

Fall 2024 Social Science Colloquia



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

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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