There are two, distinct American art forms: jazz and comic books. And both of them have origins in the dawn of art. Still, comic books are an unappreciated art form. They have been dismissed, ridiculed, and subject to government inquiries. But one constant in comic books remains: the superhero.

Since the first “modern comic,” with Superman’s initial appearance in 1938, superheroes have been an integral part of comic books and our culture. Like Gilgamesh, Samson, and Beowulf before, modern superheroes fulfill the archetypes of the “monomyth,” while manifesting our ids and hopes in fantastical tales. Moreover, comic book superheroes have evolved to represent their times and thus present a funhouse mirror perspective of 20th Century America.

In this course, we will read comic books as legitimate art and discuss superheroes as America’s ultimate answer to Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell’s theories of archetypes and mythology. Each week we will choose a critically-lauded comic book and discuss it in-depth—the symbolism and compositions of the panels, the superhero’s journey, the overall themes of each work. Our weekly discussions will also focus on other subjects these comic books reference, such as the philosophy of Nietzsche, post-9/11 America, and moral relativism.

Students in this course will also be expected to post weekly, informal entries to our class TWEN cite.

COURSE GOALS
To explore comic books as a form of art
To discuss themes of good and evil
To study the history of an art form and business

OUR COMIC BOOKS
X-Men: God Loves, Man Kills
The Watchmen
Marvels
Spider-Man: Blue OR Spider-Man: Kraven’s Last Hunt
Magneto: Testament
Identity Crisis
Kingdom Come
Daredevil: Born Again OR Daredevil: Hardcore
Batman: Court of Owls
Sacrilicious/Snack-Religious
*Professor: Carrie Duncan*
Have you ever wondered why so many religious traditions use food in their rituals and metaphors? Why food is so often blessed before being consumed? Have you ever had a meal so good that eating it could almost be described as a religious experience? Do you think it is worthwhile to wonder how religions smell and taste in addition to how they look and sound? This course will explore the intersection of religion and food, thus providing an opportunity for conversation and commensality (def: the practice of eating together). As we snack, we’ll discuss topics like miracles, death and afterlife, sacrifice, purity, etc as they interest with food in a variety of religious traditions. One hour per week gets you an honors credit hour as well as food for thought and appetite.

Topics in Baseball
*Professor: Gabriel Fried*
Do you love baseball? Do you love talking about it, reading about it, and arguing about issues like the Hall of Fame, cheating, and the designated hitter? In this pass/fail course, we’ll do just that by engaging a variety of essays and articles, both scholarly and popular, about the sport. We will consider how absolute our positions about baseball can or should be, and how those positions resemble (or don’t resemble) our positions to topics outside of the sport (and sports, in general). In short, this class will engage with a fun topic but in the spirit of Honors College learning: we won’t settle for easy or unquestioned reactions, and will embrace ambiguity even as we collaborate on honing our insights and articulations.

Leadership in Honors
*Professors: Nancy West & Heidi Appel*
Effective leadership involves four fundamental skills: collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity, all of which we see as hallmarks of the Honors College student. This course will focus on two of these skills: collaboration and communication. Effective collaboration requires the ability to inspire others towards a common goal. You will learn the key components of collaborative leadership by discussing your own experiences and that of others (e.g., through visits by alumni leaders and books like Taking People with You). To hone your communication skills, you will learn how to engage in public scholarship, the clear communication of academic knowledge and research to the wider public. To bring the skills of collaboration and communication together, you and your peers will produce a mini conference on “public scholarship” at the end of the semester, where you will either present your own public scholarship on a topic of your choice or serve as one of the co-facilitators and organizers of the conference.
This course is geared toward Honors Ambassadors. As one of these ambassadors, you have already demonstrated a desire and talent for leadership. Part of the goal of this course is to make you a more effective ambassador and, in the process, strengthen the impact you can have on the Honors College and the university through your help with recruitment, event planning, and program building. Consent Required.
Mizzou 101
Jim Spain - Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies, Professor of Animal Sciences
The goal of Mizzou 101 is to introduce students to people, places and resources at Mizzou that most students never get a chance to encounter. These new experiences lead to a broader understanding of the university and what it does on a local, state and global scale. Through guest speakers and field trips to unique campus locations, such as the Chancellor’s Residence, athletic complex and power plant, students will see first-hand how different sections of the university operate. Field trips will be supported by discussions with some of Mizzou’s most distinct individuals, including Peace Corps alumna and chancellor’s wife Anne Deaton, Athletic Director Mike Alden and career development specialist Stephanie Chipman. When in the classroom, Mizzou 101 will utilize discussion-based learning to further explore issues examined during field trips and discussions with speakers. A Socratic Seminar style model – where students direct group discussions – will create close-knit relationships among students in the class. Mizzou 101 is taught by six teaching assistants whose lives have been transformed by positive experiences in classes and organizations on campus. They will be overseen by Dr. Jim Spain, the university’s Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies and Animal Sciences professor. In short, Mizzou 101 is unique. The class will open up new opportunities for students and introduce them to unique places and people. Students will also become part of a classroom community and learn how to use their individual skills and talents within a group.

