AQUINAS SCHOLARS
Honors Seminars
Summer 2013

Date: May 6, 2013

Note: All seminars are two credits.

Summer 2013 – First Session

IDSC 480-02 (CRN 30354) – Honors Dogs: Environment, Society and Representation
Summer 2013 – MW 9:00 AM-12:00 noon Maria Dahmus and Paul Lai
1st Summer Session – 5/29/13-7/11/13
Classroom: TBD

The relationship between dogs and humans opens up a host of questions about who we are and how we interact with the world around us. Popular characters like Lassie and Snoopy encourage us to think about the limits and possibilities of human characteristics such as friendship, loyalty, happiness, grief, and patience. But more broadly, how do we understand and represent the bond between dogs and humans? What do dogs teach us about ourselves? Dogs as companion species also confront us with questions of what we consider to be nature, wilderness, domestication, and civilization. The increasing attention to dogs’ needs in urban planning has led to the construction of dog parks, dog friendly condominiums, boarding facilities, and doggy day cares. How have we re-imagined the natural and built environments around us to accommodate and strengthen our bond with dogs? In this course, we will explore these questions through environmental and literary studies. You will have the chance to explore the human/dog bond through field-work (e.g., observations at a dog-park or interviews with people who bring their dogs there to play), discussions with classmates, and conversations with guest speakers who work with dogs, people, and communities.

NOTE: The following seminar was canceled due to low enrollment:

IDSC 480-01 (CRN 30355) – Honors International Film and Music
Summer 2013 – MW 6:00-8:00 PM Christopher Kachian and James Snapko
1st Summer Session – 5/29/13-7/11/13
Classroom: TBD

Summer 2013 – Second Session

IDSC 480-04 (CRN 30394) – Honors Food, Faith and Social Transformation
Summer 2013 – T R 9:00-11:00 AM Amy Levad and Katharine Hill
2nd Summer Session – 7/15/13-8/22/13
Classroom: JRC 481

Our food systems reveal numerous ways in which injustice insinuates itself in our society: people living in poverty cannot access healthful foods, farm workers are poorly paid and exposed to dangerous working conditions, and few of us know where or how our food is produced.

This course will use our food systems to explore how and why to transform unjust social structures. Drawing upon the disciplines of theology and social work, the course will consider the nature of social injustice, how Christianity calls us to work for justice, and what skills and resources can effectively bring about social transformation. We will also examine the social service systems and policies that currently are at work within hunger alleviation and food production, in order to increase understanding of the application of Christian and social work ethics in real world settings. We will be working hands-on with agencies and organizations in the Twin Cities to understand how change our food systems for the health and well-being of all members of our communities.

NOTE: The following seminar was canceled due to low enrollment:

IDSC 480-03 (CRN 30356) – Honors Expatriats, Immigrants and Border-Crossers in Contemporary Film and Literature
Summer 2013 – MW 1:00-4:00 PM Paola Ehrmantraut and Olga Herrera
2nd Summer Session – 7/15/13-8/22/13
Classroom: JRC 481