

FALL 2020 Honors Seminars

Draft - 8 4/21/2020

Notes: this is a draft and there may be changes in the seminars available before it is time for you to register so please look for updated documents as the semester progresses.

Entrepreneurial Value Creation in Society: Honors EEE 4010 CRN 67324 - Honors Area Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1] Per Bylund R 1845 - 1935

This 1-hour honors seminar presents an intellectual framework for understanding the economic and ethical implications of the forces that promote or hinder the creation of value in society. In particular, students will engage in readings, discussions, and periodic interactions with guest lecturers, related to topics such as: individual liberty and responsibility, economic freedom, fairness and equality, scarcity and property rights, intellectual property, competition and anti-competition, cronyism and despotism, and globalization and free trade. The aforementioned topics will be examined and discussed within the context of governments, institutions, business entities, and consumers, and their collective impact on innovation, entrepreneurship, and advances in societal well-being. This seminar should be of interest to students from diverse majors and backgrounds. There are no prerequisites.

Financial Perspectives throughout the United States (DS): Honors FFP 2613 CRN 70361 - Honors Area Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [DS] Credit Hours [3] Katherine Mielitz TR 0900 - 1015

An introduction to the personal relationship with money focusing on similarities and differences between Race/Ethnicity, Sex/Gender, Aging, Religion, and Family Structure. This course provides an overview of history, present day application, seeks solutions, and encourages reflection on the personal and societal relationships with money.

Children's Play (I): Honors HDFS 3203 CRN 70762 - Honors Area Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [I] Credit Hours [3] Emily Mckenzie MW 1600 - 1715

Children's Play: A World Perspective (I): Honors - What are your earliest memories of play? How did your play shape you as an individual? How did your environment shape your play? Have you considered how that differs from other cultures? Play is a reflection of a child's environment; their geographic environment, their economic environment and their cultural environment. We will explore the similarities and differences of cultures around the world through the lens of play. This course is an opportunity to expand your worldview, while considering the ways that cultural beliefs about childhood and education, religion, economic forces and access to resources drive child development through play.

City as Text: Stillwater, Oklahoma! (H) HONR 1000 CRN 68254 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H] Credit Hours [3] Richard Frohock TR 1530 - 1645

When and how was Stillwater founded? How is our city divided into neighborhoods, and what are some characteristics of each? How is Stillwater's history visible in the downtown area? How did we end up with a university here? What innovations in the arts, humanities, sciences, and/or business had origins or connections to our city? What are the characteristics of our natural environment and climate? How do people live, work, and travel, and what popular recreations does our community afford? How, and by what means, does our city tell stories about itself? This is just a small sample of the kind of questions we will explore as we learn to make the familiar unfamiliar by means of interactive, thoughtful engagement and experiences. This seminar will use a popular honors curriculum (City As Text) to explore the town we live in, as we undertake a series of excursions to see our urban, academic, and natural environments with fresh eyes. Students will work in teams to visit different parts of our city and to "read" what they observe and experience when we get out of the classroom and into the fascinating environments in which we live, work, and play.

Class, Inequality, and Democracy (DS) HONR 1000 CRN 70161 - Honors Area Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [DS] Credit Hours [3] Joshua Jansa TR 1230 - 1345

In the United States, the richest three Americans-Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, and Warren Buffet-hold as much wealth as the poorest 160 million Americans. That's a higher level of economic inequality than colonial times. Can American democracy survive when there is such inequality between citizens? In answering this question, this course addresses why inequality matters, why it has risen in recent years, how income affects political participation, and why there is a persistent race and gender wealth gap. The ultimate goal is to understand the impact of inequality on the health of democracy, including whether the poor and working class have equal voice in the policy process and whether increased inequality has fostered resentment, authoritarianism, and populism in American elections. students will learn about the course topic through data and narrative. Students will explore quantitative data and statistical estimates related to inequality. The goal is for students to leave the course with a basic ability to comprehend applied data and statistics. Students will also read about people's experiences with poverty and inequality.

Drawing for Life: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 61976 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3] Vincent Giannotti T 1845 - 2130

Drawing For Life - This course will build drawing skills that can travel wherever you go, from the classroom to the boardroom to the field. The drawing assignments in this class will employ a variety of media and techniques, and will be complemented by discussions and theories of seeing and observation. This interdisciplinary, foundational approach to drawing serves all skill levels. Special bonus: never again be bored!