Applying for Nationally Competitive Fellowships
Timothy Parshall – Director, Office of Fellowships
This course is designed specifically for students who intend to apply for nationally competitive awards (e.g., Fulbright, Rhodes, Marshall, and Mitchell), to which students typically apply at the beginning of the senior year. The course will emphasize selection of an appropriate program(s), application processes, development of application components (including the personal essay and, if appropriate, the proposed program of research or study), identification of and contact with appropriate recommenders. Guest speakers—both faculty and students well versed in the processes—will address specific awards.

Gn Hon 1070H Honors Elective Colloquium
Decoding Science
Professors: Heidi Appel and Jack Schultz
Why is it so hard to get science and health messages across to the public and what can we do about that? Decoding Science: Getting the Message is a 2 credit honors course designed around the 2014 Life Sciences and Society Symposium (Mar13-15). The course will explore the problem of getting science messages across to a non-science audience from multiple disciplinary angles. Beginning with an examination of the value of public understanding and appreciation of science, we will examine what communication science (e.g., cognitive research, social psychology) says about effective communication; develop an understanding of successful communication in marketing, management, and entertainment; explore the effectiveness of narrative for science messages; try to determine how nonscientists decide what sources are credible; and evaluate the role of “new media” in extending science.
Gn Hon 2015H  Theory and Practice of Tutoring Writing
“Theory and Practice of Tutoring Writing,” is an English/Honors College Writing Intensive (WI) class which addresses both the theory and practice of tutoring and the foundations of good writing. Therefore, in addition to theoretical frames for what writing tutors do, it focuses on hands-on craft and practical experience working with other writers. At its heart is a shared set of assumptions about tutoring writing. In order to help someone else competently, a tutor needs to have an expert command of the craft of writing herself. A tutor needs to know something not only about the practical application of rhetoric and composition theory, but also about the subtleties of verbal and nonverbal communication. Hands-on experience from both sides of the desk is a crucial part of the process of learning to work with other writers. Online tutoring is a valuable part of the skill set with both advantages and disadvantages over traditional face-to-face scenarios, and it makes considerable demands on the tutor's craft as a writer and as a reader of both prose and people. This course also prepares students to work as writing tutors, and, in fact, doing well in it qualifies them for a part-time job in the Writing Center in future semesters.
Prerequisite: Engl 1000. A/F. This class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00-2:50pm. Students interested in the course should contact Dr. Rachel Harper: harperrp@missouri.edu
This course fulfills a lower division Writing Intensive requirement and General Education credit (Humanities).

Gn Hon 2112H  Middle Ages and the Renaissance
This semester in the Humanities Series we offer students the challenging opportunity to read and discuss literature, art, architecture, music, and philosophy from the dawn of the Middle Ages with Augustine and Beowulf to the Renaissance with Montaigne and Shakespeare. Special lectures and focuses include

- The Heroic Battles of Beowulf and Roland
- The Crusades and the Arab Experience of the Middle Ages
- Early Church Music
- The Gothic Architecture of Chartres
- The Great Medieval Epic Works of Dante and Chaucer
- The History of the Book
- Luther and the Rise of Protestantism
- Machiavelli’s Fundamental Question: “Is it Better to be Feared than Loved?”
Modern Israeli Film
*Etti Naveh-Benjamin – Professor Pyschology*
In this course, we will examine the modern literature and contemporary film of a developing nation built on an ancient heritage. We will study the literary pieces in English translation, but will talk about Hebrew, the revived language of Israel. Previously unprobed topics will be introduced in this course, including the milieu of the Arab village, the world of ultra-Orthodox Jews, and attempts to deal with the existence of the unbeliever in a period when secular ideologies are collapsing. We will also look into universal themes, such as democracy and righteousness, as seen in the context of a society which is subject to constant challenges in most areas of its national life. We will conclude with the younger generation of writers and directors, who reject much of the centrality of the Israeli experience and reflect a more universalistic trend, often of an alienated, surreal and idiosyncratic nature.

