apiculturist in 1975, as well as being appointed as the Executive Director of the NC State Beekeepers Association. His research areas were apiculture (including bee diseases and parasites) and pollination. He is the recipient of NC State’s Outstanding Teacher Award, Member of the Academy of Outstanding Teachers at NC State, recipient of the Entomological Society’s Outstanding Teacher Award, and recipient of NC State’s Alumni Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award. From

2000-2012 he worked in a number of administrative positions in the Division of Undergraduate Academic Programs ranging from Director of the First Year College to Dean of the Division. Since 2012 he has been in Phased Retirement with his emphasis on teaching. His interests are apiculture, pollination, social insect behavior and the association of man and insects over time and today.

### **HON 299-001: Music of the Celtic World**

**GEP Category:** Visual & Performing Arts; Global Knowledge

**Instructor:** Dr. Alison E. Arnold

**Days & Time:** TuTh 11:45-13:00

**Location:** Price Music Center 120

**Description:** his course will explore the diverse musics of the Celtic world, ranging from the folk and popular traditions of Ireland and Scotland to the musics of Wales, Brittany (France), and Galicia (Spain), and more recently Cape Breton and Newfoundland (Canada), and the United States. Through history, literature, poetry, spirituality, mythology, live and recorded music and dance performance both in and outside the classroom, students will have the opportunity to experience Celtic musical practices of the past and present.

#### **Instructor information:**

Dr. Alison Arnold is Assistant Teaching Professor of Music and Arts Studies at North Carolina State University. She teaches courses in world music, music of Asia, and cross-cultural arts, and also teaches in the MALS (Master of Arts in Liberal Studies), Honors, and FYI (First Year Inquiry) programs. Together with colleague Dr. Jonathan Kramer, she was nominated for the 2007-2008 Gertrude Cox award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching and Learning with Technology. Prior to joining the NCSU Music faculty, Dr. Arnold taught at The Colorado College, Penn State University at Abington, Drexel University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She completed her Bachelor of Arts Honors degree in Music at the University of Liverpool, England, and her Masters and Ph.D. in Musicology with a concentration in Ethnomusicology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is an active performing musician, playing in four Celtic music bands. Since 2005, she has directed a traditional Irish Music Session at NC State, open to all NCSU students, faculty, and staff, as well as local community members and visitors. As an ethnomusicologist, she has carried out research on Indian film and popular music, Asian Indian music in the U.S., and Vietnamese Montagnard music in North Carolina. She has served as Vice President and President of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Southeast and Caribbean Chapter, and in 2005 she organized a joint regional conference with the North Carolina Folklore Society at NC State University. She was an assistant editor for the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians (1984), and edited the South Asia Volume of the Garland Encyclopedia of World Music (2000). In 2010, she was an invited keynote speaker at the Asian Popular Music International Workshop at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Dr. Arnold has written an online World Music/Music Appreciation e-textbook with colleague Dr. Jonathan Kramer titled What In The World Is Music? to be published by Routledge in 2015.

### **HON 310-001 & -002: The creative process in science--realities, comparisons, and cultural perceptions**

**GEP Category:** Interdisciplinary Perspectives

**Instructor:** Dr. Richard L. Blanton

**Days & Time:** Section 001: TuTh 10:15-11:30; Section 002: TuTh 11:45-13:00

**Location:** HVC Multipurpose Room 201

**Description:** Say "creativity" and most people think art, music, dance, or literature. What is creativity in the context of the sciences? How does it differ and how is it similar to creativity in other fields? In this course, we will develop an understanding of scientific creativity through readings in and discussions of creativity research, the history of science, original scientific papers, and biography and memoirs. We will



consider representations of scientific creativity in films and literature. We will explore the societal context of creativity. We will examine how creativity can be fostered (or crushed) by institutions. A significant theme throughout the course is respecting the role of diversity in creativity: the importance of diverse approaches, intellects, and backgrounds to creativity in individuals and teams, reinforced by detailed studies of women in science, both in a historical context and in recent research literature. There are multiple opportunities for students to customize the course towards their own areas of interest. Science, engineering, and mathematics students have found this course to help them see their discipline in a new light. Humanities, social science, education, design, and management students have found the course to make science topics approachable. All leave the course with an enhanced understanding of creativity in the world and in their own lives.

