HONR 2305-H20 (Fall, 2017)

HONR-2305-H20
First Year Honors Seminar in the Humanities
Fall 2017—1200-1315 MW
Academic Building, Room 201A

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Office: Academic 239D
Office Hours: MW 0900-1100 and/or by appointment

**Course Overview:** HONR 2305 is designed to stimulate an exchange of ideas among first-year Honors students majoring in various disciplines. Topics and readings vary by semester but focus on issues that can be viewed from multiple perspectives, including historical, cultural, philosophical, artistic, and scientific. This semester’s theme is travels & journeys. Lectures will outline a very broad narrative of how human beings have traveled in different time periods and examine the shifting nature of and objectives behind travel. Readings are designed to prompt critical thinking and discussion while student projects offer an opportunity for creative exploration within the boundaries of the course. The class will also use different forms of media and narratives to consider the contexts of travel. Students should be able to analyze and apply the lenses they discuss in class to various modern-day circumstances.

**I. Student Learning Objectives:**
At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a basic understanding of the changing historical, scientific, political, and cultural ideas about travel in human society
- critically analyze a range of historical, philosophical, literary, and artistic issues concerning travel
- demonstrate an understanding of how science, technology, and human culture advance through inquiry and experimentation
- demonstrate an awareness of how social and political ideologies affect our relationship to how we think of and approach the topic of travel in our society
- present information effectively in both written and oral formats

**II. Books:**

**II.1. Required Texts:**

**II.2. Texts chosen after consultation with instructor:**
- For their final project, students will work in a group to present the journeys described in and journey of a volume in the Remnant Trust to the class. Students will make their selection by the end of September and will learn about the volumes in the Remnant Trust on September 13. Students may choose to purchase additional volumes for their presentation if applicable.

Other readings will be provided either in class or on the course’s Blackboard site.
III. Course Procedure:
Honors seminars are designed to encourage an interchange of ideas and to foster the development of critical thinking and communication skills. The instructor’s primary role is to provide historical context in the form of lectures, facilitate discussion of the texts, and provide suggestions and responses to students’ independent and group work. Students will be expected to cooperatively engage in class discussion and activities and to bring insights from their specific disciplines into the discussion of the assigned readings.

1. NO grade less than a “C” will be accepted for Honors credit.
2. Paper/exam grades will not be discussed until 24 hours after they are handed back.
3. Students are responsible for keeping current with the readings. They should come to class fully prepared to discuss readings assigned for that day.
4. In class, students should listen to the instructor’s explanation of concepts as well as make notes of the slides.
5. Students should be constantly taking notes, even during discussion. Students should jot down what their classmates are saying. This material may be used to craft/inform journal entries and should help shape the conversation.

IV. Course Requirements/Assignments:
Each student will be responsible for the following:

1. **Content Mastery:** Students will be expected to have a clear understanding of assigned readings and be able to effectively respond to questions from the lectures and readings in the form of weekly journal entries and a final exam.

2. **Daily Preparation and Performance:** Each student will be expected to actively engage in class discussion and respectfully listen to guest and student presentations. The preparation and performance grade will be determined by
   a. Attendance (you cannot perform if you are not in attendance).
   b. The instructor’s assessment of the frequency, quality, and relevance of contributions to class discussion and questions posed to guest speakers.
   c. Oral presentations and general discussion performance.
   d. Class participation is worth 20 percent of the final grade.

3. **First Paper:** *A Voyage Long and Strange* (Length: 4-5 pages; Due: Wednesday, October 4)
   a. After reading and discussing *A Voyage Long and Strange* in class, students should pick three or four themes from the book to analyze critically.
   b. Students should quote specific passages from the book, cite the information correctly (see guide below), and engage others (fellow students who are not in this section of HONR-2305) in a conversation about those topics.
   c. Students should take notes on those conversations, quote others’ opinions (see citation guide below), and analyze their reactions in the paper.
   d. Drafts of this paper will be accepted until Friday, September 29.
   e. This assignment is worth 15 percent of the final grade.

