

AQUINAS SCHOLARS
Honors Seminars
Summer 2013

Date: April 16, 2013

Note: All seminars are two credits.

Summer 2013 – First Session

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

The purpose of this seminar is to explore the narrative connections between film and music. Films from all over the world will be addressed. The course begins with an introduction to film: its history and practice. Instructors provide the theoretical perspective to film, e.g. the language filmmakers use to create meaning - through editing, cinematography, acting, screenplay - coupled with examining key characteristics of orchestration, and the concept of sound as “interpretation”. Some basic questions we will consider are: What do we learn about a filmmaker's creative decision making through the marriage of film and music? How does the film score reinforce, amplify, identify, or fortify the film? What ideas or expressions are presented and prolonged with the music? How does music enhance these ideas? What issues are in conflict or opposition? How are they illuminated or resolved in the music? How does that influence the ongoing story? How does the musical language reflect the time period/setting of the film? How is it characteristic or unique? How does music reinforce, *amplify*, identify, and fortify the film? What film techniques are used to express the ideas and themes in the film without the aid of the music?

While there are many theoretical and critical approaches to analyzing foreign films and their music it is important to keep in mind that American cinema does play a role in investigating works from other nations. Simply put, Hollywood has been the dominant force in film for almost 100 years and most countries, if not all, are influenced by American made movies. That said, it's also important to analyze these films on their own aesthetic terms.

This course operates on the belief that formal analysis is a skill that is best developed through application and discussion. We will often focus the class around a step-by-step analysis of specific sequences, based upon mutual brainstorming as the primary teaching method. Students will be required to write and present on a relevant film and music research topic at the end of the semester.

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.

Summer 2013 – Second Session

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

Who are the people who cross borders? What are their stories? In this course we will explore those questions in depth, through the examination of expats, immigrants and border-crossers from an interdisciplinary perspective: literature, film and social theory. We will also approach immigration from different cultural perspectives and traditions from Latin America as well as the United States. Through this exploration we will challenge assumptions, stereotypes and myths on the causes and effects of human mobility, displacement and exile. Throughout the course, the films and texts selected will intersect with current debates on immigration and will enrich the way we relate to our multicultural reality.

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.