

**AQUINAS SCHOLARS**  
**Honors Seminars**  
**J-Term 2015**

**Date:** **REVISED:** January 5, 2015

**NOTE: HONORS MATH AND MUSIC HAS BEEN DROPPED FOR J-TERM.**

All seminars are two credits.

Honors seminars are all published in the Schedule of Classes under IDSC. Honors seminars all have a course number of IDSC 480. The word "Honors" or an abbreviation of honors, such as "HONR," is at the beginning of the course title.

Please contact Erica Berglund at [berg7582@stthomas.edu](mailto:berg7582@stthomas.edu) if you have any questions.

**J-Term 2015**

**IDSC 480-1 (CRN 10078) – Honors International Film and Music**

J-Term 2015 – TR 17:00-20:00

Location: BEC 111

Faculty: Chris Kachian (Music Undergrad) and James Snapko (English)

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?

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**IDSC 480-2 (CRN 10250) – Honors Medicine & Religion**

J-Term 2015 – MW 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Location: MHC 211

Faculty: Paul Wojda (Theology) and Laurence Savett (Theology adjunct)

In this course we will examine the human search for meaning, comfort, and guidance as it presents itself in the medical context, both for patients *and* physicians, by exploring how this search is understood and promoted within the Jewish and Christian traditions. The overarching aims of the course are:

- to compare and contrast the ways in which the Jewish and Christian traditions provide meaning, comfort, and guidance amidst the various challenges of contemporary medicine and healthcare; and
- to understand more generally the difference being Jewish and Christian makes to how one thinks and acts in the world.

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**IDSC 480-3 (CRN 10249) – Honors Experimental Seminar- Heroes and Heroism**

J-Term 2015 – MW 9:00-12:00

Location: JRC 481

Faculty: Susan Stabile (Law School)

**NOTE: This seminar will NOT appear in Class Finder as registration for an experimental seminar is controlled by the faculty member.** Please contact Susan Stabile directly if you would like to be enrolled in this seminar.

Brennan Hill wrote, "No one is born a hero. Heroism seems to be a coming together of background, gifts, a mysterious and providential calling to meet a challenge, and a courageous and tenacious response."

What makes a hero? And why are heroes important? (Or are they?) How do we reconcile the great acts of heroes with their feet of clay? This seminar will explore such questions as we consider the lives of some figures of the present and recent past who have been given the label hero, men and women such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Oscar Romero, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day, Nelson Mandela, and Helen Prejean. We will learn about the lives of figures like these – and what they teach us about heroism – through film, speeches and biographical writings.

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**IDSC 480-5 (CRN 10251) – Honors Transparency in the Age of Social Media**

J-Term 2015– MW 12:00-3:00 PM

Location: MHC 211

Faculty: Karen Boros (retired COJO faculty) and Joy Rikala (adjunct)

Have you ever given serious thought to the good or evil of social media/technology how it impacts transparency to others now and in the future? This J-Term course is based on the Dave Egger's novel, *The Circle*, which takes fascinating look at fictional company in the not-too-distant future that eerily resembles many of the tech companies of today: Google, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon, etc. The company demands transparency on all things - anonymity is banished, everyone's past is revealed and present is broadcasted. The book is a platform for dialogue about this potential dystopia. It raises privacy issues, the perpetual personhood definition in the constant use of social media, and what life could be like under constant surveillance of our own government. As students, you will have an opportunity to hear from government, media, and technology experts who will challenge your conceptions of the ethics of transparency. Seminar sessions will include speakers and book discussion/debate, and culminate in a final paper and presentation. The instructors for this seminar have backgrounds in Journalism and Public Safety/Government.

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