4. **Second Paper:** Other People’s Adventures (Length: 3-5 pages; Due: Monday, November 13)
   a. Having read several books, discussed and listened to the ways in which human travel has changed over the course of history, it is now time to apply your skills to your fellow students.
   b. Select 2-3 individuals not in this section of HONR-2305 (they do not have to be a member of the honors program and they do not have to be students or even in your age group), interview them about some
journey or adventure that they undertook, record it, and then write about it, analyzing their experiences
using the themes that you have learned in class.

c. As the interviewer, you should come up with the theme or themes that you would like to pursue.
d. Remember that the best papers will have a very strong analytical component.
e. Drafts of this paper will be accepted until Wednesday, November 8 (class time).
f. This assignment is worth 15 percent of the final grade.

5. Weekly Journal Entries (Length: 2-4 typed pages each week; Due: Every Wednesday unless otherwise noted)
   a. After listening to and taking careful notes on the lectures, discussions, and guest talks, students should
      summarize their conclusions and provide their own analysis in a weekly journal format
   b. Students must also tie in themes from the class and selections from readings in the entries
   c. Students should also look for stories pertaining to travel and journeys (broadly defined) in the news and
      make clear connections between those stories and class material
   d. This assignment is worth 25 percent of the final grade.

6. Group/Individual Research Projects: (Outlines/Analysis due on the date of the individual student’s presentation)
   a. Read, outline, analyze, and give an in-class presentation on a book chosen in consultation with the
      instructor.
      • Students will select a book from the Remnant Trust individually. Those who work on the same book
        will be part of the same group.
        o Up to 4 students may pick each of the volumes listed in the Remnant Trust catalog (see
          appendix).
        o Students with research questions should consult either the instructor or Mark A. Allan,
          assistant director for Research and Instruction Services, Porter Henderson Library
          (mark.allan@angelo.edu)
   b. After the student has chosen a book from the Remnant Trust and the instructor has approved of the volume,
      he/she should begin reading and outlining the book. Students are not required to purchase a copy of the
      volume they choose but may do so if they wish
      • Students may see if the book is available in the library (either in the collection or via
        Interlibrary Loan)
      • The Angelo State University Bookstore may also order books for individual students.
   c. Each group/student will be assigned a date and time to present their findings to the class (TBA).
   d. On that day, students must hand in their analysis of the book.
      • Proper citation styles apply.
   e. The analysis should be no more than 1-2 pages in length and it should tie the student’s specific book in with
      the general narrative of the class.
      • Students should outline the Remnant Trust volume they are presenting.
      • Students will submit this outline electronically along with their analysis.
   f. In the presentations (25-30 minutes per group), students should describe the book they read, note
      examples, surprises, and other findings. Presentations MUST include
      • An introduction to the volume they read (author, publication information, etc.)
      • The travels/journeys undertaken in the volume (may include multiple characters)
      • The journey of the volume through time (How was it received? Was it ever banned? How has it
        been interpreted?). This section will require additional investigation and students should
        discuss research strategies with the instructor and Mr. Allan (mentioned above).
      • How their particular topic fits in with the narrative of the course.
g. The instructor will be happy to read drafts and consult with the student regarding their presentation throughout the process.

h. Non-presenters must pay attention, take notes, and ask questions of their fellow classmates. Notes from these presentations will be required for the final examination.

i. This assignment is worth 15 percent of the grade.

SPECIAL NOTE and Paper/Journal Entry Formats:
• All papers and journal entries submitted must be written in 12-point, Times New Roman font.
• All papers and journal entries submitted must be paginated (bottom right hand corner of the page).
• All papers and journal entries must be stapled in the top left hand corner of the page.
• All papers and journal entries must be submitted in duplicate: hard copy to the instructor in class & electronic version through Turnitin.com via the course’s Blackboard page. (Assignments that have not been checked by Turnitin.com will NOT be graded.)

Students must properly cite their sources by using footnotes.
• In order to insert a footnote, for PC users, go to “insert” in the menu bar, point to “reference,” and then “footnote.”
• For Mac users, go to “insert” in the menu bar and select “footnote” from the tab.

