

Fall 2018 Honors Courses

Course requirements that can be satisfied with Fall 2018 Honors courses:

Honors Core: HON 201, HON 203

Honors Elective: HON 250 (any), ECO 150H, HIS 120H, RHW 102H

Foundations 1a: RHW 102H

Foundations 3b: ECO 150H

Foundations 4a: HON 201, HIS 120H

Foundations 4c: HON 203, ECO 150H

Course Descriptions

HON 201: Perennial Questions (3 Hours Credit)

STAFF TH 2-3:15

Satisfies an Honors Core requirement and a Foundations 4a requirement.

Course description: we are still working out who will teach this course, but to give you a sense of what it might be like here are two recent course descriptions for HON 201.

God & Evolution: This course addresses the perennial question “Where did we come from?” A common religious answer, from ancient times to the present, is “God created us.” A contemporary scientific answer is “We are a product of biological evolution.” Three main options present themselves: (a) maintain belief in God and reject biological evolution, (b) maintain belief in evolution and reject the existence of God, or (c) synthesize belief in God with the modern theory of biological evolution. In this course we explore perspectives from which one might find resources to choose between these options.

The Good Life: Aristotle famously argued that most people agree that the highest good is happiness or “the good life” but disagree about the nature of happiness. Rather than despair at this situation, he also argued that people can know the good to some extent by acquiring virtue, both moral and intellectual. In spite of differences with respect to the particulars, Western thought generally accepted these arguments until the modern period, when they came under increasing scrutiny. In this course we will critically examine this history and the question of the good life itself by reading and discussing texts in which influential thinkers address this question as well as a host of related philosophical and theological questions.

HON 203: Institutions, Society & the Self (3 Hours Credit)

Dr. Michael Bailey TH 9:30-10:45

Satisfies an Honors Core requirement and a Foundations 4c requirement.

Course description: America's leading statesmen such as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt understood

that popular government is extremely difficult to sustain. They understood what we largely have forgotten: Democracy, like all forms of government, comes with its own set of challenges and pathologies. These lessons about democracy are best expressed by Alexis de Tocqueville, a critic, albeit a friendly one, of American democracy who thoughtfully and forcefully articulated the dangers facing the emerging democratic world. This course will use Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* to illustrate the perpetual issues and problems of democracy—many of which are still very real despite our being blind to them—and we will also draw on works of literature, philosophy, film, and theology to give concrete meaning to these problems as they are manifested in American political and social life.

HON 250: Media Law

Dr. Brian Carroll MWF 1-1:50
Satisfies and Honors Elective requirement

Course description: Constitutional and legislative foundations of freedom of speech and press, with special emphasis on the law of libel, privacy, censorship, access and broadcast regulation. CR or PR: COM 220 or CI.

HON 250: History of Rock & Roll

Dr. Christy Snider TH 9:30-10:45
Satisfies an Honors Elective requirement

Course description: Surveys United States society and culture by analyzing the rise and development of rock and roll music. Special attention is paid to the connections between politics, gender, race, class, technology and popular music in the post-World War II era. PR: HIS 120 or CI.

HON 250: Religion & Film

Dr. Jeffrey Lidke M 4-6:30
Satisfies an Honors Elective requirement

Course description: Exploration of religious assumptions and ideas reflected and expressed in film.

ECO 150H: Honors Wealth & Poverty of Nations

Dr. Lauren Heller MWF 11-11:50
Satisfies an Honors Elective requirement, a Foundations 3b requirement, and a Foundations 4c requirement

Course description: This course introduces students to “big questions” surrounding wealth and poverty both internationally and domestically. In doing so, the course examines both market and government mechanisms for the production and distribution of resources, as well as the complexity of the global economy and its implications for people of different countries and cultures. Course coverage includes important components of the discussion of wealth and poverty, including economic

growth, unemployment, inequality and income mobility, immigration, international trade, and sustainable development.

HIS 120H: Honors Foundations of Modern America

Dr. Christy Snider MWF 1-1:50

Satisfies an Honors Elective requirement and a Foundations 4a requirement

Course description: A review of the major themes and developments in United States history with an emphasis on the opposing viewpoints of historical figures and historians' conflicting interpretations of the American experience. Themes covered include, but are not limited to, the U.S. as a constitutional democracy, the U.S. as an industrial power, the U.S. as a diverse nation, and the U.S. as a world power.

RHW 102H A: Honors First Year Seminar in Writing

Dr. Christina Bucher M 8-8:50, TH 8-9:15

Satisfies an Honors Elective requirement and the Foundations 1a requirement

Course description: The general theme for RHW102 courses is "Self and Society," which is broad – as Walt Whitman would say, "[It] is large, [it] contains multitudes." This section of RHW 102 will be organized around a series of writing problems -- a word I like better than assignments because it indicates that in your writing you are looking for possible solutions to a "problem" or dilemma -- that are in one way or another related to this notion of "self and society," but not necessarily to one another. (Sharp minds, however, may indeed see subtle connections). The course includes an independent research writing problem developed on your own in consultation with me and your peers – you will begin working on this writing problem at the beginning of the semester. Its end product is WP#5, the final paper in the course.

RHW 102H B: Honors First Year Seminar in Writing

Dr. Christopher Diller M 10-10:50, TH 9:30-10:45

Satisfies an Honors Elective requirement and the Foundations 1a requirement

Course description: This section of RHW 102 will engage reading and writing assignments based on the theme of physical, public, and digital spaces. The first two assignments, campus space and public monument descriptions and analyses, will introduce you to rigors and joys of writing expository essays analytically (for example, seeing syntax and punctuation as logical choices). The second half of the semester will be dedicated to deeply researching a public issue of your choice related to the class theme, tracing the history of the debate of that issue, defining and evaluating two or more sides of the debate, and then drafting and revising a mediation essay that offers a compromise argument to reduce conflict and/or solve a certain aspect of the debate. Throughout the semester, we will use class time for discussion, thesis and paragraphing workshops, drafting, and personal conferences.