

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

FALL 2021 HONORS COURSE OFFERINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS

On the following pages, you will find the honors courses offered for Fall 2021.

FOUNDATIONAL CORE SEMINARS: The heart of the Honors program is five core seminar courses taken in each year of college. Each course is designed to introduce students to a specific topic or way of thinking, while also developing foundational skills in writing, speaking, and critical thinking.

The seminars building on each: introducing new ways of thinking and communicating, then finding connections between disparate and distinct topics, and culminating in courses meant to address real world problems, both historically and with contemporary issues. As students move through each year, the focus is on engaging in the process of active learning, while recognizing the strengths and limitations of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches.

While each students' schedule and needs are unique, you can generally determine your classes by following the table below. For an explanation of courses and sequencing, check out the [Honors Curriculum page](#).

STUDENT TYPE & RECOMMENDATIONS	COURSE	COURSE NAME	COURSE TYPE
Sophomore (CEP or Intended Pharmacy Students) MUST ENROLL	HONS 250	Patterns in Human Endeavors	Seminar
Approximately 40 additional sophomore students	HONS 250	Patterns in Human Endeavors	Seminar
Remainder of sophomore class	NO HONORS CLASS IN FALL 2021; Will take HONS 250 in Spring 2022		
Some juniors (as dictated by need of class, spring study abroad plans, etc.)	HONS 320A or HONS 320B	Problems in Society and Culture OR Problems in Science and Technology	Seminar
Most juniors (unless otherwise advised)	NO HONORS CLASS IN FALL 2021; Will take HONS 320 course in Spring 2022		
Seniors graduating in Fall 2021 (whichever not already taken)	HONS 320A or HONS 320B	Problems in Society and Culture OR Problems in Science and Technology	Seminar
Seniors student teaching in Spring 2022 (whichever not already taken)	HONS 320A or HONS 320B	Problems in Society and Culture OR Problems in Science and Technology	Seminar
Remaining seniors (whichever not already taken)	HONS 320A or HONS 320B	Problems in Society and Culture OR Problems in Science and Technology OR take HONS 320 course in Spring 2022	Seminar
ONLY: Seniors graduating in Fall 2021 or seniors student teaching in Spring 2022	HONS 499	Civic Engagement	Proseminar

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FALL 2021 – HONS 250: PATTERNS IN HUMAN ENDEAVORS (SEMINAR)

Examines connections between widely divergent times, spaces, cultures, and forms of knowledge.

Ignorance & Education – Jennifer Logue (Educational Leadership)

CRN: 34716

Section 001, M 6:00-8:50 PM, full term

Meeting Type: Online - Synchronous

Agnotology is the study of the cultural production of different forms of ignorance. In this course, we examine the relationship between different socio-political constructions of knowledge and ignorance in education, with particular focus on what we know and don't know about ourselves, others, and the world around us.

Real and Unreal in Art and Literature from China and Japan – Thomas Lavalley (FL)

CRN: 34717

Section 002, W 5:00-7:50 PM, full term

Meeting Type: Traditional/Face to Face

By reading selections of short stories, novels and viewing anime, visual art and film, this course will explore meanings and connections derived from a sustained inquiry into the nature and representations of the real and unreal in East Asian cultural contexts. How is the unreal portrayed in "traditional" forms of expression within a Chinese and Japanese cultural framework? What happens to representations of the real and the unreal when we move between these two cultures, between different forms of representation and into modern and contemporary time periods? How should we position ourselves to conduct this inquiry? And what happens to our notions of the real and unreal as a result of this endeavor? Interpretation, reflection, discussion will be based on texts and media translated into English.

Radical Change – Catherine Seltzer (English Language & Literature)

CRN: 37124

Section 003, TR 12:30-01:45 PM, full term

Meeting Type: Online – Traditional/Face to Face

In this course, we'll be thinking about texts that consider radical change, both personal and cultural. In our discussions we'll be asking, how do people and societies change? Can change be equally meaningful when it is sudden—the result of a rug being yanked from under one, say, or of a forceful push—as when it is slow and deliberate? Finally, how can personal change bring about political change, and vice versa?

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FALL 2021 – HONS 320A: INTERDISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE (SEMINAR)

Seminar examining an enduring question or a pressing contemporary problem in the social sciences from an interdisciplinary perspective. Provides students an opportunity to apply their knowledge to the problem.

Race at the Intersection of the Past and Present – Erik Alexander (History)

CRN: 34575

Section 001, R 6:00-8:50 PM, full term

Meeting Type: Traditional/Face to Face

This course will examine the problem of how racial ideologies have been constructed throughout American history. Beginning with several contemporary moments ranging from the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor to the January 6, 2021, insurrection, we will explore the long history behind those moments, drawing on history, literature, film, sociology, and philosophy. While the topics we will cover will be emotionally charged, we will create a classroom space committed to openness, tolerance, and respect for everyone in our seminar. As we consider the intersections between the past and present, hopefully our discussions will reveal many of the hidden structures of race that surround us every day.

