HON 216: SEEing Science in Appalachia: The Bee Sustainability Project
1 section // Brock, Straddon // MWF 9:05-11:00 am // NSB

HON 304W/308W: Stories and Structures: Math/Literature
1 section // Kroeg, Gibson // TR 11:00-12:15 pm // Case Annex 162
“Literature and mathematics together play a critical role in education, now and in the past. The scope, mechanism, and ultimate end of instruction for individuals and for societies at large do not remain constant in time. This course approaches reading, writing, and arithmetic as being as compatible and connected enterprises, together contributing to our ability to parse and to impact the world. As a community, we will read and discuss literary works that reflect or touch upon what and why we learn.”

HON 307W/320W: Arts Across Cultures
1 section // Sweley, Bucknam // TR 12:30-1:45 pm // Campbell
“The purpose of this course is to give the student an overview of the social and cultural significance of art and the aesthetic modes of other societies. Students will be guided in understanding the cultural matrixes of various styles, forms of art, and techniques relative to contemporary society in order to make aesthetic judgments in daily life, reflecting creative thinking and discussion.”

HON 307W/308W: Opera as Cultural Drama
1 section // Liddell, Wolf // M 4:00-7:00 PM // Wallace 433
“A study of the aesthetics, musical elements, and philosophical themes of Western opera and of the critique of Western culture in opera.”

HON 308W: God, Pleasure and the Devil: Roads to Happiness in Medieval Philosophy and Literature
1 section // Bennett, Parchment // TR 12:30-1:45 pm // Case Annex 162
“In this course, we will explore medieval philosophical and literary works from differing perspectives, ranging from orthodox to heretical, on the issue of love and worldly/otherworldly happiness. In the first section we will look at texts representative of the standard Augustinian picture: that true happiness can only be found by turning away from the sin of earthly pleasure and focusing on God/the eternal/the next world. In the second section, we will discuss challenges to that view and the effort to acknowledge the intrinsic value of the secular, all the while keeping the secular contained in a position subordinate to the sacred. Finally, in the third section, we will examine some heretical challenges to the orthodox view, both in the form of intellectual and moral critiques of the traditional doctrines and practices of the Church, and in the endeavor to elevate worldly pleasures from their historically lowered status as sin—or, at best, as something of merely secondary interest—to an important and worthy object of desire.”

HON 308W/310W/320W: American Women and Their Voices, 1870—1920
This course explores via historical as well as literary sources the key changes in American women’s lives in the critical period of transition between 1870 and 1920. Topics addressed include sexuality, dress, deportment, education, marriage/motherhood, employment, and involvement in public and political action.

HON 308W/310W/312W: Ancient Wisdom and Modern Life
1 section // Messerich, MacLaren // TBA // TBA
(Description coming soon)

(over)
HON 308W/310W: Mummies, Museums and Buried Treasure: The Modern Discovery of the Ancient World
2 sections // Jay, Gooch // Possible TR 2:00-3:15 & 3:30-4:45 pm // Case Annex 162
This course will explore the following topics: the development of archaeology and comparative religious studies in the context of 19th century European colonialism; the idealization of Greece in modern European thought; the role played by the Rosetta Stone and similar discoveries in deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs and other important inscriptions and texts; the discovery of ancient Mesopotamian creation narratives and their influence on the interpretation of the Book of Genesis narratives; the origins of the Aryan myth in the discovery of grammatical similarities and differences among Indo-European and Semitic languages; the role of archaeology and philology in the emergence of religious studies as a distinct academic discipline; and “Egyptomania” and its influence on modern archaeology and on popular culture.

HON 308W/312W/320W: Meditation, Compassion and Science
1 section // Velez, Winslow // TR 9:30-10:45 am // Case Annex 162
“In this course we will critically examine the relationship between meditation and compassion from the perspective of two distinct yet complementary disciplines, psychology and contemplative studies. We will study the theory and practice of Buddhist meditation with special emphasis on methods to cultivate compassion. We will also explore the scientific research in psychology that has emerged in the last twenty years about the effects of contemplative practices. This course will be taught as a seminar, with guided discussions about selected readings. Roughly half of the class periods will focus on the theory of various types of meditation followed by critical first-person examination of those practices, and the other half of the class periods will focus on scientific research about the topics. This course will be secular and require no particular religious or ideological beliefs. We ask that you keep an open but critical mind. Come, find out for yourself.”