First Amendment Freedoms HONR 1000 CRN 70270 - Honors Area Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3] Robert Spurrier Jr MW 1030 - 1145 FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ONLY

This seminar involves the study of major United States Supreme Court decisions interpreting the freedoms of speech, press, and religion as they are protected by the First and Fourteenth Amendments. You will be using a regular law school casebook featuring edited Supreme Court decisions as the primary text. The seminar will be taught primarily by the Socratic method employed in law schools. It will introduce you to case briefing, legal reasoning, and some of the basics of law library research. By the end of the semester, you will take part in class presentations based on the reading of full-length Supreme Court decisions.

Future of Veterinary Medicine: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 61960 - Honors Area STEM Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1] Christopher Ross T 1400 - 1450

Future of Veterinary Medicine This seminar will focus on career opportunities for veterinarians in the 21st century. Veterinarians from several career areas will discuss with students the opportunities and training programs available to prospective veterinarians. Contemporary issues facing the profession will also be discussed.

Living in Space (N) HONR 1000 CRN 70164 - Honors Area STEM Gen Ed Code - if any [N] Credit Hours [3] Kathryn Gardner-Vandy TR 1530 - 1645

To explore the multi-faceted concept of human beings living in space, students will begin by asking STEM-oriented questions. Topics include propulsion, orbital mechanics, psychology, medical physics, textile design, agricultural engineering, mechanical and aerospace engineering, and Earth and planetary sciences. In the second part of the course, students will work as a team to design a long-term human space mission and present their proposed mission idea.

Plantation to Plate: Sugar, Bananas, and Coffee in the Americas (HI) HONR 1000 CRN 70163 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [HI] Credit Hours [3] Sarah Foss TR 0900 - 1015

Sugar, bananas, and coffee are predominant staples in our diet. Inexpensive and abundant, and seemingly harmless, these three tropical commodities have drastically shaped the producing societies, and they have created huge industries and food cultures in the consuming countries. Our focus will be on the U.S. and Latin America, and we'll tackle topics such as fair trade, environmental issues, slavery, migration, marketing and culture, foreign policy, and capitalism. Our sources include declassified CIA documents, 1960s advertisements, historical photographs, firsthand narratives, recent investigative journalism and court cases, and documentary film. Classes are structured to be a combination of lecture and discussion, and assignments include reading response essays, a newspaper journal, and a final creative project. By the end of the semester, you will be more knowledgeable about historical and present-day Latin America, the ways that commodities and the history of their exchanges shape our lives and eating habits in the present, and how you can make more informed consumption decisions.

Practical Law for the Modern Citizen HONR 1000 CRN 68437 - Honors Area Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1] William Holmes T 0900 - 0950

The goal of this course is to give students an overview of the law. This is relevant for all citizens. It applies to social, legal, and career aspects of their lives. Finally, students will emerge from this class confident in their abilities, knowing that they have a better basis for meeting any challenge life or the law presents them. This survey will review excerpts from important ancient and historical texts which provided a basis for the foundation of American Law. In particular, there will be a focus on the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Furthermore, students will read representative examples of some of the most important speeches and legal arguments in American history.

Science and Human Imagination HONR 1000 CRN 70169 - Honors Area STEM Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3] Doren Recker MWF 1230 - 1320

THIS COURSE DOES NOT REQUIRE ANY PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCIENTIFIC TOPICS COVERED It is Suitable for students in all majors

The first half of the semester will cover scientific examples concerning astronomy and physics from the Scientific Revolution and the 20th century (Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Special Relativity), and the 2nd half will cover Darwinian Evolution and Mendelian Genetics. Literary and artistic works influencing or influenced by these scientific works will be covered immediately following the relevant scientific cases, so comparisons and contrasts in approach and justification can be highlighted. Examples of relevant work in the Humanities include Romantic Poetry, Frankenstein, works exploring "hereditary" traits (Ibsen's Ghosts), scientific rationality and technology generally (Kafka), or specific scientific ideas (short stories by Borges, Impressionism, Cubism).

Science Fun for Everyone: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 70520 - Honors Area STEM Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3] Wesley Stroud MWF 1430 - 1520

No matter your major or background in science, this course offers anyone and everyone a chance to enjoy science. Throughout this course, we approach science without the labs, exams, and stress of feeling like "science isn't for you." We will explore, observe, and reconnect with the natural world to better understand, value, and protect life on our planet. Your creative side will be utilized to construct ideas for programs that could seek to solve the challenges the natural world faces. You will also learn how varying cultures around the world view nature and the relationships that are important to their ways of life. Your perspectives and talents will help make this course an experience that reshapes the way you feel about science.

Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water: Honors (S) HONR 1000 CRN 70521 - Honors Area Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [S] Credit Hours [3] Gary Lavanchy MWF 0930 - 1020

Despite our intimacy with water, our dependence upon it, and water's apparent simplicity, there are a lot of surprises in the story of water. This Honors Seminar will take first year students

through the journey of water - both as a physical substance and as a touch point with humanity. This class uses engaging readings, lectures, case studies, and lively class discussion to explore and understand the nature of water and the often complex interactions society has with water. At its core, this class is about water literacy and the implications of global and local changes in climate to the hydrosocial cycle. This course will meet the needs of students across multiple disciplines without requiring extensive specialized skills. It is aligned with both (I) and (S) content areas.

Sex in College Culture (DS) HONR 1000 CRN 70162 - Honors Area Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [DS] Credit Hours [3] Kelley Rhoads TR 1030 - 1145

Participating in college life has been described as living in a fishbowl - being part of a self-sustaining environment where everyone sees what everyone else does. The uniqueness of living the college lifestyle has led to the creation of a distinctive college culture where binge drinking and engaging in hook ups is considered the "normal college experience." Within college culture, student behavior, social expectations, and campus policies coalesce to influence the sexual experiences of students. This course sets out to examine gender roles; sexual scripts; dating, hooking up, and relationships; sexual violence; and Greek life as confined within and ultimately influenced by college culture.

The Art of Mindful Living: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 68628 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3] Marty Heitz MWF 1030 - 1120

When so much emphasis is placed on living an outwardly successful life, is it possible to find contentment within? As our minds become increasingly active, can we find a way to be here and now? This course will explore ways in which meditation and contemplation can help us find peace of mind and contentment of heart, even while living in a world that places little emphasis on the present moment. Readings from various contemplative traditions will be paired with extensive meditative techniques that will be practiced both in and outside of class.

They Wouldn't Put It on the Internet if It's Not True: Information Literacy in Post-Truth Era: Honor HONR 1000 CRN 65586 - Honors Area Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3] Holly Luetkenhaus MWF 0930 - 1020

This course provides an overview of essential concepts and skills needed for success in navigating an increasingly uncertain and perilous information landscape. Awareness of, access to, and quality of information have demonstrable impacts on social, economic, academic, and political well-being. This course will address issues of access, use, creation, and dissemination of information and how it affects particular populations of people, with an emphasis on historically marginalized and underrepresented groups. Students will learn to locate, access, use, evaluate, organize, create, and present information effectively for personal and academic research needs. Students will examine biases within each of those paying particular attention to issues of race, gender, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and other personal, political, and socioeconomic factors. Students will also improve their understanding of authority and trust, value of information, the nature of scholarly conversation, and the nature of inquiry and exploration.

**Windows on the World HONR 1000 CRN 70168 - Honors Area Social Sciences
Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1] Robert Graalman T 1530 - 1620**

Note: The course is designed for 1st and 2nd year students only: 1st semester sophomores in the Fall, and 2nd semester freshmen in Spring

"Windows to the World" is a one-hour seminar, 3:30 Tuesdays, designed for ambitious students who might become applicants/nominees for major national and international scholarships such as: Rhodes, Marshall, Goldwater, Gates-Cambridge, Udall, Mitchell, Fulbright, and more. Students will learn about such opportunities as well as participate in weekly discussions based on current events, carried out in a rigorous debate/interview context, serving as both presenters (once) and interview panels (weekly). All students will submit a personal/policy essay, characteristic of one written for national competition, at the end of the semester to be evaluated by faculty members Jessica Sullins (Henry Bellmon Office Scholar Development and Undergraduate Research), and Bob Graalman (retired, same office). Final credit for the course depends on students' participation and completing the major activities described above.

**Honors Law and Legal Institutions (S) HONR 2013 CRN 70271 - Honors Area
Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [S] Credit Hours [3] Robert Spurrier Jr MW
0900 - 1015**

In this seminar you will examine a number of aspects of law and the American legal system including historic English origins, court structure and operations, and principles of several areas of substantive law (contracts, property, torts, etc.). Aspects of the politics of the judicial branch including selection and removal of judges will be included, as will the basics of introductory-level legal research techniques. You also will read and brief a limited number of judicial decisions. Although the content may be particularly useful for students considering law school, this seminar will be geared toward those with a general interest in learning about our legal system in the United States and how it affects our lives.

