

## HON 1010 *Ideas and Society* Descriptions by Instructor

*Daniel McInnis*

### About the Course:

HON 1010 is an incredible opportunity for our first-year students to actively explore contemporary issues and theories. The main goal is to encourage

*Mary Templin*

About the Course:

The theme of my HON 1010 course is "Who Am I and What Am I Doing Here?" It will focus on questions of identity and purpose, both in a larger, philosophical sense and in terms of our own actual lives. Human beings have been asking these questions for thousands of years; we will explore some of the many answers that have been proposed and will offer some answers of our own.

Starting with some of the creation myths that different cultures have produced to explain human origins, in the first half of the class we will read and discuss a variety of philosophical, religious, scientific, and literary texts from the past that offer competing models of human nature and explanations of human behavior. In the second half of the class, we will turn to more contemporary aspects of identity and purpose, including

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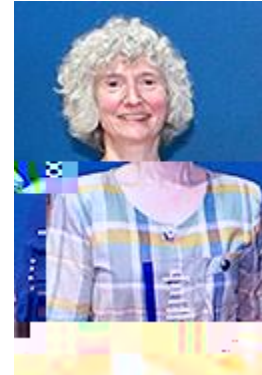


## *Catherine Chengges*

### About the Course:

My section of HON 1010 is titled, "Intertextuality: A Twice-told Tale." We will look at pairings of works that tell the same story from different points of view. Just as in life, this approach reminds us that our personal perspective influences opinions and judgments, which are often challenged and even changed when someone else introduces a different perspective. An example of one of the course pairings is the Old English epic

(circa 1000 CE), which includes the hero's victory over the mindless monster Grendel, and John Gardner's (1971), which tells the background, thoughts, and motives of that monster. The course's other pairings will be via a specified combination of books and film versions, which students will view outside of class. In addition to discussing the material, students will be required to write weekly e-mails about our material, to do an in-class presentation on an assigned pairing, to write a research paper on that assigned pairing, to meet for a one-on-one conference about the draft of that research paper, and to participate in regular in-class group workshops.



### About the Instructor:

I have been teaching for the Honors College at UToledo since January 1999. Since 1993, I have been an administrator in the Department of English Language and Literature. Too, since 1997, I have compiled the annual "Checklist of Welty Scholarship" for the internationally-circulated \_\_\_\_\_, which focuses on the 20th-century Mississippi writer (1909-2001). In 2014, I was awarded a College of Languages, Literature & Social Sciences Dean's Recognition. More recently in 2019, I was again honored – this time with an Outstanding Staff Award for my work as Administrative Coordinator in the Department of English Language and Literature.