

AQUINAS SCHOLARS
Honors Seminars
J-Term 2019

Date: **UPDATED October 9, 2018**

Note: All seminars are two credits.

Honors seminars are all published in the Schedule of Classes under HONR. Honors seminars all have a course number of HONR 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 if you have any questions.

J-Term 2019

HONR 480-01 (CRN 10260) – Honors International Film & Music

J-Term 2019 – TR 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Location: BEC 110

Faculty: Chris Kachian (Music – Undergraduate) 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?

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.

HONR 480-02 (CRN 10156) – Honors The Human Person, Technology, Business, and Law

J-Term 2019 – MW 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Location: JRC 481

Faculty: Tim Ketcher (Ethics and Business Law)

NOTE: This seminar will NOT appear in Class Finder because registration for a one-professor seminar is controlled by the faculty member. Please contact Tim Ketcher directly (ketc3091@stthomas.edu) if you would like to be enrolled in this seminar.

This course explores whether or not traditional concepts associated with the person, business, and law are capable of addressing changes introduced by technology and its rapid evolution. In particular, students will be asked to consider whether concepts associated with property, privacy, rights, justice, and the good can accommodate technological innovations such as automation, decision-making by algorithms, big data, and the "de-skilling" of work. What might this mean for "meaningful work" in the future? What might it mean for education and culture? Will technology create an electronic Panopticon, substituting Weber's "iron cage" for a world governed by big data and a lack of privacy? In the process, students should ask whether or not technological innovation is outpacing the ability of traditional concepts in the legal and business world to properly address deeper questions associated with promoting the human good.

HONR 480-03 (CRN 10157) – Honors The Photograph

J-Term 2019 – TR 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: JRC 481

Faculty: Mathew Lu (Philosophy)

NOTE: This seminar will NOT appear in Class Finder because registration for a one-professor seminar is controlled by the faculty member. Please contact Mathew Lu directly (lu463747@stthomas.edu) if you would like to be enrolled in this seminar.

What is a photograph? What makes a photograph successful? Is photography one of the “fine arts”? How are photographs made? In this seminar we will consider the history, science, and art of photography by analyzing some of the most seminal photographic images ever produced. We will discuss aesthetic questions, the technical aspects of photography (both film and digital), and philosophical questions about the meaning of photography. Avid photographers are very welcome, but a background in photography is not required.

HONR 480-04 (CRN 10158) – Honors Heroes and Heroism

J-Term 2019 – TR 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: JRC 481

Faculty: Susan Stabile (Law School)

NOTE: This seminar will NOT appear in Class Finder because registration for a one-professor seminar is controlled by the faculty member. Please contact Susan Stabile directly (sjstabile@stthomas.edu) 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.
