

March 2016

Around the Honors Program

Professor Lectures on Women and Crime

Dr. Jerra Jenrette joined over 25 Honors students in mid-March to give a lecture centered on the topic of women and crime. After giving a well-attended lecture on the history and traditions of Halloween in October, Dr. Jenrette graciously agreed to lead this lecture for the Honors program to celebrate Women's History Month. Dr. Jenrette, a professor in the History, Anthropology, and World Languages Department, taught a course entitled "Women and Crime" in the spring 2015 semester, which was based on her prior collaborative research with Dr. Joseph Laythe.

Kicking off the presentation, Dr. Jenrette asked the group, "Why do women kill?" Students offered potential answers, and Dr. Jenrette then cited a 2007 report that claimed women only commit acts of expressive violence based on their bottled up emotions and hormone imbalances. The lecture continued with an examination of specific cases of criminal acts committed by female perpetrators throughout history, such as that of Velma Barfield and Lizzie Borden. Dr. Jenrette also covered the history of incarcerated female populations, which were at one time housed in the same institutions as male inmates.

The lecture was followed by a brief question-and-answer session. Senior Honors student Kyle Turk asked about the professor's favorite female criminal case. Dr. Jenrette shared that the most interesting cases in her opinion

are not criminal cases, but rather are those cases involving women who were incarcerated for standing up against injustice. She cited the story of Gisella Perl, a Jewish gynecologist who was forced to work alongside doctor Josef Mengele (also known as the doctor of death) in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Following the war, Perl applied for a position in an American hospital. She was questioned on her medical responsibilities in the concentration camp, and it was revealed that she had completed over 1,000 abortions for Jewish women within the camp to prevent their pregnancies from being discovered, as this would have resulted in their immediate order to the gas chamber. Perl's story became one of controversy in which she was called a murderer by some and a hero by others.



Gisella Perl

A Jewish gynecologist whose work in Auschwitz was debated as that of a murderer or a hero.

This presentation was one part of a series of enrichment events scheduled for the spring semester. Honors enrichment events are designed to provide supplemental academic experiences outside of the traditional classroom setting.

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Spring 2016 Honors Contracts

Each semester, the Honors scholars have the opportunity to contract a non-Honors course, which allows the student to work closely with the professor to create a new Honors-level syllabus for the course. An Honors contract encourages participating students to research a topic of interest, delve deeper into the course material, and work under the guidance of a faculty member. The following Honors scholars are contracting courses for the Spring 2016 semester:

Alexa Alpern

ART 490 Production of a Pilot

Alexa will complete an independent study under the direction of Professors Jeremy Galante and Hanjin Park, in which she will create the first episode of a new animated television series using design concepts from the production pipeline.

Mackenzie Bracken

ARHI 207 Art History/Overview of Northwestern Art

Mackenzie will work with Professor Mark DeKa to analyze and produce art inspired by the study of non-western art history, specifically the traditional art of Japan.

Ashley Coyle

ART 268 Animation I

Ashley will work with Professor Jeremy Galante to conduct self-studies of experimental animations and reflective journals that evaluate the success and failure of experimental two-dimensional animation.

Natalie Gilley

SPAN 102 Second Course in Spanish

Natalie will work with Professor Amanda Frantz-Mamani to evaluate the importance of sports in Latin America, with specific attention on history, cultural norms, sport as profession, and region-specific activities, such as cliff diving in Mexico and surfing in El Salvador.

Emily Kling

HPE 241 Stress Management

Emily will work with Professor Amy Barrall to evaluate stress management programs with a focus on college students and athletes.

SaLa Lee

BIOL 409 Molecular Biology and Genomics

SaLa will work with Professor Matthew Foradori to delineate the history of CRISPR and CRISPR-Cas9, a new molecular gene-editing tool that has sparked a patent battle between the University of California, Berkeley, the Broad Institute of Harvard, and MIT.