**Instructor information:**

Dr. Larry Blanton is the Director of the University Honors Program, Professor of Plant Biology, and Director of Graduate Programs for the Department of Plant Biology.

Dr. Blanton graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.S. in Botany with Highest Honors from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), where he also earned his Ph.D. in Botany . He was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, NSF Postdoctoral Fellow (University of Georgia-Athens), and NATO Postdoctoral Fellow (Culture Centre of Algae and Protozoa in Cambridge, England). At various times in his career, he was a visiting research scientist in the Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge; the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London, England; the Wellcome Trust BioCenter of the University of Dundee, Scotland; and the Wood Research Institute, Kyoto University, Japan. Dr. Blanton's research interests center on the cellular slime mold *Dictyostelium discoideum*, specifically the biosynthesis of cellulose and the role of the extracellular matrix during development.

At NC State, he has taught PB 414 (Cell Biology) several times and developed and teaches each semester HON 310 (The Creative Process in Science). Prior to joining NC State in 2003, Dr. Blanton spent 18 years on the faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, where he directed a large grant-funded biological sciences education program. At Texas Tech, Dr. Blanton received the New Faculty Award, the Presidential Excellence in Teaching Award, and was twice the recipient of the student-initiated Mortar Board/Omicron Delta Kappa Outstanding Faculty Award. Prior to his departure from Texas Tech, alumni, students, faculty colleagues, and others established the Richard L. Blanton Endowed Scholarship in support of undergraduate research.

He was co-editor with Roman Taraban (TTU-Psychology) of "Creating Effective Undergraduate Research Programs in Science: The Transformation from Student to Scientist" (New York: Teachers College Press, 2008).

**HON 341-001: Time Travel**

**GEP Category:** Humanities (Philosophy); Interdisciplinary Perspectives

**Instructor:** Dr. John W. Carroll

**Days & Time:** TuTh 8:30-9:45

**Location:** Winston 005

**Description:** This is a course in contemporary metaphysics addressing the philosophical paradoxes of time travel. Contemporary metaphysicians argue that time travel is possible. Their arguments are based on sophisticated theories about time, identity-over-time, causation, and free will. We will consider each of these topics and others, always with an eye to their implications about time-travel. One unusual feature of the course will be the occasional use of science fiction to focus our discussions. (Don't miss

the two movie nights for viewings of 12 Monkeys and Primer.) Students taking this course will approach many familiar questions with unfamiliar depth and rigor, thus becoming poised to understand the true nature of reality.

**Instructor information:**

John W. Carroll is Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. His specializations are metaphysics and the philosophy of science, especially the topics of laws of nature and causation. His article, "The Humean Tradition" was reprinted in *The Philosopher's Annual*, as one of the top ten philosophy articles to appear in print in 1990. His work also includes *Laws of Nature* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), *Readings on Laws of Nature* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2004), and *An Introduction to Metaphysics* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) Of special interest: *A Time Travel Dialogue* (Open Book Publishers, 2014) is a short book written with NC State honors students. For more information, see <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~carroll/hpage.htm>.

**HON 344-001: Kantian Ethics**

**GEP Category:** Humanities (Philosophy)

**Instructor:** Dr. Marina F. Bykova

**Days & Time:** TuTh 10:15-11:30

**Location:** Withers 344

**Description:** In this course, students will gain knowledge and understanding of the moral issues by exploring one of the most influential moral theories in the history of philosophy, Kant's ethics. The course will concentrate on Kant's ideas about morality and discuss his argument for human freedom. An effort will be made to reflect on the worldview represented by Kant, the cultural assumptions and values operative in his worldview, and the effects of his assumptions on contemporary philosophical thinking and day-to-day life. Students will be introduced to some of the enduring moral questions, such as How to make an ethical choice? What can guarantee the moral character of action? What can I hope for? Are there any universal moral principles and whether I should follow them? and learn a variety of approaches to ethical issues. In addition to discussing Kant's fundamental moral principles, the course will also focus on some of their specific applications to political theory.

