



History of Anti-Semitism

Michael Levin, MWF 12:55pm -1:45pm
(73134) HONOR 350 – 001

Why do people hate Jews? Is anti-Semitism different from other forms of prejudice? And what does it mean to be Jewish in the first place? In this colloquium we will explore the historical roots of these questions, using various primary sources as a springboard for discussion. We will start in Biblical times, and cover such topics as the Spanish Inquisition, the Holocaust, and events in modern America. There will be guest lectures from other professors in the History Department, who will bring their own expertise and experiences to the class. The emphasis of the course will be on discussion, with a final project to be determined.

Religion East and West: The Big Questions (and Answers in Words and Art)

Paula Levin, TuTh 12:15pm – 1:30pm
(72938) HONOR 350 – 002

What is the meaning of life? How should I live? What happens after we die? What is God? We humans, conscious of our mortality and our limitations, have wrestled with these questions since the dawn of time. In this course we will examine the teachings of major world religions - Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam - in their attempts to guide us to answers. In addition to consulting various texts and primary sources, we will consider religious expression in art, literature, music, drama, and film. And we will discuss how religious beliefs (or the absence of them!) affect how we may experience the world.

Multicultural Images of the American Dream in Literature, Film, and Music

Catherine Stoyhoff, TuTh 10:45am – 12:00pm
(72939) HONOR 350 – 003

James Truslow Adams coined the term “American Dream” in his 1931 book *Epic in America*. Since then, this term has represented a set of ideals that are connected to the belief that

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success is possible in America if a person works hard enough. This belief has inspired Americans and brought people to this country's shores for generations. Each new culture that has made America its home has added its own ideals to the American Dream. As chroniclers of this country's often complicated multicultural history, writers, filmmakers, and songwriters have told the stories of those who have achieved the American Dream and those who have fallen short. The images they have created and the stories they have told will be our focus as we look at the works of John Steinbeck, Lorraine Hansberry, Bruce Springsteen, and Jay-Z, among others, and films, including *The Godfather* and *A Christmas Story*.

Are We Our Brains?

Nathanial Blower, MWF 10:45am – 11:35am
(72940) HONOR 350 – 004

In this class we will discuss a number of topics related to the question: Are we our brains? The central focus of the course will be a dispute between Peter Hacker and Daniel Dennett. Hacker argues against the habit in neuroscience of treating brains as though they were people: assuming that brains think, feel, perceive, intend and do all manner of things that ordinarily we say people do, not their brains. Daniel Dennett defends the neuroscientists, claiming that Hacker pays too much attention to what we ordinarily say. As we discuss this dispute, we will touch on a number of traditionally philosophical questions about free-will, the afterlife, morality, subjectivity and more. On the more scientific side, we will discuss topics in neuroscience, computer science, mathematics, linguistics and more.

Humanitarian Social Media: Yes or No?

Carrie Tomko, MWF 9:40am – 10:30am
(73960) HONOR 350 – 005

Social media brings instantaneous news, information, and entertainment. Is it accurate in detail? Is it even true? Is it responsible "journalism"? Does it benefit humanity? Does it require accountability? This colloquium looks at the good, bad, and even the "ugly" of social media, studying the impact on culture.

Exploring the Arts in Akron

Elisha Ann Dumser, TuTh 2:00pm – 3:15pm
(73961) HONOR 350 – 006



“The play’s the thing...”

Dane Leasure, MW 3:30pm – 4:45pm
(75313) HONOR 350 – 007

Akron’s rich, diverse visual and performing arts scene is the focus of this class, which introduces students to the wealth of cultural offerings on UA’s campus and in downtown Akron. Together, we attend performances of classical and non-classical music, contemporary dance, drama, and musical theater, as well as visit the Akron Art Museum and the Emily Davis Art Gallery. These experiences will help us learn how to appreciate diverse media and understand how artists actively make choices to communicate with their audiences. NOTE: attending specific performing arts events outside of the scheduled class time (evenings; specific dates TBD each semester) is mandatory

Enchanted Tales: Analyzing the Stories That Make Us

Juliana Amir, 100% Online Synchronous (Time TBD)
(74692) HONOR 350 – 501

Stories of the dark woods, the forbidden fruit, filial love, and creative intelligence grace the pages of many beloved storybooks. This colloquium explores the construction, shaping, and use of folklore, fairytales, and myths as the pillars of our own culture. How does the language of fairytales and myths intersect with the language of our dreams, both literal and figurative? Is there a certain age where folklore loses its meaning to us? How much do these enchanted stories shape our identity? We will investigate the archetypes these stories create, how they relate in terms of our own personalities, and how they are utilized to sold modern messages. The course allows students to analyze these stories for their cultural resonance, and gives them the option of creating stories of their own.

Adapting the Mystery: The Mastery of Adaptation

Matthew Wyszynski, TuTh 5:15pm – 6:30pm
(72939) HONOR 350 – 801

The classical mystery story/novel is a genre known for its strict conventions and the obligation of the author to “play fair” with the reader. This colloquium will examine some of the works of a few canonical mystery writers (Doyle, Christie, Stout), analyze how these authors establish, reinforce, and expand the limits of the genre. We will also move on to adaptations of these

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well-known works—as TV shows, films, podcasts, and even board games—to study how one genre and medium is adapted to other forms. There will be class discussion, several response papers, and a final project.