

# Rabinowitz Honors College Seminars

## Fall 2026

### HUHC 020A H1 MEDICAL NARRATIVES – EXPLORING THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE OF PATIENT CARE

Professors: Genie Giaimo (Writing Studies and Rhetoric) and Eric Last (Medicine)

MW 9:40-11:05 AM

CRN: 92431

HEGER 0101

This course offers an interdisciplinary lens into medical narratives from the perspectives of a medical doctor with years of clinical experience and a researcher who studies chronic illness, academic ableism, and the language of health and medicine. In the co-taught course, students will read real-life accounts of health and illness from patient and clinician perspectives. They will interrogate interactions with the health care system, and their perceptions of illness, through narrative works as well as poetry, visual art, dance and lyrical music. They will undertake their own personal and reflective writing about health, well-being, and illness. And they will engage in empirical research wherein they interview others about their experiences with these and related topics and analyze and communicate out their findings.

*The chair of the Writing Studies and Rhetoric Department has approved this course to count as an elective toward the major and the minor in Writing Studies. However, students can't count both this course and WSC/ENGL 109 (Examining Narrative Medicine) or WSC 181G (Medical Narratives).*

### HUHC 020C H1 GRAPHIC NOVEL MEMOIRS

Professor: Keith Dallas (English)

MW 2:40-4:05 PM

CRN: 92162

RSVLT 0212

Through Memoirs, authors document their personal lives for various rhetorical reasons (e.g. catharsis, reflection, advocacy, nostalgia, et al.). Graphic Novel Memoirs, however, complexify the literary genre. By juxtaposing words and images, a Graphic Novel Memoir not only adds visuality to its personal narrative but also potentially deconstructs its own authenticity. Through the works of such creators as Art Spiegelman, Alison Bechdel, and Marjane Satrapi, this course will examine how Graphic Novel Memoirs construct memory and identity and address such themes as gender, ethnicity, social class, disability, and trauma.

Readings include both graphic novels and scholarly essays. Graded assignments include three papers (4-6 pages each) and four response essays (1 page each). Participation in class discussions is required.

*The chair of the English Department has approved this course to count as an elective toward the major and the minor in English.*

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## Fall 2026

### HUHC 020D H1 REALITY, FICTION AND NUMBERS: THE PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS

Professor: Mark McEvoy (Philosophy)

TR 2:40-4:05 PM

CRN: 92432

BRESL 0012

Imagine trying to explain the American Electoral College system without using numbers.

Imagine telling scientists they couldn't use mathematics in their research, or telling mathematicians that they weren't studying anything real.

Everyday language, scientific language and mathematical language all talk about numbers as if they are real things.

Well then, what kinds of things are numbers?

Are they physical objects? If so, exactly where is the number 12? How much does it weigh?

If they're not physical objects, are they non-physical objects? Whatever could that mean?

Are numbers just something we made up? If so, just what are mathematicians doing? And why would something we just made up be so useful in describing and explaining the physical world?

This course is a non-technical introduction to the Philosophy of Mathematics. We will discuss the work of both contemporary and historical writers. No mathematical ability is assumed or required.

*The chair of the Philosophy Department has approved this course to count as an elective toward the major and the minor in Philosophy.*

### HUHC 020E H1 AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Professor: Bernard J. Firestone (Political Science)

MW 11:20-12:45 PM

CRN: 92433

CALK 0208

The war in Gaza has stimulated extraordinary interest in the general American public and has roiled America's college campuses in ways not seen since the Vietnam War. Notwithstanding the current, heightened interest in the politics of the Middle East, the region has been a longstanding preoccupation of American policymakers and a significant segment of the American public. Although the Middle East is characterized by a high level of political, religious, and ethnic diversity, many Americans tend to view the Middle East as an undifferentiated whole. This misreading of the region may explain why as much as American policymakers have invested enormous time and resources in the Middle East, our strategic goals have often appeared muddled and our policies not only ineffective but even counter-productive – including in the case of the war in Gaza. This course

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will examine American foreign policy toward the Middle East and attempt to explain what motivates that policy. We will explore several subjects, including the Palestine-Israel conflict, the effect of geostrategic concerns on our policies in the region, and the U.S.' attempt to balance our pursuit of democratic values with our interests in oil and strategic advantage. Requirements will include a midterm, final, and 4-5 pages final paper

*The chair of the Political Science department has indicated this course may be counted as an elective toward the completion of political science requirements for majors or minors.*

### HUHC 020F H1 WITCHCRAFT & THE DEVIL IN SPANISH LITERATURE

Professor: Vicente Lledó-Guillem (Literature & Romance Languages and Literatures)

MW: 2:40-4:05 PM

CRN: 92434

BROWR 0101

This course focuses on the presence of the Devil and Witchcraft in Medieval and Early Modern Spanish Literature. We will analyze how the Devil, warlocks, and witches are depicted and how their descriptions, actions, and magical rituals relate to issues such as gender, love, sexuality, religion, and politics. While this course will expand from the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries, we may make occasional references to the contemporary world. The amount of reading will be very reasonable and, most importantly, there will be plenty of occasions to exchange ideas and enjoy the material. All the readings will be in English.

*The chair of the Romance Languages Department has indicated that this course may count towards the Major in Spanish either in the 3rd category which allows credit courses taught in English, or the 2nd category if the student reads the works in the original language. Students majoring in Spanish should speak with the instructor at the beginning of the semester about how they intend to proceed.*

### HUHC 020G H1 CONTEMPORARY CAPITALISM ON TELEVISION AND FILM

Professors: Aashish Kumar (Radio, Television, Film)

T 4:20-7:20 PM

CRN: 92435

LHSC 0300

Film and television have increasingly turned from caricaturing greedy elites (a la Gordon Gekko) to probing the structural crises of contemporary capitalism, particularly in the wake of the 2008 financial collapse and rising wealth inequality. From *Margin Call* and *The Big Short* to *Parasite*, *Succession*, and *The White Lotus*, recent works examine not just excess, but the systems and relationships shaped by finance, precarity, and concentrated power. This seminar pairs such screen texts with literature and journalism to explore how cultural production renders abstract economic forces legible and human, asking students to trace the interplay between media representation and the lived realities of twenty-first-century capitalism.

# Rabinowitz Honors College Seminars

## Fall 2026

*The chair of the Radio, Television, and Film Department has approved this course to count as an elective toward the following majors: Television Production and Studies (BA), Television (BS), Television and Film (BS), and Television and Business (BS), as well as the RTVF minor. It can be substituted in place of any existing "Television Studies" course requirement or elective.*