Discussions of Science and Public Policy
*William Folk - Professor of Biochemistry*
This course explores the intersection of important, topical issues in science and public policy relating to health, food production, energy and the environment. Some of the issues likely to be covered include: public policies affecting sources of energy and energy conservation and water quality in Missouri; policies affecting food production, distribution and availability; policies attempting to promote better health by taxation of tobacco products or limiting the size and availability of sodas. Classroom discussions and assigned readings will be augmented by Dialogues led by invited experts/stakeholders from the science and the public policy arenas. Students are expected to synthesize information from readings, discussions and Dialogues and to incorporate these materials into written proposals for informed public policies.

Challenges of EU Enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe
*William H. Meyers - Professor of Agricultural Economics*
With faculty and visitors of various disciplines, explore and analyze the economic and social issues and challenges experienced in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) during the transition to membership in the European Union (EU) and the challenges they will face in the future. Eight countries of CEE joined the EU on May 1, 2004 Course participants can study and evaluate a profound historic moment for these countries and their citizens. Students will gain an understanding of the historical, political and economic backgrounds of CEEs and the challenges they face in building democratic and market economy institutions. The course will focus on economic and social issues and analysis, but students will explore in greater depth a country and/or disciplinary issue in which they have special interest or expertise, by writing a research paper on a topic relevant to the seminar content and leading the class in a discussion of the paper.
**Gn Hon 2244H  Identity in Groups**
Part of the Honors College Sequence on Human Nature, this course focuses on behavioral scientific studies of identity in relation to groups. Will draw on classic and modern works that examine how people identify and are identified with groups and the effects of those processes.

**Gn Hon 2246H  Globalization and Social Identity**
This course focuses on studies of the impact of technological change and the forces of globalization and their influences on the individual. Lectures and discussion sessions will address and evaluate the role of social, entrepreneurial, non-profit and for-profit organizations and their use of transformational technologies in a global setting. Will draw on contemporary works that investigate the interdependencies of modern global society and the forces of social media. Honors students will analyze an international NGO and address its strengths and weaknesses.

**Gn Hon 2462H  Energy: From Particles to Civilizations**
Energy integrates concepts from chemistry, physics, biology, geology, and astronomy to focus on the world of particles and forces and how they work together to structure the world around us. In a combination of lectures, small-group discussions, laboratory activities, and field trips, we’ll explore the big ideas of thermodynamics, laws of motion, atomic and molecular structure, electricity, and magnetism. The crux of the course, however, is derived from the intersections and connections between these concepts. We will therefore also begin to understand how energy is generated and used by living systems, from individual organisms to entire civilizations, and we will investigate some of the environmental impacts and ethical questions resulting from energy production and consumption. No prior science course is necessary, just a healthy curiosity about the natural world and our place in it.

**Honors 3112H  Topics in the Humanities**
"Thinking about Color"
*Professors: Nancy West; Carsten Strathausen; James Van Dyke;*
This 3-credit interdisciplinary course focuses on 13 different ways to think about color. Color is everywhere in our world; it informs our sense of everything from interior decoration to fashion; sex to race. But as a subject of study, it’s elusive, mysterious, magical. In this course we’ll embrace color’s paradoxical combination of ubiquity and mystery as we explore subjects like Impressionism, perception, whiteness, film noir, color wheels, Technicolor, advertising, Goethe, and blushing. Sound eclectic? That’s precisely the point. Taught by three professors with different areas of expertise and interests, this course seeks to explore the many dimensions of color through the lenses of science, art, and popular culture.

“Thinking about Color” will be the first course offered under the new Humanities Series in the Honors College, 3111H-3114H, whose general topics are Narratives and Histories (3111H),
Aesthetics and Performance (3112H), Big Ideas, Big Questions (3113H), and The Digital Humanities (3114H). “Thinking about Color” will be offered under 3112H, “Aesthetics and Performance.” “Aesthetics and Performance” takes an interdisciplinary approach to a variety of topics central to such disciplines as Art, Art History, Theater, Film Studies, and Photography.” Students will be introduced to key figures, ideas, and texts in aesthetics and performance. Like all the courses offered in this new four-course series, “Aesthetics and Performance” can be used to fulfill an upper-level humanities credit for all honors students.

