

UPPER-DIVISION HONORS: UNIVERSITY HONORS

Honors Colloquia

What does it mean to be human? How are we to live? What is the meaning of life?

Honors students enrolled in Honors Colloquia ponder and begin to answer these age-old questions. They discuss how different societies shape various answers to these questions, consider how the origins of ideas shape definitions of progress, and examine the differences between situational and core values.

Honors Colloquia are broadly conceived, generally going beyond conventional disciplinary boundaries and focusing on topics of major and enduring significance. Courses include *On Human Nature*, *The Nature of Society*, and *The Nature of Values*; they deal with the central concerns of a liberal education and consider ways students can build on their learning to serve as civic catalysts.

Colloquia are intellectually rigorous in that they stimulate intellectual curiosity and discussion and engage students with interdisciplinary thinking about learning. Professors expect Colloquia participants to read intensively, analyze thoughtfully, speak intelligently, and write well. Typically, readings are texts rather than textbooks and may include film and other media in addition to print; they convey to students the experience of inquiry and discovery rather than simply presenting results.

