

MAYMESTER 2024

May 14 – May 30

Do not register for this course unless you can attend, in-person, EACH day

UNHL 3544 M01: Sex, Drugs, and Sports (3 credits)

Instructor: Dawn Comstock (UHL)

Meeting Pattern: Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Thursdays 10:00am – 3:00 pm

There is an inherent conflict between the expectation that elite athletes will utilize every available resource to “be the best” and the underlying expectation that sport provide a “fair playing field” and that good sportsmanship should prevent “cheating.” This course explores the history of elite athletes’ use of performance enhancing substances, the science behind their use and the never-ending quest to identify athletes using them, the media’s portrayal of athletes accused of their use, the sociology and ethical drivers behind why we care if athletes use them, and how the politics and policy decisions governing their use are influenced by cultural perceptions of nationality, race, and gender.

UHL COURSE INFORMATION FALL 2024

Courses for First-Year UHL Students

All first-year **freshmen** must enroll for both UNHL 1100 and UNHL 2755. First year **transfers** must enroll for UNHL 2755 and do not need UNHL 1100. UHL **freshmen** who do not have credit for ENGL 1020 must enroll for ENGL 1020.

UNHL 1100 001: The Life of the Mind (3 credits) *Required for Incoming All Freshmen*

Instructors: Robert Metcalf (Philosophy) and Sarah Hagelin (English)

Meeting Pattern: Fridays 11:00 am – 1:50 pm

UNHL 2755 001: UHL Seminar (1 credit) *Required for Incoming All First-Year*

Instructor: Sarah Fields (Communication)

Meeting Pattern: Fridays 9:15 – 10:30 am

Courses for 2nd and 3rd Year, and all Transfer/Upper Division UHL Students

UNHL 3170 001: Anti-Transgender Legislation, Critical Race Theory, and the Future of U.S. Democracy (3 credits)

Instructor: Mia Fischer (Communication)

Meeting Pattern: Thursdays 11:00 am – 1:50 pm

Since 2020 transgender people in the United States have been experiencing unprecedented political efforts to restrict their rights and participation in public life. In 2022 alone, over 150 bills have been introduced across the country with the aim of restricting trans people’s – especially trans youth’s – ability to play sports, use bathrooms, and/or receive gender-affirming health care, as well as laws restricting discussion of gender and sexual identity in schools. At the same time, we are witnessing attacks on critical race theory, reproductive, voting, and immigration rights, as well as on the very institutions of U.S. democracy as evidenced by the January 6 Capitol riots. In this discussion-based course, we will investigate simple, yet pressing questions: Why has there been such an increase in anti-trans legislation in the past few years? What relationship might this new surge in anti-trans legislation have to attacks on the rights of other marginalized populations? How has this legislation been framed, responded to, and challenged? To examine these questions, we will engage with a range of interdisciplinary scholarship from critical media, cultural, queer, transgender, ethnic, and surveillance studies. Students will develop their own voice on these issues by creating a final public-facing multi-media project, for example, in the form of a podcast, zine, or video.

UNHL 3827 001: American Music, American Culture: Folk, Roots, and the Blues (3 credits)

Instructor: Sean McGowan (College of Arts and Media)

Meeting Pattern: Wednesdays 11:00 am – 1:50 pm

This class will explore the various influences on American culture, music, and identity, through analysis of several important musical figures and historic movements. These movements were largely created and disseminated by immigrants in the 19th c., many of whom brought traditional songs and stories of historic icons, legends, love, and loss. These songs and musical styles developed throughout regional America, influenced by - and subsequently influencing - local and even indigenous traditions of religion, community, and self-expression. This course will specifically examine the styles and developments of the Appalachia region (its Scots-Irish traditions & influence on bluegrass and old-time), modern American folk and protest music in New York City's Greenwich Village, and the Mississippi Delta Blues and the Great Migration of African-Americans north to Memphis and Chicago.

UNHL 3999 001: Storytelling Across Disciplines (3 credits)

Instructor: John Tinnell (English)

Meeting Pattern: Mondays 2:00 – 4:50 pm

Research papers are the most common kind of writing that happens in universities, and there's good reasons for that. Research papers are optimized to support nuanced, informed knowledge-creation on specialized topics among experts in a field. But research papers, for all their merits, are ill-suited to the task of conveying scholarly insights to more general audiences.

One of the best ways to communicate your academic passions to the wider world is to infuse scholarly research with nonfiction storytelling. Researchers who speak and write in this spirit conscientiously employ narrative techniques that help non-specialists understand the value and relevance of their arguments, theories, and findings. They find a way to emphasize character, conflict, and dramatic structure even as they're writing about the intricacies of neuroscience or prehistoric geology. However complex or *niche* your academic interests might seem, today's media landscape is brimming with examples of researchers using storytelling to turn their expertise into bestselling books, magazine articles, popular podcasts, viral videos, and so on.

Our survey of academic storytelling across disciplines will explore multiple genres within this larger space, from narrative histories and literary biographies to ethnographic memoirs and science stories. For the final assignment, you will make use of nonfiction storytelling to write an article about an academic topic in your field for a general audience.

Senior Seminars

Both courses are required for graduation and may be taken in any order or concurrently.

UNHL 4991 001: Senior Seminar I (3 credits)

Instructor: Melissa Tackett-Gibson (SPA)

Meeting Pattern: Tuesdays 9:00 – 11:50 am

UNHL 4992 001 : Senior Seminar II (1 credit)

Instructor: Adam Lippert (Sociology)

Meeting Pattern: Tuesdays 12:15 – 1:30 pm