Quick keys for footnotes:
PC: Ctrl + alt + f
Mac: Option + Apple + f

Please conform to the following format when citing information in the footnotes for assignments:
• Initial citation for book:
  o Author first name and last, title of book in italics, in parentheses: publisher location, publisher name, year of publication, page number. Note that there is no comma between the volume title and the publisher information.
• Subsequent citation:
  o Author last name, title, and page number.
  o Example: Horwitz, A Voyage Long and Strange, 14.
• Initial citation for interview:
  o Julia Smith, interviewed by author, 13 September 2015, San Angelo, Texas
• Subsequent citation:
  o Smith interview, 1 September 2015.
Assessment/Grading:

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V. Attendance:
Attendance (in body and mind) is critical as discussion cannot be “made up” and insights from other students are critical elements of Honors education. Note that there is a participation grade rather than one for attendance. Simply showing up to class does not count as participation. One must actively engage the material, contribute to discussion periods, and ask questions. Students are expected to attend every session and are responsible for any material, announcements, schedule changes, or assignments that are provided in class. Absences do not excuse the student from being prepared for the next day’s work. Please check with a classmate or the instructor to find out about any changes to the syllabus.

1. A student who misses more than 2 classes will be reported to the Honors Program director. Students who miss more than 4 classes will incur a 10-point reduction in the final course grade. Additional absences will incur 5 additional point reductions per absence.
2. Absences for official university commitments, accompanied by official documentation from the sponsoring faculty or staff member, will not incur penalties but may affect overall participation grades.
3. (See Section VIII of this syllabus for further details about university policies regarding absences.)

VI. Academic Integrity:
Academic work is built on trust. Plagiarism (failure to properly cite a source or presenting another individual’s work as your own) and cheating on any assignments (receiving unauthorized aid) will result in the student failing the course and may lead to other disciplinary actions. Lying to the instructor, aiding another student in committing a fraud, and falsifying documents are also among the other actions punishable by immediate course failure. For clarification on academic misconduct, discuss the issue with the course instructor. Also, see the ASU Student Handbook for additional information relating to the Honor Code. You may acquire a copy of the handbook online at the ASU website (under “Current Students” and “University Publications”) or at the Student Life Office in the University Center. (You may view the university’s honor code at the following website: http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/17358-university-honor-code)

VII. Classroom Policies:
1. Students who arrive five (5) minutes after class commences will be marked absent.
2. Students must arrive on time and not interrupt others during class. Students must be respectful of the learning environment and are prohibited from sleeping, reading texts not related to the class, eating, or causing disturbances during class time. Students with computers must also not distract others by browsing the Internet, chatting, or playing games. Students who disrupt class proceedings will be asked to leave the course.
3. Cell phones, PDAs, beepers, and other such devices are prohibited during class time (unless otherwise noted). Please turn off all such devices before the beginning of class. If a student is caught texting or using an unauthorized device during class time, they will lose five (5) points per each occurrence. The points will be deducted from their final grade.
a. If a student has a special need to use such a device, they must consult with the instructor by the end of the second class period (Wednesday, August 30).

b. The use of any cellular devices during examinations is strictly prohibited. Anyone caught violating this rule will receive an “F” in the exam. Again, if a student is found to have cheated on any assignment, they will fail the course and face other disciplinary action.

4. Communications
   a. E-mails should be treated as official communications. When writing an e-mail to the instructor or grader, students must properly address the recipient. For example, one should always open with a salutation (“Dear Prof.”). E-mails that are not properly addressed might not receive a response.
   b. Additionally, in the subject line of your e-mail, you should specify which class you are taking with the instructor.

5. Audio and video recording is not permitted in the classroom. If a student has questions about a slide or anything in the lecture, he or she should contact the instructor.

6. Any visitors to the classroom must be approved by the instructor before the period begins. Unauthorized visitors will be asked to leave the class.

Students with any questions or concerns about the class should contact the instructor after class, via e-mail, or during office hours (by appointment in the Academic Building, Office A239D).

VIII: University Policies:

1. Disabilities Accommodation (OP 10.15)
   Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office (Room 112 University Center; (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX); or Student.Life@angelo.edu) in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Faculty members are not allowed to provide accommodation for a student’s disability needs without approval from the Office of Student Life.

