

UHP NEWS



MSUB Honors Program

February 2016

Dear Honors Programmers,

As the semester turns toward spring break and midterms, there is much to report on and so let me dive right in.

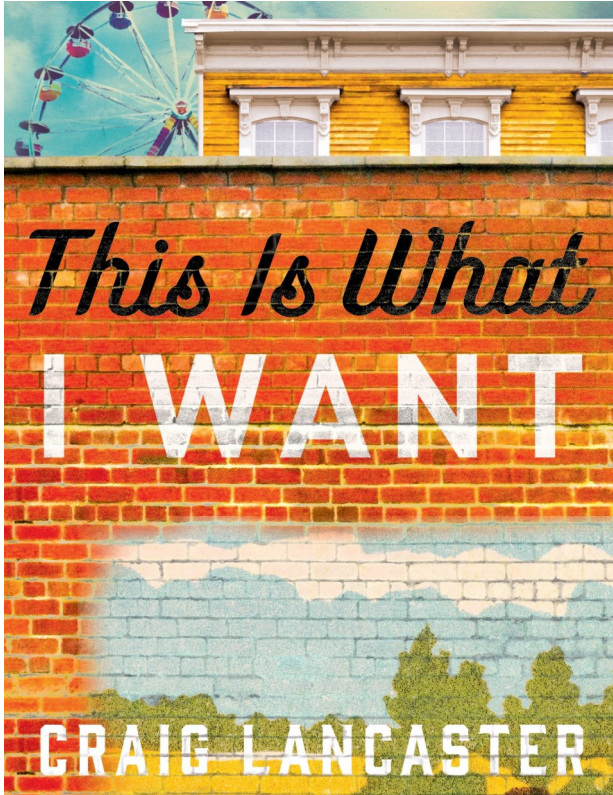
- **Course Registration and Honors Courses** – We include the preliminary list of honors courses for the fall. We expect to add more courses and will keep you updated on them for registration, which begins on Monday, March 14. Among the noteworthy of the fall list are HONR499, our capstone which we are offering for the first time as a fall course, the seminar “The Body in Contemporary Culture,” and our 2016-17 writer-in-resident’s course (Fiction Writing) with novelist Craig Lancaster.
- **Advising, Food, and Celebration Evening (March 3)** – We are still making arrangements for this advising and free food session. As for the celebration element, we expect the Interdisciplinary Honors Minor to pass that day, and we can celebrate this and move into implementation mode, especially for our May 2016 graduates who hope to earn this designation.
- **Graduation** – If you expect to earn the designation University Honors Scholar or University Honors Graduate, please let us know. We are just ordering the special stoles that designate these achievements and don’t want to miss anyone.
- **Research and Creativity Conference (which we co-sponsor)** – If you want to present your work, the application deadline is March 25. For information, guidelines, and application forms, see http://www.msubillings.edu/honors/Undergrad_Research_Conf.htm. Just as we have the last two years, we will be asking for volunteers to help with the conference, with setting up, registration, etc. The conference itself will be on Friday, April 22, and, if you can help out, please let us know.
- **Honors Council Representatives** – The Council serves as the board of directors for the UHP and is composed of faculty, staff, and students. We need two new student representatives. If you are interested in serving, please let Jenay or me know.
- **Advisory Committee** – The committee comprised of UHP students has met twice now and is exploring a number of ideas to strengthen and improve the UHP. We will be getting out a Doodle poll shortly to explore some of the ideas that have come up in these meetings, among others honors housing, advising/peer advising, and peer tutoring. If you would like a more complete account of what is being discussed, let me know and I will send you the notes from the meetings.
- **Craig Lancaster** – Our 2016-17 guest writer is an unusual guy, a novelist who can earn his living with his fiction. His debut novel *600 Hours of Edward* (2010) launched his career. It’s an interesting novel that I think many of you would enjoy. It features an autistic narrator, hence the title—Edward counts everything. For more information on Lancaster, check out his website: <http://craig-lancaster.com>

More to come as we have much going on, but for now let me wish you good wishes for our rapidly approaching spring. I saw my first robin of the coming season yesterday, who seemed afraid that I might want to steal his particularly plump earthworm.

