Catalog Description:
Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor and Director of Honors. Humans seek immortality, both in a literal sense (and the entire healthcare industry obviously attends to this desire) and in a metaphorical sense (which is why we have children, write books, accomplish feats). As we gradually defeat more and more diseases, however, we have found great difficulty in making real progress against cancer, a collection of diseases which have in common a paradoxical feature: cancer cells, unlike normal cells, are immortal. So, in a way, one could think of cancer as a failed attempt to achieve immortality. While the typical human cell can replicate once a day for a couple of months, before dying and becoming incapable of further reproduction, cancer cells live forever. So, cancer’s quest for immortality thwarts our own quest for that same immortality. (Offered as needed.) 3 credits.

Course Learning Outcomes:
1. Develop an understanding of the history of cancer and how we have been battling the disease.
2. Learn about the need to develop tools from a variety of disciplines to further that quest.
3. Become aware of how society views cancer and how the disease affects us and the way in which we interact with each other.
4. Have a better awareness of the communicative, social and human aspects of cancer.

Honors Program Learning Outcomes:
Upon completing a course in the University Honors Program students will have:

a. Obtained a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives;
b. Sharpened their ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood);
c. Understood how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world;
d. Developed effective communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis.

Content:
In this course, which is designed for non-biology majors (though biologists are welcome as well), I will attempt to describe the history of how we have been battling cancer, and the history of our understanding of cancer. As we do so, we will see the need to develop a variety of important technical tools from a variety of disciplines (including physics, mathematics, chemistry, and of course biology). But cancer is not only a disease of the body. Cancer affects society and the way in which we interact with each other. The way in which we speak about cancer, and with cancer patients, says a lot about our society. I will thus devote a portion of this course to a discussion of the communicative, social, and human aspects of cancer.

Current Required Texts:
None

Instructional Strategies:
Seminar style class

Methods of Evaluation:
Class interaction, homework, and class presentations.

Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:
Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

Students with Disabilities Policy:
In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

Equity and Diversity:
Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in Chapman’s Harassment and Discrimination Policy: [http://tinyurl.com/CHarassment-Discrimination](http://tinyurl.com/CHarassment-Discrimination). Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the Dean of Students and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.