Andrew Lehman

ART 268 Animation I

Andrew will work with Professor Karen Ross to explore multiple perspectives in story-based animation through self-reflection on the production of animated content.

Kathlyn Longtine

ENGL 312 Essay Workshop

Kathlyn will analyze major modern essayists under the direction of Professor Roger Solberg. Kathlyn's examination of rhetorical techniques, messaging, and communicative style will inform her personal technique for the writing of effective essays.

Kyle Turk

HIST 476 History of Women and War, 20th Century

Kyle will work with Professor Jerra Jenrette to research and produce a documentary film on the role of women as volunteer medics and military officers during the Vietnam War.

Cassandra Whitmoyer

HPE 222 Principles of Fitness Instruction

Cassandra will work with Professor Ruth Stauffer to produce a single-season workout plan for a high school girls cross country team. The plan will include simulations, running logs and workout goals for the team.

Fall 2016 Honors Classes Announced



ARHI 105 Overview of Western Art History

Professor Sherry Wellman

This course is an introduction and general survey of art and artists from Pre-historic times through the 20th century. Students will examine major periods and styles which have contributed to Western art through the use of slides, videos and films in coordination with the lectures.

BIOL 101 Human Biology

Professor Marty Mitchell

The foundations, principles, and processes of biology are taught as they are exemplified by or relate to the human organism. The structures, reactions, interrelationships, and malfunctions of human organs, systems, and processes are emphasized. Lecture and laboratory.



COMM 220 Intercultural Communications

Professor Andrew Smith

This course provides both a practical and theoretical introduction to the field of intercultural, intracultural, and interracial communication. It explores intercultural communication between individuals and small groups representing different cultural experiences and backgrounds.

FYE 104 Cyborgs and Social Networks

Professor Sam Cluster

This course introduces the theoretical and empirical perspectives regarding the relationship between new communication technologies and social organization, identity and interaction. Students will explore notions of social solidarity, group formation, identity construction, diversity, inequality, consumer capitalism, social control mechanisms, civic engagement, globalization and processes of social change as they have been transformed by digital communications and other technological advancements.



FYE 106 Does God Exist

Professor Steve Sullivan

This FYE course is devoted to the classic philosophical issue of whether God exists, centered on two questions: Is there good evidence for or against the existence of God? Can belief in God be rational in the absence of good evidence? The course pays special attention to moral arguments for and against the existence of God, and to moral considerations concerning faith.

GEOG 101 World Geography

Professor Baher Ghosheh

This course offers the requisite knowledge base and skills for the scientific understanding of the physical and cultural attributes of places, human environment relations and the spatial pattern of distribution of geographic phenomena. The course focuses on the strategic themes of geographic education in the 21st century: environmental change, sustainability, the spatial pattern of economy and society and the role of technology in human – environment relationships.



HIST 261 History of the US 1

Professor Jerra Jenrette

This course surveys the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States. The first course covers the period from the Colonial period to the end of Reconstruction.

PSYC 301 Psychology of Adjustment

Professor Susan Labine

This course focuses on the psychological processes through which people manage or cope with the demands and challenges of everyday life. Emphasis is placed on stress and its effects, coping processes, and the impact of intimate relationships on psychological wellbeing.



The Robert C. Weber Honors Program would like to honor the memory of Dr. Joseph Laythe.



Dr. Joseph Laythe served as a professor in the History, Anthropology, and World Languages Department for nearly 20 years. He was incredibly passionate about history, educating others, and about life itself. His impact on the students, faculty, and community at Edinboro University will surely be long-lasting. Dr. Laythe's academic work, influential teaching style, and positive attitude exemplify that of a truly great educator, mentor, and friend. His legacy can perhaps be best described by his former students...

“Dr. Laythe was by far one of the most passionate and caring professors I have ever met. To many students of all majors, he was more than just a teacher of academics; he was a teacher of life. Not only that, but he was a friend to all students and faculty alike. Edinboro University has lost a truly magnificent member of its community.” - *Kyle Turk*