

Spring 2021 Honors Course Descriptions

All courses are subject to change; check Class Search for a definitive list of offerings.

Cultural Visions Courses

ANTH 20623: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Professor: Dr. Lisa Vanderlinden

Core and Honors Designation: SSC and GA or CA, Cultural Visions

Description: The field of cultural anthropology provides a unique skill set for engaging our multicultural and interconnected world. Anthropologists study all facets of human culture, particularly people's everyday lives and their communities as they interact with global forces. Students in this course will participate in Socratic discussion, collaboratively examine cultural artefacts, and undertake an interview project with a person born outside of the United States. By learning about the lives of people who experience and perceive the world in unfamiliar ways, students gain a more reflexive view of their own cultural practices and ideologies, and are better able to see them in a broader global and historical perspective.

CRES 10103: Engaging Difference and Diversity

Professor: Dr. Jacinto Ramos

Core and Honors Designation: CA or CSV, Cultural Visions

Description: Race isn't rocket science; it's harder than rocket science. Why? Because American K-12 school systems do not teach about race and ethnicity. How in the world are we supposed to know the rules of engagement? This course provides an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of comparative race and ethnic studies. Students will explore the social construct of race and become familiar with the Courageous Conversations About Race protocol. The class will be highly interactive and will introduce students to people engaging in promoting racial and ethnic equity in Fort Worth, Texas.

DANC 10453: Dance in World Cultures

Professor: Dr. Lily Sloan

Core and Honors Designation: FAR and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this course engage in a cross-cultural examination of dance as a fundamental human expression. The course design helps students develop a critical understanding and appreciation of dance as culturally situated in diverse world cultures and how socially constructed notions of gender, class, and race manifest within these dance practices.

ENGL 20213: Global Women's Literature: History, Memory, and Power in Contemporary Women's Writing from Africa and the African Diaspora

Professor: Dr. Rima Abunasser

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and GA or LT, Cultural Visions

Description: Ghanaian author, Ama Ata Aidoo, tells us that “[h]umans, not places, make memories.” What does it mean, though, to remember one’s life in the context of family, community, politics, and place? How is memory shaped by histories of individual or collective traumas such as colonialism and slavery? And, importantly, how can memory serve as a corrective or a challenge to dominant discourses rooted in systems of power and oppression? Through four novels (as well as film, poetry, and song), students will consider how literature by women from Africa and the Diaspora engages with these questions, challenging us to think about how this literature creates and recreates memory, self, and home. Themes considered will include sexuality, memory, race, decolonization, migration, nationalism, history, and diaspora.

ENGL 20913: Literature and Civilizations I

Professor: Dr. Jill Havens

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and LT, Cultural Visions

Description: The story of Troy and the Trojan War is among the most influential stories ever told about the Western World. Why has this tale (“the founding story of Europe”) proved so enduring? And why was it considered important to the many artists, writers, and historians who preserved it? In this course, we will explore the many retellings of this famous story, starting with the original versions by Homer and Virgil and ending with a recent novel (part of a present and growing trend) that returns us to Homer’s poem while giving voice to the silent victims of that epic, the women. We will look at all of these works to answer questions about the impact and survival of this legendary story of love, honor, war, and betrayal.

GRMN 20973: Greek Tradition

Professor: Dr. Scott Williams

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and LT, Cultural Visions

Description: We will examine the appropriation of classical Greece in modern literature and film in English and German-language (in translation) cultures. For instance: How is war dealt with by soldiers and civilians in rewritings of the Iliad and Odyssey? What influence do other Greek plays and myths have in modern literature (including a murder mystery on a college campus)? In the last three weeks, students completely take over the class, assuming the roles of individual Athenians, from noblemen to farmers, as they try to re-establish their democracy after the Athenians lost the war to Sparta (and can put Socrates on trial).

HIST 20213: The World Expanded: Europe 1348-1789

Professor: Dr. Jodi Campbell

Core and Honors Designation: HT, Cultural Visions

Description: The early modern period in Europe (from the Black Death through the French Revolution) saw the artistic glories of the Renaissance, the expansion of education and literacy, the invention of the printing press, the religious conflicts of the Reformation, the growth of centralized nation-states, the discoveries of the Scientific Revolution, the birth of capitalism, and Europe's gradual rise to supremacy on the world stage. These developments signified greater prosperity and opportunity for many, while coming at a great cost for others. Our principal task will be to explore and define these changes, question why they happened, and evaluate their impact.

