



## **S.T.E.M. in the News**

Carrie Tomko

HONOR 340 – 001

MWF 10:45am - 11:35am

Students in this colloquium have an opportunity to reflect on innovations, such as: The latest in available smart phones... The ongoing discussion of global warming... The usage of self-driving cars... The challenges of feeding a growing population through technological advances in agriculture...! As new research and technology emerge, resulting innovations enter our ever-changing world. How are these innovations communicated to the general public? The mass media is the place where the general population learns of innovations. Students in this colloquium will engage in the analysis of the media's reporting and then the population's reaction to S.T.E.M.'s impact on society, discerning how emerging research and technology are embraced or refused by society via communication and the media's role in construction of a new reality.

## **The Honors Tradition**

Carrie Tomko

HONOR 340 – 002

MWF 11:50am – 12:40pm

In anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the Honors at The University of Akron, students who enroll in this colloquium will have the honor to research the history of The Williams Honors College, formerly known as the Honors College and the Honors Program. Using archival historical documents—digital and hardcopy—a timeline of key events will be developed, along with key moments and key people in the history of Honors, key faculty and staff, key alumni, keynote speakers, key events, and key individuals who have propelled The Williams Honors College to academic successes through its 50-year history. The information that is gathered by the students in this colloquium will be used to document the history and aid in celebratory plans for the year 2025.

## **Democracy, Objectivity and the US Constitution**

Nathanial Blower

HONOR 340- 003

MWF 9:40am – 10:30am

How should we read the United States Constitution? As a 'living document' whose meaning can change and grow alongside changes and growth in American democratic society? Or as something whose meaning is more 'static', more 'objective'? Recently more than ever, perhaps, it seems to be the second option that is preferred by justices of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). But is it even possible to interpret the Constitution without injecting any life into it? And if it is possible, do the recent decisions of SCOTUS (on abortion and gun control, for instance) actually live up to this ideal? These questions, and a number of related political, social and philosophical questions, will be our focus in this colloquium.



## **The American Civil Rights Movement: History and Impact**

Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval

HONOR 340 – 004

TTH 3:30pm – 4:45pm

Students will explore the origins of the Civil Rights Movement, which spans between 1954-1970 and the historical impact on marginalized communities. Through in-depth analysis of key events, leaders, organizations and the role of ordinary citizens, students will gain an understanding of the strategies and tactics employed by activists to challenge discriminatory laws and practices. With the use of readings, historical documents and multimedia materials, students will analyze and discuss historical narratives and explore the ongoing legacy of the Civil Rights Movement and its relevance to subsequent movements in the U.S.

## **First Voter: Necessary Tools for the Informed Voter**

Mitchell McKinney

HONOR 340 – 006

TH 4:10pm – 5:25pm (Hybrid)

Many of you will have your first opportunity to vote in local, state and national elections this year. As these campaigns unfold, you will be exposed to a variety of political messages – persuasive attempts – in the form of “news” and information from the media, including digital and social media, speeches, debates and advertisements from the candidates, as well as discussions with friends, family and co-workers. In short, you will be bombarded with what might seem like an incessant stream of messages and political information (and you may also be generating some of these political messages yourself). In the end, you will have the responsibility – the power – to select who your elected representatives will be from your hometown to Columbus and Washington, DC.

## **Winning Combinations in Health Behavior: Exploring Health Priorities**

John Roncone

HONOR 340 – 007

T 5:15pm – 6:30pm (Hybrid)

This social science discipline colloquium examines health behavior exploring health priority areas, such as, physical activity, stress management, and other dimensions of health-related physical fitness. The priority areas explored will be beneficial to students reflecting on their own health behavior(s), quality of life/healthy life years/lifestyle management. Students will leave the course with a sound knowledge of key health components related to mind/body health, research as well as health behavior models/theories.



## **The Willpower Superpower: The Epic of LeBron James**

Tim Gabel

HONOR 340 – 008 (Online Synchronous)

W 3:05pm – 5:35pm

This course conceptually focuses on the intersection of psychology and storytelling, more specifically how the dimensions of willpower create self-understanding when life is viewed narratively. In this sense, we think of willpower as an agentic force for not only accomplishing external goals, but also how we, as individuals, can transform our inner selves and society as a collective. While *The Willpower Superpower: The Epic of LeBron James* is naturally about a basketball icon, it is more about how his journey, discovery and application of willpower—for better and worse—informs the development of our own. It is a unique, and surprisingly local, paradigm to analyze these concepts. In fact, the willpower and personal story we all have, when understood and applied, is a force as prodigious as LeBron James' basketball ability.

## **Winning Combinations in Health Behavior: Combating Obesity**

John Roncone

HONOR 340 - 009 (Online Synchronous)

HONOR 340 – 010 (Online Synchronous)

This social science discipline colloquium examines health behavior in an exploration to combat obesity. Areas that will be carefully examined include: Current obesity trends, assessment of body weight and body composition, etiology of obesity, health and economic consequences of obesity, dietary interventions for obesity prevention and new insights and looking into future insights. We will engage in meaningful online discussions as well as assignments, learning from other's experiences and guidance from the professor, whom has an extensive knowledge in health education and promotion. Our main book will be, *Nutrition and Obesity: Assessment, Management, and Prevention*, by Alexandra G. Kazaks, and Judith S. Stern. Other secondary resources will be provided to the students from the professor. Assignment readings, HW/Labs, behavior change models/theories, online discussions, and other assignments will be assessments utilized in the course. Brightspace will be utilized to deliver this online asynchronous course for content, grades, communication/announcements, communication/class roster and emails, assessments/assignments, and communications/discussions and course materials/calendar. Students will leave the course with a sound knowledge of health behavior and exploring areas in combating the obesity epidemic in the U.S.