



HONORS CONTEMPORARY READING SYMPOSIUM

What is the Contemporary Reading Symposium, and what is its purpose?

The Honors Contemporary Reading Symposium (CRS) is a non-graded, non-credit, competency-based program offered each semester to support students' progression through Lower-Division Honors requirements. Students who are in their second, third, or fourth year may participate in order to earn the equivalent of one Honors Elective. The option of participating in the CRS experience can be particularly helpful to students who may be having difficulty completing Lower-Division Honors requirements due to scheduling challenges. Up to 20 students per semester may participate in the CRS, which consists of four sessions throughout the semester.

To fulfill the program requirements, students must read the assigned text or watch the assigned film before each session, complete an associated pre-session assignment created by each session's facilitator, and thoughtfully participate in each session's discussions. Additionally, students will submit a final CRS critical essay approximately one to two weeks after final exam week. While the final essay is not "graded," at least two of the four faculty facilitators will read and evaluate each essay as either "passing" or "not passing."

In selecting faculty facilitators and content options for the CRS, the Honors College is attentive to such factors as special visitors coming to campus, key themes linked to the Academy of Tomorrow, resources available through the QEP on Discovering Global Citizenship, and current events. Students have the opportunity to analyze and discuss issues across disciplines.

How can students fulfill an Honors requirement through the CRS?

In a given semester, students must apply and be accepted in order to participate in the CRS. Before the start of each semester, the Honors College will announce the upcoming CRS schedule in an e-mail that includes a link to the CRS application. In most cases, the application will remain open through the first week of classes. CRS will be capped at 20 students each semester, and applications will be evaluated based on students' need for the Honors Elective.

In order to successfully complete the CRS and use it to fulfill one Honors Elective students must do the following:

- Attend a mandatory orientation session.
- Read the assigned texts and watch the assigned films.
- Be on time for, fully prepared for, and fully engaged in all four CRS sessions.
- Satisfactorily complete all pre-session assignments.
- Earn a "passing" evaluation on the final critical essay.

*Failure to fulfill any of these components will result in a student's being dropped from the CRS.