

**CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY**  
**University Honors Program**  
**One University Drive**  
**Orange, CA 92866**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**HON 329**

**Interterm 2014**

**Deconstructing Hogwarts: A Critical Examination of Harry Potter in Context**

**Catalog Description:**

*Prerequisites: Acceptance to the University Honors Program AND consent of instructor.*

Employing an interdisciplinary approach, this travel course explores the multi-faceted and global *Harry Potter* phenomenon, while placing the texts in their literary, historical, social, and cultural contexts. Course will take place in London and Oxford, England. (Offered interterm, as needed, 3 credits.

This course will provide students the opportunity to apply a variety of interdisciplinary approaches to texts already familiar to them, demonstrating how literary theory and interdisciplinary analysis works to enlighten all texts, including popular young adult narratives. Most importantly, however, as a travel course, students will be exposed to the real-world culture and physical environment that produced, shaped, and continues to inform the *Harry Potter* series, giving students greater insight into the importance of contextual awareness and analysis.

As admission to Hogwarts is selective, so will be admission to this course. This course is limited to Chapman University Honors students with permission of the instructor.

**Learning Outcomes:**

**University Honors Program Learning Outcomes:** Upon completing a course in the University Honors Program students will have:

1. Obtained a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.
2. Sharpened their ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood)
3. Understood how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world.

4. Developed effective communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

This course addresses the Honors Program Learning Outcomes through the following objectives:

- Explore from a first-hand perspective the socio-cultural, historical, and economic basis behind the global Harry Potter phenomenon. Students will engage the cultural background of the Harry Potter novels and reflect upon its impact on society and academia through readings in critical literary, race, gender, performance and philosophical theory. Students will then apply these theories to produce two written critical analysis papers and as research for a group representation.
  - (Addresses Learning Outcome # 1 & 3)
- Develop writing and critical thinking skills. Critical thinking develops the ability to construct and discern relationships, analyze arguments, and solve complex problems. Students will develop effective communication skills through a variety of methods. In the area of written exposition students will improve their writing skills by writing critical analysis papers. Students will gain oral exposition skills as they will be required to lead one small group (house) discussion during the course as well as prepare a group researched presentation to middle schools. Engagement in active learning with fellow students and faculty will be gained through class discussions.
  - (Addresses Learning Outcome # 2 & 4)

### **General Education Outcomes**

***7GC Connects contemporary social and/or environmental topics to their origins and analyzes their effects on our increasingly globalized world.***

- All travel courses fulfill this GE

***7CC Engages in the theoretical and/or applied aspects of political, civic or social engagement in group affiliations***

- *Student can express through reasoned argument, creative form, and/or other media, relationships between the individual and the community.*
- *Student has a critical perspective on issues of civil rights, self-representation, participatory politics, and/or similar issues of inclusiveness.* Students will read and analyze articles which deal with issues of inclusiveness and civil rights in a fictional context to understand how those topics function in and are reflected in 21<sup>st</sup> America .
- *Student can articulate the conceptual issues related to citizenship, community, or service learned through an experiential project.* Upon return to Chapman, students will research and prepare multimedia presentations and educational booklets to accompany group presentations to middle schools in the Orange and Santa Ana school districts. Students will be divided into four “houses” to correspond with the Harry Potter houses. The

presentations will inform and engage these middle school students on issues of literacy, global citizenship, gender and racial equality and human rights by using parallels from the Harry Potter literary and film world as well as context gained while traveling to England.

**Topics/Content: (will include/but not limited to the following)**

This course will address four academic “disciplines,” each reflecting on the intersections and interacts between them with the Harry Potter phenomenon as the catalyst for discussion.

Students will be “sorted” into four houses. Each house will correspond with the four Harry Potter houses: Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Slytherin, and Gryffindor. These houses also correspond with the four disciplines: Religious Studies, Socio-Historical Studies, Business, and Theater.

A mandatory sorting pre-departure meeting will be scheduled in the Fall 2013 semester.

The houses will function as living and learning communities for the students in the class. Each house will have a prefect/discussion leader. The interaction between the houses will be interdisciplinary with each house responsible for leading at least two class discussions on their respective discipline.

Each house will “complete” for a cup prize based on some of the following concepts:

**Religious Studies/Philosophy:**

- Theodicy
- Magic vs. Religion
- Free will and destiny
- Morals and values

**Socio-Historical Studies:**

- Gender and gender construction
- Racism and ethnicity
- Post-colonialism
- Historiography
- Concepts of the “Other”

**Business**

- Globalization
- Advertising, marketing , and merchandising
- Branding strategies

**Literature and Theater: Interpretations and Performance**

- Tension between film and text
- Fan Fiction and the internet

### **Current Required Texts:**

Heilman, Elizabeth E. *Critical Perspectives on Harry Potter*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York. Routledge, 2008.

Anatol, Giselle Liza. *Reading Harry Potter Again: New Critical Essays*. Santa Barbara, Ca. Praeger, 2009.

Gunelius, Susan M. *Harry Potter. The Story of a Global Business Phenomenon*. New York. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Other selected articles will be posted on Blackboard. See Research Bibliography

### **Instructional Strategies:**

- Classroom meetings on Chapman University's campus prior to and after travel
- Visit London and Oxford for 10 days
- Two written essays
- Participating in and leading small discussion groups
- Research project and presentations to local elementary schools in the Orange and Santa Ana school districts upon return to Chapman.

