

BUS398: HUMAN RESOURCES / TALENT MANAGEMENT by Barry Marshall

Course Description:

This course is designed for business students interested in exploring the organizational impact of the Human Resources / People function and managing talent beyond the legal, regulatory and compliance practices. Students will examine current trends, research and techniques along with exposure to the latest thought leadership from local executives. Emphasis will be placed on tangible and applicable tools for application early in the students career.

POL398: THE POLITICS OF DEVIANCE by Anne Hendershott

Course Description:

The course in the Politics of Deviance will introduce students to the concept of deviance in society—the concept of “deviating from the norm” of societal expectations. Drawing from social science theory as well as natural law and theology on the origins of deviance, we will analyze the ways in which particular behaviors come to be defined as deviant. We will also look closely at the process by which behaviors formerly viewed as “deviant” have now become the norm—behaviors that in the past were shunned or rejected, but now are tolerated or even celebrated by much of society. Drawing from theoretical models, students will study the history of the definitions—and re-definitions—of the deviance of behaviors including substance abuse, suicide, mental illness, homelessness, prostitution, abortion, and pornography, in an effort to identify the impact of the change in definitions of deviance on public policy and social order. We will look closely at the ways in which advocacy groups, the media, and the courts have successfully defined down what used to be societal consensus on the deviance of homosexuality, abortion and assisted suicide.

This course in the Politics of Deviance provides an exploration of the socio-political concepts of deviance, social order, social power, identity construction and identity management. Students will understand how the sociological perspective of deviance differs from the theological, philosophical, political and psychological approach to understanding society and social life. Students will begin to recognize how groups of people can gain power to shape social definitions of deviance, and apply these definitions across multiple situations and societies. But, more importantly, students will gain an appreciation for the ways in which Christian teachings reject the socio-political or social constructionist perspectives of defining deviance—in favor of an approach that recognizes the dignity of the human person, and the fact that there are truths to be discovered and truths to be promoted through policy and practice.

LIT 254: THE FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION OF C. S. LEWIS by Brenton Dickieson

Course Description:

This course looks at the key themes, images, characters, theological perspectives, and social critiques that can be drawn from the seven-volume Chronicles of Narnia, the Ransom Cycle, and other works of fantasy by C. S. Lewis. The course will also explore biographical elements of C. S. Lewis’s life—from his conversion from atheism to his work as a Christian intellectual—in seeking to deepen the worldview of contemporary readers.