The Aesthetic Impulse: Why Humans Make Art and How Art Makes Us Human –

CRN: 34718

Eric Ruckh (SIUE, History & Honors) & Jyotsna Kapur (SIU, Cinema and Photography & Honors)

Section 002, W 6:00-8:50 PM, full term

Meeting Type: Online - Synchronous

What is art and why do humans make it? Why do we seek it out and spend time (and money) to experience it or acquire it? From the famous paleolithic cave paintings, stretching across the entirety of Southern Eurasia from approximately 35,000 to 40,000 years ago, to the latest Banksy, humans have been making art, that is both representing the world and inventing other worlds (sometimes at the same time). This drive is one of the definitive features of our species, of who we are and how we think. It seems an unavoidable necessity—the reason why we can be described both as *homo faber* (as maker) and *homo ludens* (as playful). If it is so important, what is it? And how does it express itself? Is the artistic impulse an impulse to preserve or to play, to waste or to wonder? Is it how we grasp the reality of our existence or how we delude ourselves away from it? Is the artistic impulse liberatory—an expression of a drive to free ourselves and others from exploitation—or does it rest on structures of exploitation? Or does it both at the same time? In this seminar, we will explore these questions, while navigating their tensions and contradictions. We will put the ancient world in discussion with the contemporary, while considering thinkers, artists and movements as part of a multi-cultural historical archive that holds these dynamic tensions in context.

State-Society Relations in Modern Ukraine – Sophia Wilson (Political Science)

CRN: 35728

Section 003, TR 12:30-01:45 PM, full term

Meeting Type: Online – Online

This course examines the dynamic of interaction between the state and society in Ukraine. We will analyze aspects of nation-building in Ukraine and examine the effects of historical legacies on its current development, including the Soviet political system, Holodomor, and Chernobyl. We will also look at the causes and aftermath of the Soviet collapse, as well as the Revolution of 2013-14, and the ongoing war with Russia. Finally, we will examine the effects of political developments in Ukraine on global politics.

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FALL 2021 – HONS 320B: PROBLEMS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SEMINAR)

Seminar examining an enduring question or a pressing contemporary problem in the sciences/industries from an interdisciplinary perspective. Provides students an opportunity to apply their knowledge to the problem.

A Theory of Everything as Nothing – Robert Ware (Philosophy)

Section 001, TR 9:30-10:45 AM, full term

CRN: 35104

Section 002, TR 12:30-1:45 PM, full term

CRN: 36464

Meeting Type: Online – Synchronous

“Philosophy is dead.” With these words, the physicist Stephen Hawking begins his book, *The Grand Design*.

Hawking’s thesis is that philosophers have failed to keep pace with the developments that revolutionized science and mathematics in the last two centuries. They have failed to provide us with a way to conceive of the world that science now describes. In the spirit of Stephen Hawking, this course accepts that philosophy has been no better than comatose for the past two hundred years. And, in the manner of Hawking, this course strives to provide a complete explanation of existence in terms that are rational, clear, and precise. We will attempt to offer a solution to the most fundamental problems that have been raised by the mathematics and physics of the last two centuries. And, in response to Hawking’s gauntlet, we not only will provide a single coherent, original model for logic, mathematics, and modern physics, but we will also derive this model from a deep ontological necessity without recourse to any axiomatic assumptions whatsoever. Hence, no prior knowledge of logic, mathematics, or physics is required. All tools, toys, and weapons of world construction are cheerfully provided.

On Global Health – Gregory Jennings (Nursing – Family/Community Health)

CRN: 37695

Section 003, W 6:00-8:50 PM, full term

Meeting Type: Blended

Within this course we will discuss problems affecting underserved areas globally focusing on health, wellness, resources and technology. This course examines global health from an interdisciplinary perspective. We will discuss both current health crises that are affecting the world and historical ones. More, we take a deeper look into how resources and financial assistance is allocated across the globe to address health care in underserved areas, examining barriers to assistance and ways of overcoming those barriers. We will evaluate the role of missionary and governmental groups and how these efforts impact global health. And, finally, we will discuss how technology can help improve global health.

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FALL 2021 – HONS 499: HONORS CAPSTONE ON CIVIC LIFE (PROSEMINAR)

Honors capstone experience. Provides honors students interdisciplinary feedback on their disciplinary senior assignments as well as the opportunity to take their disciplinary/professional work into the public.

What comes after university? Nothing but the same. Which is to say: life. A sequence (and, often, series) of problems and solutions (most often partial). The stakes generally get higher and the margin for failure thinner: that's really the main difference. If you have been attentive the last three or four years, you have been learning, practicing, and developing the set of dispositions, attitudes, and skills necessary to survive and thrive in what is to come. You have, hopefully, been learning, in the classroom and without, from faculty and from friends, what is worthy of thought and attention and how to think about these issues. We hope that you have come to realize how to learn; and we hope that you have come to realize why we learn. We learn by living and experiencing while being attentive to our intentions, acts, their consequences (and their consequences)—intentional and unintentional. We learn in order to sustain and renew the world through collective action. This last pro-seminar in the honors program is an opportunity to test (offline, in simulation) the probable 'truth-value' of these claims. It is an opportunity for you to assess whether and to what degree you are prepared to confront, nakedly, the world that awaits. It is also an opportunity to realize something important: that we find meaning not in retreat and in isolation, but by turning into the world and its problems (its real problems) and taking our skills and knowledges and trying to fix the world. When we do, we find not only ourselves, but others—a community. We find not only meaning, but hope. This course is an experiment (like the whole program). Please approach it, and our time together, with that in mind.

Eric Ruckh (History & Honors) – On-Line-Synchronous

Section 001, R 7:00-8:50 PM, 10/18 – 12/17 (Last 8 Weeks), CRN 36465

Faculty To Be Announced – Traditional/Face-to-Face

Section 002, W 7:00-8:50 PM, 10/18 – 12/17 (Last 8 Weeks), CRN 37125