   Students who intend to be absent from class to observe a religious holy day (as defined in ASU OP 10.19) must inform the instructor in writing prior to the absence and make up any scheduled assignments within an appropriate timeframe determined by the professor. While the absence will not be penalized, failure to complete the make-up assignment satisfactorily and within the required timeframe will result in penalties consistent with other absences and assignments.

Disclaimer: By remaining in the class, the student agrees to abide by the guidelines outlined in this syllabus. The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any point during the course of the semester in order to better respond to the changing needs of the course or unforeseen circumstances.

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Angelo-State-University-History-Department-161759577172284/>
Twitter: @angelosuhist (Tweet using #angelohist)
Class Schedule:

1. Introduction to the Class (Monday, August 28)
   Assignment due next class:
   - Written and oral introductions (details will be provided in class);

2. Student Introductions (Wednesday, August 30)
   Assignment DUE in class: Written and oral introduction
   Assignment due next class:
   - Read Horwitz’s *A Voyage Long & Strange*, prologue and chapters 1-3
   - Read *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, introduction by Robert J. Allison & chapter 1

3. No Class—University Holiday (Monday, September 4)

4. Introductory Lecture & Early Travels (Wednesday, September 6)
   Assignment due next class:
   - Read Horwitz’s *A Voyage Long & Strange*, chapters 4-6
   - Read *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, chapters 2-5

5. Early Civilizations & Pre-Modern Travel (Monday, September 11)
   Assignment due next class:
   - Read *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, chapter 6
   - Journal entries

6. Introduction to the Remnant Trust with Maurice Fortin & Mark Allen, Porter Henderson Library (Wednesday, September 13)
   NOTE: Class will meet at the Eva Camuñez Tucker Center for the study of Southwestern History and Culture, 2nd floor of the Houston Harte University Center.
   Assignment DUE in class: First journal entries
   Assignment due next class:
   - Read Horwitz’s *A Voyage Long & Strange*, chapters 7-9
   - Read *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, chapters 7-9

7. The Age of Exploration & the Early Republic (Monday, September 18)
   Assignment due next class:
   - Read Horwitz’s *A Voyage Long & Strange*, chapter 10
   - Read *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, chapter 10
   - Journal entries

8. The Expanding Republic (Wednesday, September 20)
   Assignment DUE in class: Second journal entries
   Assignment due next class:
   - Read Horwitz’s *A Voyage Long & Strange*, chapter 11-12
   - Read *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, chapters 11-12
   Assignment due next class:
   • Read Horwitz’s *A Voyage Long & Strange*, chapter 13
   • Journal entries

10. Discussion of Horwitz, *A Voyage Long & Strange* (Wednesday, September 27)
    Assignment DUE in class: Third journal entries
    Assignment due next class:
    • Revisit Horwitz’s book and prepare for discussion with author

11. Discussion of Horwitz, *A Voyage Long & Strange* (Monday, October 2)
    NOTE: Students will discuss *A Voyage Long & Strange* with the author Tony Horwitz this evening. Time & location to TBA.
    Assignment due next class:
    • First Paper
    • (No journal entry due)

12. Travels in the Eastern & Western United States (Wednesday, October 4)
    Assignment DUE in class: Paper on Horwitz, *A Voyage Long & Strange*
    Assignment due next class:
    • Read Cox, *Traveling South*, introduction & chapter 1

13. Rise of Modern Tourism (Monday, October 9)
    Assignment due next class:
    • Read Cox, *Traveling South*, Chapter 2
    • Journal entries

14. Industrialization & Steam (Wednesday, October 11)
    Assignment DUE in class: Fourth journal entries
    Assignment due next class:
    • Read Cox, *Traveling South*, Chapter 3-5

15. Tourism: Nationalism & Natural (Monday, October 16)
    Assignment due next class:
    • Read Cox, *Traveling South*, conclusion
    • Journal entries

16. Discussion of Cox’s *Traveling South* (Wednesday, October 18)
    Assignment DUE in class: Fifth journal entries
    Assignment due next class:
    • Prepare for discussion with John D. Cox, author of *Traveling South*

