

Spring 2025 Social Science Colloquia



Winning Combinations in Health Behavior: Exploring Health Priorities

John Roncone

HONOR 340 – 001

T 5:15pm – 6:30pm (Hybrid)

This social science discipline colloquium examines health behavior exploring health priority areas, such as, physical activity, stress management, and other dimensions of health-related physical fitness. The priority areas explored

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music and dance. As an experience in interdisciplinarity, this course invites us to imagine and participate in new ways of learning, teaching, and communicating history. Assessment will not be based on dancing ability. Instead, the course will develop its own creative language to reflect on our discovery of the history and motion of salsa.

Democracy, Objectivity and the US Constitution

Nathaniel Blower

HONOR 340- 008

MWF 9:40am – 10:30am

How should we read the United States Constitution? As a 'living document' whose meaning can change and grow alongside changes and growth in American democratic society? Or as something whose meaning is more 'static', more 'objective'? Recently more than ever, perhaps, it seems to be the second option that is preferred by justices of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). But is it even possible to interpret the Constitution without injecting any life into it? And if it is possible, do the recent decisions of SCOTUS (on abortion and gun control, for instance) actually live up to this ideal? These questions, and a number of related political, social and philosophical questions, will be our focus in this colloquium.

The American Civil Rights Movement: History and Impact

Nathaniel Blower

HONOR 340- 008

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The Willpower Superpower: The Epic of LeBron James

Tim Gabel

HONOR 340 – 506 (Online Synchronous)

W 3:05pm – 5:35pm

This course conceptually focuses on the intersection of psychology and storytelling, more specifically how the dimensions of willpower create self-understanding when life is viewed narratively. In this sense, we think of willpower as an agentic force for not only accomplishing external goals, but also how we, as individuals, can transform our inner selves and society as a collective. While *The Willpower Superpower: The Epic of LeBron James* is naturally about a basketball icon, it is more about how his journey, discovery and application of willpower—for better and worse—informs the development of our own. It is a unique, and surprisingly local, paradigm to analyze these concepts. In fact, the willpower and personal story we all have, when understood and applied, is a force as prodigious as LeBron James' basketball ability.