**Gn Hon 3120H Honors Humanities Colloquium**

Creativity for the Non-Arts Major

*Suzanne Burgoyne – Professor of Theatre*

The purpose of this course is to guide you in discovering and enhancing your own creative abilities, no matter what discipline you’re studying or what career goals you’re pursuing. Underlying assumptions: The instructor agrees with numerous creativity theorists and researchers that all humans are born with creative potential but that factors in our society and our systems of schooling discourage creative exploration, thus leading many of us to believe a) that creativity is undesirable and/or b) that we have no creative abilities.

**Gn Hon 3210H Honors Behavioral Colloquium**

Cross Cultural Psychology

*Etty Naveh-Benjamin – Professor of Psychology*

This course will adopt a psychological approach to the study of the cross-cultural experience. We will spend our time investigating how culture affects and determines human behavior, thoughts, emotions, and interactions with others, on both individual and societal levels. In particular, we will focus on how various cultures shape correspondingly different behaviors and thought patterns in their respective members. The course will assume the form of a seminar with class discussions and group exercises. Its main goal is to combine current psychological theory, with semester-long cultural immersion projects in order to yield an in-depth academic and personal understanding of culture and its effects on human thought, emotion, and behavior. Written and audiovisual materials will further supplement and hopefully enhance your appreciation and understanding of the cross-cultural experience.

Psychology at the Movies

*Etty Naveh-Benjamin – Professor of Psychology*

In this course, we will watch, discuss, and interpret films from a psychological perspective. Connections will be made between cinematic content and contemporary theory and research in psychology. The films chosen will be relevant to a wide range of issues in psychology, including: The continuity of personality from childhood to adulthood, the role of nature (genetics) and nurture (family environment) in shaping social development, Utopian societies based on behaviorist principles, the nature of evil and authoritarian societies and personalities,
coping and emotion regulation processes, cultural differences and similarities in behavior, and Cross-Cultural issues in films. The course will host a number of guests. Students will acquire a general introduction to psychological theories and methods, learn to think critically about films, and gain a deeper understanding of how psychological principles and research findings are disseminated to the public through films (and other forms of media). An interdisciplinary approach will be used; we will draw relevant work from psychology, film studies, sociology, literary criticism and mass communications. Some attempt will also be made to compare and contrast film with other representational and artistic media such as literature, television, painting, theater, etc. We will meet twice a week. Every week we will watch a film (or portion of a film) and then analyze and discuss the psychological content of the film. Reading material will include film reviews and general articles on the psychology of film and on relevant psychological perspectives. Student will give a presentation on the psychological themes in a film of their choosing. Students will also be responsible for writing a film review for each film watched during the course. The reviews will integrate the psychological understanding of the various themes and perspectives discussed in the course.

Gn Hon 3230H Honors Social Science Colloquium

Terrorism and Conflict Resolution
Paul Wallace – Professor of Political Science
An exploration of terrorism as political violence, which extends beyond the acts themselves. The focus is on religious, ethnic, and ideological based movements, and the state and international reactions. Emphasis is on identifying & dramatizing the problems, and most importantly, conflict resolution or identifying a process leading to conflict resolution. Students will be organized into role playing groups so as to examine and present modern movements, the state & international response; e.g. No. Ireland, Spain (Basques), Chechnya (Russia), S. Africa, Rwanda, Blood Diamonds, Arab-Israeli, Kurds, India (Kashmir, Sikhs), Sri Lanka Tamil Tigers), Japan (Aum & sarin gas), Peru (Shining Path), Argentina, Columbia (FARC) & U.S. radicalism. One midterm, role-playing presentation, a term paper and final exam. Flexibility, choices & discussion emphasized. “Terrorism” is a rapidly growing subfield in the social sciences that focuses on the ability of relatively small groups to disrupt societies and challenge the established state by using violent methods that can be defined as terrorism. The response of the state also may involve terrorism. Societal and state terrorism essentially are modern phenomenon employing weapons, organizational methods, communications, and psychological elements that stem from increasing modernity. Religion, ethnicity and ideology are three major constructs that most commonly motivate terrorist movements, as well as the state. Leadership struggles and material incentives also become involved.