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

- 2 weekly critical analysis papers: 40%
- Class Participation including leading a small group discussion: 20%
- Final Project: Multimedia presentations to middle school classes 40%

### **Chapman University's Students with Disabilities Policy**

In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services. If you will need to utilize your approved accommodations in this class, please follow the proper notification procedure for informing your professor(s). This notification process must occur more than a week before any accommodation can be utilized. Please contact Disability Services at (714) 516-4520 or ([www.chapman.edu/students/student-health-services/disability-services](http://www.chapman.edu/students/student-health-services/disability-services)) if you have questions regarding this procedure, or for information and to make an appointment to discuss and/or request potential accommodations based on documentation of your disability. Once formal approval of your need for an accommodation has been granted, you are encouraged to talk with your professor(s) about your accommodation options. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

**Plagiarism policy:** Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

## Itinerary for HON 329 -Interterm Jan 2014

Thursday Jan. 9- Friday Jan. 10 at Chapman or by Skype

- Lecture Topics: Introduction and Overview
- Discussion Groups #1 and 2

Saturday Jan 11 Leave LAX to London

- **Air transportation not included in your price**
- some of us can try to travel on the same flight.

Sunday Jan. 12 – Travel/Arrive London

- Arrive into London/Heathrow Airport
- private transfer from Heathrow Airport to the Best Western Burns for 10 night stay.
- This evening, a three-course get-acquainted dinner will be provided at a local restaurant in central London.

Monday Jan 13 London

- Lecture Topics: Harry Potter in Cultural, Historical and Geographical Context
- A buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel.
- London Sightseeing, including admission to St. Paul's Cathedral
- Discussion Group # 3

Tuesday Jan. 14: London Harry Potter Walking Tour

- A buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel.
- Join us on a two ½-hour Harry Potter walking tour and river adventure into the magical world of wizardry in London. Learn about London's rich muggle and wizarding history, amazing facts about the books and films and see many of the film locations used in London including the Ministry of Magic and the entrance to the Leaky Cauldron. The tour will include familiar Harry Potter film locations as well as iconic London landmarks and attractions including St Paul's Cathedral, Big Ben, London Eye, Millenium Bridge, Tate Modern, Borough and Leadenhall Markets and Monument. The Harry Potter Walking tour will finish at Bank Station.
  - Visit the site where Ron, Harry and Hermione infiltrate the Ministry using polyjuice potion from the *Deathly Hallows*
  - See the ticket barriers Arthur Weasley struggles to go through with Harry in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*
  - Pass by the visitors' entrance to the Ministry of Magic from *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*
  - See locations used for The Leaky Cauldron in *The Philosophers Stone (Sorcerers Stone)* and *Prisoner of Azkaban*
- Attend West End Theatre performance today (included).
- Discussion Group #4

Weds Jan. 15: Oxford – Harry Potter Walking Tour including Bodleian Library/ Christ Church College

- Lecture Topics: Religion, Philosophy and Theodicy
- A buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel.
- An excursion to Oxford will be offered today. Transfer on own using your transportation pass to London's Paddington Station for the direct train to Oxford (included). Upon arrival, a two hour Harry Potter walking tour will be offered, including admission to Christ Church Great Hall and Cathedral. An included lunch will be offered in Oxford following the tour, with the afternoon of your own choosing. Dinner will also be offered in Oxford prior to an evening rail return to London.
- Discussion Group #5

#### Thursday Jan 16: London: Warner Brothers Studio Tour

- Lecture Topics: Tension Between Text and Film; Marketing and Globalization
- A buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel.
- An excursion to Warner Brothers Studio will be offered today. Transfer on own using your transportation pass to London's Euston Station for the direct train to Watford Junction (included). Upon arrival, a shuttle bus will take you from the train station to Warner Brothers Studio (included). People the world-over have been enchanted by the Harry Potter films for nearly a decade. The wonderful special effects and amazing creatures have made this iconic series beloved to both young and old – and now, for the first time, the doors are going to be opened for everyone at the studio where it first began. You'll have the chance to go behind-the-scenes and see many things the camera never showed. From breathtakingly detailed sets to stunning costumes, props and animatronics, Warner Bros. Studio Tour London provides a unique showcase of the extraordinary British artistry, technology and talent that went into making the most successful film series of all time. Return to London via the shuttle bus and via train.
- Discussion Group #6

#### Friday Jan 17 London: British Museum

- Lecture Topics: Cultural and Artistic Contexts; Historiography
- A buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel.
- London sightseeing, including British Museum (free) and admission to Westminster Abbey (included, only open until 3:45pm).
- Discussion Group #7

#### Saturday Jan 18 Windsor Castle

- Lecture Topics: Ethnic Otherness, Post-Colonialism and Gender
- A buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel.
- An excursion to Windsor will be offered today. Transfer on own using your transportation pass to London's Waterloo Station for the direct train to Windsor (included). Admission is included to Windsor Castle, along with a three-course lunch at a restaurant located close to the Castle. Afternoon rail return to London.
- Discussion Group #8

#### Sunday Jan. 19: London: Various Locations

- Lecture Topics: Magic, Religion, and Harry Potter
- A buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel.

- Local London sightseeing including admission to Tower of London.
- Discussion Group #9

Monday Jan. 20 London Greenwich

- Lecture Topics: Advertising, Marketing, and Merchandising; Concepts of Time
- Discussion Group #10
- A buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel.
- An excursion to Greenwich will be offered today. Transfer on own using your transportation pass to London's Westminster Dock for the ferry to Greenwich (included). Visits will include Royal Observatory and Queen's House Return ferry to Westminster Dock.

Tues Jan 21 London

- Lecture Topics: Summary
- A buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel.
- London sightseeing
- To celebrate our last night together, a farewell three-course dinner will be included in Central London.

Weds Jan. 22 – Depart London

- A buffet breakfast will be provided at the hotel
- Private transport to airport

Thursday Jan 23 /Friday Jan 24 at Chapman

- Meet at Chapman to plan presentations.

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**Prepared by:** Julye Bidmead, Fall 2012