

390R Interdisciplinary Humanities Junior Seminars

Foundation Document

Description:

The junior seminars are designed to be in-depth survey classes of a particular period, region, authorship, genre, medium, or movement. They should, of course, be interdisciplinary in their approach to the subject matter, placing the works studied in a broad cultural context. Class sizes should be capped at around 20 with preference given to majors and minors to allow for more and hopefully better teacher-student interaction. Courses might, in some instances, be cross-listed with honors or other relevant academic programs as a means of attracting more and better students. It is anticipated that students will already have taken IHum 250 and IHum 350 (and ideally IHum 370) before enrolling for the class. Developing good research, oral presentation and writing skills is central to the objectives of the junior seminars as preparation for the senior capstone courses.

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate deep knowledge of the cultural and intellectual creations within a particular genre or historical period
- Demonstrate advanced critical thinking and writing skills in oral and written assignments
- Demonstrate a mastery of library research techniques in written assignments
- Demonstrate an acquaintance with and understanding of scholarly interpretations of cultural artifacts from the area of focus

Assessment measures:

- The writing load should be approximately 10-20 pages of formal, graded writing assignments. Other “low-stakes” and informal writing assignments can also be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.
- The course should incorporate research assignments that invite students to become familiar with library resources, relevant databases, research strategies, and skills requisite to framing an advanced research project.
- Midterm and/or final exam
- Oral presentations