Honors General Studies Course Descriptions:
Fall 2015

These course descriptions are directly from the instructors of these Honors General Studies classes. All of these courses count in some category of UNK general studies requirements.

**English 101H: Introduction to Academic Writing—01/Jane Christensen**
This course seeks to introduce students to academic discourse through writing. A focus on language awareness reacquaints students with the various ways we use language. We will study not only the elements of academic writing but also seek topics of current cultural contexts on which to base these writings. In order to become better writers it is essential to read good writing, and in order to become better readers it is essential to develop critical reading skills to better understand what we read. Language culture is all around us every day—print, television, internet/social media—media in general. Many of the pieces we’ll read in *Language Awareness* reflect current contexts, many of which are found in American popular culture, and these will spark ideas upon which students may then write their own analytical reflections. The emphasis is on discussion not lecture.

**English 102H: Academic Writing and Research: Semiotics: Examining American Popular Culture—01&02/Jane Christensen**
As suggested by the title of this course, the focus will be on written exposure of ideas within the context of semiotic analysis of American Popular Culture. Presumably through intense and careful examination of the elements and phenomena of American popular culture we can learn more about different levels of our culture and what the popularity of certain elements says about us as a culture. Readings from *Signs of Life in the U.S.A.: Readings on Popular Culture for Writers* include topics such as consumer behavior, advertising, television, film, and iconic figures real and imagined. Semiotics is a particularly effective methodology for analyzing popular culture—semiotics is the study of signs and symbols, and of locating meaning in any sort of text: print, images, and other media. Language development as well as writing practice by critical analysis, together with research, is the focus of this course, with emphasis on discussion rather than lecture.

**Speech 100H: Fundamentals of Speech—01/Fletcher Ziwoya**
This course will introduce you to the history, theory, and practice of rhetoric from which modern day public speaking emerged. Accordingly, this class is as much a
theory class as it is a performance class. In our journey through various theories related to public communication we will explore opportunities for applying those theories in the professional context and in our own classroom. Through various assignments, students will learn the principles of researching for, developing, organizing, and delivering different types of speeches. Upon completion of this course you should have accomplished the following objectives:

1. Define and explain basic communication terms and principles that serve as a basis for competent public communication.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of theories related to public communication, listening, analytical reasoning, verbal communication, nonverbal communication, gender communication, intercultural communication and research skills.
3. Research, prepare, and deliver well-organized informative and persuasive presentations that contain effective supporting materials and conform to audience members’ needs and/or expectations.
4. Analyze and critically evaluate public communication attempts including speeches delivered by others as well as mass-mediated messages.
5. Apply principles of diversity to public communication situations and demonstrate competent communication practices that respect diverse perspectives.

Music 100H: Music Appreciation—01/James Cook

The course features the world’s greatest composers, performers, conductors, symphony orchestras, and choruses in over four-hundred video performance examples within the context of a fully illustrated overhead lecture. Additionally, selected piano works will be performed by the instructor (http://wwwpianistjamescook.com) during the class. The objective of Music 100H is to teach students to be more musically informed through the introduction of Western music and brief introduction to Non-Western music of other cultures. Students will work toward achieving the following goals: (1) Familiarity with some of the world’s greatest composers and concert artists both past and present; (2) Increased ability to assess the quality and effectiveness of selected musical performances; (3) Ability to place an unknown musical work in a particular tradition and period; and (4) Increased understanding of the cultural and historical background to the various styles of music.

English 240H: Literary Classics of the Western World—01/Marguerite Tassi

This course focuses on great works of literature that take us into the heart of being, into the quest for identity, self-knowledge, and knowledge of the other, into a perilous world of risk, danger, and destruction, into love, death, and wisdom. King Lear’s questions reverberate throughout these works: “Who is it that can tell me who I am?” As Lear and Oedipus, Odysseus, Rosalind, and Elizabeth seek to know themselves
better, they are launched on quests that reveal painful truths about what it means to be human, to be exiled from home, and to love without the certainty of being loved. The questions these works pose are difficult for characters and readers alike to face: What lies at the very core of the self? What realizations do we have when social conventions and trappings fall away? What is the essence of love? Where is home to be found? How integral are others to the making up or destruction of self? These classic literary works of Western Civilization present us with memorable and moving narratives involving the yearning for homecoming, the difficult quest for identity and self-knowledge, the desire for justice and revenge, and the search for love. Readings include The Odyssey, the Oedipus plays, King Lear, As You Like It, and Pride and Prejudice.

**Philosophy 100H: Introduction to Philosophy—01/David Rozema**
This course seeks to both convey a sense of what the discipline of Philosophy is and to engage students in a philosophical dialogue concerning perennial and contemporary questions centered on what it means to be a human, to be a person, and to live a meaningful and good life. Among topics dealt with are reality, morality, justice, and freedom.

**Sociology 250H: Anthropology—01/Stephen Glazier**
Anthropology reviews the physical evolution of humans and the origins or culture. The concepts of culture and cross-cultural comparisons are used to understand the various ways of life humans have developed in different times and different places. Special attention will be given to the relationships between means and subsistence (how people obtain basic needs like food and shelter) and social organization. Course objectives are: 1) To become familiar with basic concepts and methods used by anthropologists; 2) By looking at other cultures, to gain a better perspective on one’s own culture; and 3) To understand and appreciate the diversity of human activities and beliefs as these relate to human survival.

**English 388H: Capstone Course: Religion in Film—01/Sam Umland**
This course aims to bring together the disciplines of religious studies and film studies. The premise of the course is that films and religions are analogous. Religions and films both create worlds (not just narratives) and present those worlds to their viewers/adherents. Movies offer glimpses of possible worlds, allowing the viewer to experience these worlds before returning—enriched, perhaps transformed—to everyday reality. Cinematic world-making is analogous to what religions do through their myths, rituals, and texts—to highlight, praise, or condemn certain ways of Being in the world.

[This Capstone course is open only to students with at least junior ranking or within 6 hours of completing all general studies requirements]