HONR 3000: Campus Sustainability, CRN: 20711
Professor Liu
DATE/TIME: Wednesdays 2-3:50 pm, ROOM: WD 308

This course applies sustainability concepts, principles, and values to understand sustainability problems and solutions on UCM campus. After reviewing key sustainability concepts, assessment methods, and successful practices on other university campuses, students will choose a campus sustainability project (such as energy, water, landscape, or waste management) and work in groups to: a) Examine major sustainability challenges on campus by visits to campus facilities and interviews of facilities directors and staff; b) Conduct research and develop proposals for dealing with the problems; and c) Assess the proposals and present findings to the campus community. The course is interdisciplinary and open to all students with an interest in practicing sustainability.

HONR 3000: The Arts in the Digital Age, CRN: 21485
Professor Honour
DATE/TIME: Mondays 1-2:50 pm, ROOM: JCKL 1260

The Information Revolution has impacted almost every sector of society over the last 30 years. The commodification of information has reshaped business, and the increased understanding of the value of information continues to shape social policy and the general public perception of the world at large. However, of all the various endeavors of society, the arts have been arguably the most impacted by the advent of the digital age. From creation to dissemination – even sometimes in the conceptual content of the art – the relationships between various art forms and their informational artifacts have drastically altered the arts, the business of the arts, and our societal understanding of them. Participants in this colloquium will consider the ramifications of the digital age with regard to the various arts, from perspectives of artistic content, distribution of artistic artifacts, the business and financial concerns of the arts, and the implications for social concerns related to the arts, such as copyright law, digital rights management, and the societal value of artistic content. Assigned readings in the course will stimulate wide-ranging discussions of these issues, drawing as well upon students’ own experiences and fields of study. Students will propose an individual research paper, project, or creative endeavor to explore the questions raised in class on their own.

HONR 3000: Comparative Media and International Events, CRN: 23331
Dr. Anya Luscombe, Guest Professor of Communications and The Honors College International Faculty Fellow
DATE/TIME: Tuesdays 6-7:50 pm, ROOM: WD 106

Research into news content in western societies has shown that foreign news is not given much prominence, while the foreign news coverage that does exist tends to focus on particular events and particular countries. What constitutes “news” and when are international events deemed important enough to warrant coverage? In this colloquium students will examine how and why different national and international news media organizations make their editorial decisions. Through a series of readings and assignments, participants will discuss factors in global mass communication and compare coverage of news stories by US, British and other countries’ news providers. Topics to be discussed include global warming, the financial crisis and celebrity news. This interdisciplinary colloquium will help students enhance their critical thinking skills about the news media in different countries.