17. Discussion with John D. Cox, author of *Traveling South* (Monday, October 23)
    Assignment due next class:
    • Read Vowell, *Assassination Vacation*, preface
    • Journal entries
18. The Age of the Horseless Carriage (Wednesday, October 25)
   Assignment DUE in class: Sixth journal entries
   Assignment due next class:
   • Read Vowell, *Assassination Vacation*, chapter 1

19. Post-World War II Travel (Monday, October 30)
   Assignment due next class:
   • Read Vowell, *Assassination Vacation*, chapter 2
   • Journal entries

20. Mass Tourism (Wednesday November 1)
   Assignment DUE in class: Seventh journal entries
   Assignment due next class:
   • Read Vowell, *Assassination Vacation*, chapter 3

21. Screening: *National Lampoon’s Vacation* (Monday, November 6)
   Assignment due next class:
   • Complete Second Paper
   • (No journal entry due)

22. Screening: *National Lampoon’s Vacation* (Wednesday, November 8)
   Assignment DUE in class: Second Paper
   Assignment due next class:
   • Read Vowell, *Assassination Vacation*, chapter 4

23. Discussion of *Assassination Vacation* (Monday, November 13)
   Assignment due next class:
   • Listen to and read lyrics of Bruce Springsteen’s *Darkness on the Edge of Town* (1978)
   • Journal entries

24. *River Monsters* (Wednesday, November 15)
   Assignment DUE in class: Eighth journal entries
   Assignment due next class:
   • Revisit your favorite musical album (look at the lyrics and the songs) and prepare to discuss the journey that the artist(s) is taking the listener on. What is the message they are trying to convey? Why does it stand out for you?

25. Journeys Through Music—Bruce Springsteen’s *Darkness on the Edge of Town* (Monday, November 20)

26. No Class—University Holiday (Wednesday, November 22)

27. Presentations (Monday, November 27)

28. Presentations (Wednesday, November 29)

29. Presentations (Monday, December 4)
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30. Presentations and Final Thoughts (Wednesday, December 6)

31. Final Exam (Monday, December 11—Time: 1300-1500)

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Appendix 1: Angelo State University Remnant Trust Exhibit Fall 2017

Note: All volumes are subject to approval by the course instructor. Some may not be suitable for the final presentation in this class.

Economics
- Andrew Carnegie, *The Gospel of Wealth and other Timely Essays*
- Karl Marx, *Capital: A Critical Analysis of Capitalist Production*

History/Political Science
- Susan B. Anthony, *History of Woman Suffrage*
- [Articles of Confederation & Declaration of Independence]
- David Crockett, *Sketches and Eccentricities of Col. David Crockett of West Tennessee*
- Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
- [Abraham Lincoln, *Emancipation Proclamation*]
- John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*
- Niccolo Machiavelli, *Li. Princeps*
- John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*
- Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*
- Walter Raleigh, *The History of the World*
- Hartmann Schedel, *Nuremberg Chronicle*
- Booker T. Washington, *Up From Slavery*
- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

Literature
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essays*
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust*
- Homer, *Odyssey*
- Voltaire, *Candid, All for the Best*

Philosophy
- Aristotle, *Opera*
- Confucius, *The Illustrated Life of Confucius*
- Renatus Des Cartes, *Opera Philosophica*
- Immanuel Kant, *Critick of Pure Reason*
- Friedrich Nietzsche, *Morgenrothe bound with Die Frohliche Wissenschaft*

Religion
- Ethiopian Magic Scroll
- Thomas Aquinas, *Rubricated Manuscript Leaf on Vellum*
- Thomas Aquinas, et al., *Epistola de modo studeni*
- Augustine of Hippo, *Citie of God*
- Vulgate
- Hildegard of Bingen, *Scivias libri tres*
- Koran
• Egyptian Scroll Covenant with Abraham from Genesis

Sciences
• Nicolaï Copernicus, *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*
• Euclid, *The First Six Elements of Geometry*
• Galileo Galilei, *Della Scienza Mecanica*
• Hippocrates of Kos, *Coi Prefagiorum Libri*
• Isaac Newton, *The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*

Other
• Benjamin Franklin, *Selected Pieces*