**Ethical Issues Across Cultural Perspectives: Honors (H) HONR 2063 CRN 62166 -
Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H] Credit Hours [3] Apple Igrek
TR 1400 - 1515**

Ethical Issues Across Cultural Perspectives An introduction to reasoned methods of evaluating ideas and arguments as they pertain to ethical issues from a global perspective. Concepts including obligation, justice, and ethnicity from Lao Tzu, Maimonides, Kant, and Indian wisdom stories. Environmentalism, technology, and cultural knowledge.

**The Story of Lizzie Borden: Axe Murder in American Culture (DH) HONR 2073
CRN 68243 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [DH] Credit Hours
[3] Stephanie Miller TR 1030 - 1145**

In 1892, Lizzie Borden was accused of killing her father and stepmother with an axe. She was eventually acquitted, but her story had captured the American cultural imagination. This course will take a chronological approach to the history of the Lizzie Borden story as it evolves from news reports contemporaneous to the case through broadsides and early true-crime takes

to fictionalized versions in the form of short stories, poems, novels, plays, a ballet, an opera, and multiple film versions. Specifically, we will consider how changing concepts of gender shape the way in which the story gets told in different media and in different moments in American history. Ultimately, we will ask what it says about American culture that - for better or for worse - we simply cannot let Lizzie go!

Flash Fiction: A Tiny Genre with a Big Impact (DH) HONR 2083 CRN 70453 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [DH] Credit Hours [3] Stephanie Miller TR 1400 - 1515

Flash fiction is a subgenre of the short story characterized primarily by brevity: typically, the term refers to compositions of 1000 words or less. We'll read contemporary examples of the form by practitioners from diverse backgrounds and explore criticism on the genre, examining its intersections with related short forms and its ability to engage with complex social issues. Specifically, we'll look at flash fiction that negotiates issues pertaining to gender, race, ethnicity, and class in American society. A widely accessible genre with far-ranging content, flash fiction invites a large and varied readership; accordingly, this class welcomes students from all majors, assuming no prior experience of literature and assessing student learning via required posts to a course blog rather than through formal essays. The course will also be skills-based, cultivating analytical ability of use to students in all areas of study. Grades will be based on quizzes, homework, and classwork; the blog; class participation; and a final exam.

Don Juan: His Lives and Times (H) HONR 2313 CRN 68241 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H] Credit Hours [3] Christopher Weimer TR 1230 - 1345

Don Juan: His Lives and Times - This course will follow the adventures of the archetypal Spanish seducer Don Juan from his first appearance on the Spanish stage in the 1630s to modern literature and film, studying how various cultures and eras have reinterpreted this figure over the last 400 years. The class will include works from Spain, France, England, Germany, Russia, and the United States, by (among others) Tirso de Molina, Molière, Mozart and da Ponte, José Zorrilla, Byron, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Pushkin, George Bernard Shaw, Kierkegaard, Freud, and Brecht.

The Ancient World (H) HONR 2413 CRN 70158 - Honors Area Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H] Credit Hours [3] Priscilla Schwarz MWF 1130 - 1220

Interdisciplinary study of art, history, philosophy and literature from ancient Greece and Rome as well as the religious ideas central to Judaism and Christianity. Team-taught by faculty from appropriate disciplines in a lecture and discussion format. For the Honors student. No degree credit for students with prior credit in HONR 2113. Previously offered as HONR 1013. Prerequisite(s): Honors Program participation.

**Biology Race Gender: Honors (DH) HONR 3053 CRN 62201 - Honors Area
Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [DH] Credit Hours [3] Doren Recker MWF 1330
- 1420**

This class is designed for upper class students and restricted to those with Junior standing or above

Biology, Race, and Gender - Critical interdisciplinary investigation of relationships between biological theory (especially Darwinism) and social and ethical issues. Attention to views of alleged biological aspects of perceived racial and gender differences and attempts to implement these views socially, legally, and medically in the United States and elsewhere. This class is designed for upper class students and restricted to those with Junior standing or above - you should be in your third or fourth year in Honors to take it.