Almost spring good wishes,
DC

HONORS PROGRAM

New Fall Courses



WRITING COURSE

Fiction Writing Course (title TBA)

Guest Writer Craig Lancaster

In describing his aims as a fiction writer Craig Lancaster says, "It's all too easy to turn people into caricatures, but the truth is, we humans are pretty damned fascinating. For me, fiction is a way at getting at truth. I use it to examine the world around me, the things that disturb me, the questions I have about life — whether my own or someone else's. My hope is that someone reading my work will have their own emotional experience and bring their own thoughts to what they read on the page." We expect him to bring the same perspective to this fall's Fiction Writing course.

HONR 294/494-001

"The Body in Contemporary Culture"

Professor Leanne Gilbertson

This course surveys visual representations of the body (art, film, popular media, medical imaging) since the 1990s and explores what those representations suggest about evolving cultural values, and our understanding of the individual and our place in the universe. Topics such as the grotesque and the abject, nature and technology, and identity politics will be investigated through a series of case studies which combine theory and artistic and cultural performances. The artworks of Yoko Ono, Joan Jonas, Guillermo Gómez Peña, Huang Yong Ping, Yinka Shonibare, and Jimmie Durham, among others will be considered.



Other Fall Offerings

HONR 111 Perspectives and Understanding – Professor David Craig

Explores classic and contemporary works of literature, art, and philosophy with an emphasis on cultural and historical contexts in order to develop critical and multi-disciplinary analytical skills. For spring 2015, the course will explore such interrelated issues as: 1) learning how to live in this world, 2) the frequent conflict between individual longings and societal values, and 3) the search for meaning and value in personal life.

COMX 111-002 HON Introduction to Public Speaking – Professor Melinda Tilton

3 cr. Develops speaking abilities; students acquire an understanding of basic rhetorical theory and its application in a variety of speech situations. Listening, speaking and critiquing abilities are emphasized. This course addresses the following topics: speech preparation and delivery, forming and fielding questions, audience analysis, listening skills, critiquing and speaker anxiety.

HSTA 200 Historian as Detective – Professor Emily Arendt

Examines the basic research methods of History. Includes basic research writing and information gathering skills appropriate to History. Students will be instructed in the use of the Turbrian/Chicago Manual of Style system of documentation. The course also prepares students to delve more deeply into the discipline of History by equipping them with the tools they need to succeed in more advanced study through upper division courses in the History program.

HONR 499 Hunger and Food Security – Professor Virginia Mermel

Builds on the food insecurity work completed by students who took this course in prior years. Students will explore and implement strategies to improve the emergency food distribution system, reduce food waste, and build a food safety-net that will increase food availability to low-income people in the short-term as well as build an emergency food reserve that will benefit all Billings area residents in the long-term.

ENST 335 The Environmental Vision – Professor Bernard Quetchenbach

Examines how we understand and represent the relationship between “self” and “environment” through American art, writing, and film. The course begins with a consideration of how visual culture in early American life shaped attitudes toward geography and landscape that persist in various forms today. After a brief detour through the history of oil in America, we will turn our attention to 20th century writers who challenge how we think about “nature” and our place on the earth.

**MORE TO
COME**

HONORS PROGRAM

Announcements

Because we didn't want you to have to hand in scholarships during
Spring Break, we change the deadline!

NEW SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE: MARCH 14

**COURSE CONTRACTS
DUE FEBRUARY 26th
(THIS FRIDAY)**



I NEED FOOD!

Then you should
come to our

**PRE-BREAK
ADVISING
SOCIAL!**

THURSDAY, MARCH 3 @4:00PM