



Honors 1000 Seminar Descriptions

Spring 2021

One credit hour

Trends in Smoking and Vaping

Honors Seminar (HON 1000)

Online Course CRN 14236

Rachel Culbreth, Respiratory Therapy

This course will provide an overview of the most recent data supporting smoking trends, including the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and vaping. A recent outbreak of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) resulted in more than 40 deaths and thousands of injuries across the U.S. We will focus on vaping products, harm evaluation, and the utilization of e-cigarettes as a harm reduction tool for chronic smokers.

Natural Disasters: The Future, Fact, Fiction, and Films

Honors Seminar (HON 1000)

Tuesday 3:45 – 4:35 CRN 13665

Dr. Christy Visaggi, Geosciences

Natural disasters have long shaped the history of our planet and impacted the lives of people around the globe. The allure of these catastrophic events has caught the attention of Hollywood for decades leaving audiences either captivated by the power of Earth or in disbelief that such outrageous events could ever happen in real life. These movies are undoubtedly a mix of fact and fiction but ultimately misinform viewers about the reality of such events despite that many are of increasing concern due to human activity that has rapidly changed our world. This course will introduce students briefly to fundamental concepts in geosciences in preparation to watch and evaluate a series of natural disaster films to differentiate fact from fiction, as well as consider the current state of our planet, public understanding of science, and what that means for the future of such catastrophic events and their impacts on society. Topics and films that could be covered include climate change, extreme weather, earthquakes, volcanoes, and rising sea levels/floods (e.g., Day After Tomorrow, Geostorm, Twister, San Andreas, Dante's Peak, Waterworld). Class discussions will incorporate critiques of movie clips in addition to learning about the mechanisms behind these events in part through interactive experiences (e.g., via virtual reality through use of Google cardboard). Students will examine not only the 'science behind the stories' but examples of actual natural disasters in history, public perceptions and issues related to these catastrophes including aspects of social/environmental justice, and finally projections for the future.