

**CRN#                      Spring 2019 APL 090, Integrating Democratic Education at Stonehill (IDEAS) Course Descriptions**

Students will be able to register for IDEAS classes on a first come, first served basis when Add/Drop begins. Students can enroll in only one IDEAS course for credit each spring. If you have questions, please contact the course facilitator(s) or Sarah Gracombe (sgracombe@stonehill.edu).

**40764    APL 090 A: IDEAS: Food InEATqualities**

Facilitators: Anna Pickney (2019) and Claire Farnan (2019)

In a food-obsessed world, have you ever thought that your identity influences what you eat? Race, socio-economic standing, religion and gender can all shape what ends up on your plate. Through active discussion, hands-on learning, and community involvement, students will explore the injustices of the modern-day food system. This will include understanding food deserts and food sovereignty. We will also look at the environmental impacts of the American industrialized food system and evaluate if this problem is unique to America. Join us to discover how we as students can change the food system for the better!

**40765    APL 090 B: IDEAS: Surveilling Stonehill**

Facilitators: Brenna Kueter (2021) and Talia Guglietta (2021)

How many security cameras do you see walking from your dorm to class? Did you ever think to count? Where is this footage and information stored when it is not being utilized? This course will explore the rise of the surveillance state, especially within our own Stonehill environment. As college students we regularly interact with surveillance methods such as security cameras and community Wi-Fi servers without realizing or questioning it. Through activities such as a campus scavenger hunt and interactive class discussions, we will delve into questions about students' privacy rights on campus, on social media, and beyond/ in the world after college.

**40766    APL 090 C: IDEAS: Game of Thrones' History**

Facilitators: Philip Rodino (2019) and Heather Cook (2019)

While dragons may be mythical, many of the events in the "Game of Thrones" series are not. This course is designed to take a deeper look into the series and the close similarities it has to real history. Throughout the semester we plan to use primary and secondary sources, as well as clips from the show, to see just how closely "Game of Thrones" parallels many historical events. In addition, we will explore different negative stereotypes of history as a subject and how these can be misleading. Through investigating "Game of Thrones," we will also investigate why the past is still important and how history continues to influence the present.

**40767    APL 090 D: IDEAS: America, Get Your Gun!**

Facilitators: Nicolette Kolgraf (2019)

Did you know that there have been more than 1,862 mass shootings since Sandy Hook? Or that America has six times as many firearm homicides as Canada, and nearly 16 times as many as Germany? Have you ever wondered whether America's unique phenomenon of mass shootings comes down to more than mental health and gun control? In "America Get Your Gun," students will delve into gun culture and assess why the U.S. has become home to more gun massacres than any other country in the world. We will examine cases of mass gun violence, such as Columbine and Newtown, as well as the responses of news and social media, through an intersectional lens that explores American masculinities. Together, students will discuss how American culture represents masculinity and whether this culture might foster an environment that perpetuates gun violence.

**40768 APL 090 E: IDEAS: Making Modern Myth**

Facilitator: Cassandra Peterson (2020)

"Hercules? Honey, you mean HUNK-ULES!" Ever wonder how the Disney Hercules compares to the one in Greek mythology? Are you curious about mythology and want to take your ideas higher?" In this class, students will explore classic Greek and Roman myths as well as their modern counterparts. From adaptations like Disney's *Hercules*, to businesses like Amazon and Nike, we will actively discuss how modern society twists the original values of ancient mythology to meet its own needs. By opening our eyes to the modern presence of ancient myth, we will dive into what myths mean to us as humans, and how our manipulation of their messages often reflects a change in societal values.

**40769 APL 090 F: IDEAS: Silent Battles**

Facilitators: Leah Whitemore (2019) and Jane Lima (2019)

Are statements like "I am so OCD" problematic? Do they take anything away from people suffering from these illnesses? Furthermore, do they impede access to care? ¼ of people suffer from invisible illnesses. For something so common, mental illnesses still often a taboo topic. Our goal is to explore mental health stigma in today's society and the potential effects that result from it. Through active discussion, students will learn to better evaluate the facts, the stereotypes, and their implications. By exploring mental health stigma, this class will help to normalize conversations about mental illness and bring the power back to those affected.

**40770 APL 090 G: IDEAS: Sit-in and Stand Up**

Facilitator: Jacob Tarjick (2019)

What makes a social movement successful? Do you think history repeats itself? This course will examine various elements of past social movements to discuss contemporary movements, such as #MeToo and the National Anthem protests. Through engaged discussion, we will explore what has and hasn't changed over time regarding the methods, participation, and perception of activism. By the end of the course, students will have the knowledge and tools to enact change in an issue area about which they are passionate.

**40771 APL 090 H: IDEAS: A Mindful Mentality**

Facilitators: Rachel Riani (2019) and Mikayla Healy (2019)

Have you ever considered how others view you? Does this affect how you view yourself or how you interact with the world around you? This course will explore the concept of mindfulness - an awareness of self, of society, and of how you interact with your surroundings - and will investigate techniques to live more attentively. Students will discuss topics such as their social media images and how pop culture stereotypes influence identity. Participation in yoga classes, guided meditations, and journaling combined with active conversations on identity will help students refine their outlook on their surroundings and think more deeply about how they interact with other people and the world.

**40772 APL 090 I: IDEAS: We've Got a Situation**

Facilitators: Jenna Berkowitz (2019) and Katherine Garron (2019)

Is reality TV your guilty pleasure? Do you consider yourself an effective communicator? Are your relationships with others important to you? If you answered yes to any of these, it sounds like WE'VE GOT A SITUATION. In this class, students will learn how to communicate effectively, using reality TV shows like "Jersey Shore" as case studies for discussion. We will analyze the dramatic shows we love to watch and determine if the situation failed or flourished based on which approach to communication was used. We will also explore related aspects of reality TV, including ethics, gender dynamics, the "non-reality" of shows, and more.

**40773 APL 090 J: IDEAS: This is America**

Facilitators: Samantha Dhaliwal (2020) and Nakilah Skeens (2020)

What would you consider "your" America? How much does where you come from and what you look like affect your experience as an American? In this course we will explore different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, through examining music, movies, social media, politics, and many more outlets. The goal of this course is to allow students to better understand and structure their own stories of identity. Everyone has their own story to tell, and we want to create a comfortable space for students to be able to tell that story and discuss controversial topics in ways that leads to personal development.

**40774 APL 090 K: IDEAS: #TBT: Cult of Nostalgia**

Facilitator: Molly Scanlan (2020)

What reboot are you most excited to see? Are you as excited for season three of Stranger Things as I am? Our media is littered with entertainment which relies on a deep desire for nostalgia, despite the fact that its younger-leaning demographic wasn't even alive for the time periods it loves to idealize. Why is nostalgia so powerful and marketable in this particular moment? Is it rooted more in our opinion of the past or of our present? In this class we will examine how we encounter, crave, and construct nostalgia in our lives, specifically through the lenses of media, literature, and culture. Regardless of what makes you wish it wasn't 2018— Renaissance faires, 80's coming-of-age movies, books from your childhood you wish you could experience again for the first time— we'll be examining that desire and its implications.