The seminar will be built around a selection of primary texts and secondary sources. Its participants will be engaged in active in-class discussions through oral presentations, open dialogues, and comments on readings. Students completing this course will enhance their critical thinking ability by learning to analyze and respond to philosophical arguments; they will develop basic skills in reading primary philosophical texts and in doing some elementary philosophical research.

**Instructor information:**

Marina F. Bykova (MAHons, Rostov-on-Don University 1982; PhD, Moscow 1985; Dr. Habil, Moscow 1993) is Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and the editor-in-chief of the journal *Russian Studies in Philosophy*. Her research interests lie in the history of the nineteenth century continental philosophy, with a special focus on German idealism and theories of subject and subjectivity developed by Kant, Fichte, and Hegel. She was awarded a prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship (1989-1990, Germany) and named Lisa Meitner Fellow (1995, Austria). Before joining NC State in August 2000, she has served as a leading research associate at the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, Russia) and held visiting research and teaching positions at the Moscow Lomonosov University (Russia), Universities of Cologne and Marburg (Germany), University of Zurich (Switzerland), University of Vienna (Austria), and Ohio State University. She has authored three books and numerous articles on Hegel and German idealism. Her works have been published in Russian, German, and English. She is currently working on the concept of

Enculturation (Bildung) in German philosophy. For more information, including a complete CV, see <http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/bykova/>.

### **HON 345-001: On Being Human**

**GEP Category:** Humanities (Philosophy); Interdisciplinary Perspectives

**Instructor:** Dr. Gary L. Comstock

**Days & Time:** TuTh 10:15-11:30

**Location:** HVC Conference Room 202

**Description:** What makes us unique, different from animals and machines? This course focuses on the question of human singularity, the properties, if any, that distinguish us from dogs and pigs, on the one hand, and artificial intelligences and cyborgs on the other. We will watch and discuss youtube videos about computers that read monkeys brains, robots that imitate human facial movements, and pigs with human genes. We'll also read about scientific experiments in these areas, and philosophical explorations of those experiments. What is human nature? And if technology advances to the point where we can actually change human nature, should we? Should we implant memory chip in our brains? Would you upload your psychological identity into a virtual Matrix and live in a disembodied state?

#### **Instructor information:**

Gary L. Comstock is a professor of philosophy at NC State who does research on ethical questions in the biological sciences. He has written one book, *Vexing Nature? On the Ethical Case Against Agricultural Biotechnology*, which was called a "watershed" in the discussion of genetically modified foods. Another critic wrote that the book's nuanced treatment of both sides of the issue is "virtually unprecedented in applied philosophy." Comstock also edited the books *Life Science Ethics*, *Religious Autobiographies*, and *Is There a Moral Obligation to Save the Family Farm?*. For two years he was a Fellow at the National Humanities Center. He spends his free time listening to string quartets, dragging his walker at noon onto the basketball floor in Carmichael, and wondering what goes on in horses' heads.

### **HON 398-001: The History of NC State (2-credit course)**

**GEP Category:** Not a GEP course.

**Instructor:** Mr. Brian Anderson Peters

**Days & Time:** M 11:20-13:10

**Location:** HVC Conference Room 202

**Description:** In 1889, students enrolled at the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts for the first time. Enrolled in engineering and agriculture, the young men were one of many who pioneered Land-Grant education. Why were land grant institutions formed? How does NC State fit within the larger constructs of higher education? Why did NC State change its name four times? How did the students' lives change on campus? Students will learn the history of NC State University and the institution's connection to larger trends. Through a mixture of literature and primary documents, students will discuss the major implications of higher education in the United States. Students will conduct a research project using primary source documents to enhance their course readings.

#### **Instructor information:**

Brian joined the University Honors Program as the Honors Village Community Director in 2011. He received a BA in History from Virginia Tech in 2008 and received a Master's of Education in Higher Education from the College of William and Mary in 2010. He is currently a PhD student in the College of Education studying Educational Research & Policy Analysis in Higher Education. Brian's research

interests include higher education history, student and faculty development, Native Americans in higher education, university honors programs, and effect of governmental policy on higher education.