HNRS 20103: Africa Through Film

Professor: Dr. Komla Aggor

Core and Honors Designation: CA or GA, Cultural Visions

Description: This is an interdisciplinary course designed to explore multiple dimensions of African societies that are often unknown or misunderstood. Through documentaries and movies, the course highlights the history, cultural traditions, and lifestyles of African societies. Students will have the opportunity to review the broad concepts of multiculturalism, poverty, and national development and how these concepts affect our views about the African continent. The course enables students to become better equipped with the knowledge and critical thinking necessary to serve in an increasingly diversified, global community.

HNRS 20113: College Life and Identity

Professor: Dr. Estee Hernández

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students will examine social justice in the context of leadership and come to understand their unique role in creating social change on campus, in their academic discipline, and within our larger society. In this theory-to-practice and dialogue-heavy course, students will develop and practice skills necessary to be effective in the leadership process. Students will learn from each other's perspectives, read and discuss relevant reading material, and explore their own and other groups' experiences in various social and institutional contexts.

HNRS 20113: College Life and Identity

Professor: Dr. Whitnee Boyd

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students will explore how their identities and life experiences help to shape how they navigate society and make decisions. Students will read and discuss interdisciplinary material related to race, class, gender, education, faith and spirituality, building community, inclusion, and more. Students will be challenged to think critically on how their respective identities connect them with others and how to use their space in society to empower others. Through this time of self-exploration and reflection, students will derive a more holistic understanding of who they are and how they exist amongst the many other people in the community and world around them.

HNRS 20113: College Life and Identity

Professor: Mr. Trevon Jones

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students will explore how their identities and life experiences help to shape how they make decisions and navigate society. In this dialogue-intensive course, students will be expected to engage fully with the intersecting topics of race, class, gender, education, faith and spirituality, community building, and inclusion. Students will examine sources of privilege and oppression in their own lives in order to build empathetic, equity-focused lenses with which to examine social systems. Through this time of self-exploration and reflection, students will derive a more holistic understanding of who they are and how they exist amongst the many other people in the world around them. This course will balance intense self-reflection with mindful inquiry into the experiences of others.

HNRS 20113: College Life and Identity

Professor: Professor Ebony Rose

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: This course will provide students the opportunity to actively engage with concepts, theories, and frameworks that help increase awareness and understanding of how our social identities—race, religion, class, ethnicity, age, gender—impact our experiences in the communities where we live and work. Through the exploration of individual values, group values, and community values, students will develop and deepen their awareness of how these intersections of identities and values impact their capacity to serve as positive change agents within their communities. In close partnership with the instructor, students will be encouraged to expand their perspectives through self-reflection, interactive texts, and highly participatory class discussion.

HNRS 20213: Language, Communication, and Identity: Psychosocial Aspects of Human Development

Professor: Dr. Randi Proffitt-Leyva

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: What does it mean to become who we are? What language and ideas do we use to make sense of our identity and our lives? What are the biological and psychological milestones of identity development, especially in the transition from childhood, to adolescence, then to emerging adulthood? This seminar-style course introduces students to the concepts, literature, language, and metaphors humans use (such as psychological theories, coming-of-age stories, films, social media, etc.) to understand and define their identity in the world and how they fit into the broader, ever-changing social landscape.

HNRS 20223: Gender and Sexuality in History and Literature

Professor: Dr. Wendy Williams

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA or LT, Cultural Visions

Description: All social human beings are assigned and perform gender roles; all organized societies also regulate sexuality. By examining gender and sexuality as represented in literature in a specific historical context, this course is designed to help students learn to comprehend, theorize, and analyze systems of gender and sexuality in their own era. Assigned authors will include Jane Austen and George Eliot.

HNRS 20403: Faith and Social Movements

Professor: Dr. Andrew Ryder

Core and Honors Designation: CSV or RT, Cultural Visions

Description: Faith is a practical activity that changes the conception of community and has considerable cultural effects; indeed, it has been crucial in achieving human rights and social justice. This course explores a series of case studies from the Americas, Africa, and the Middle East, driven by the energy and commitment of many thinkers and leaders whose belief systems and activities are shaped by religious faith. Students write papers and present research on contemporary religious problems and practices, and are asked to reflect on their own beliefs and develop them. Course material includes reflection on Black, feminist, and indigenous theologies, as well as attention to ecology, sexuality and gender, Latin American social movements, political Islam, human rights, and contemporary interfaith dialogue.

HNRS 20503: Cultural Contact Zones - Africa

Professor: Dr. Juan Carlos Sola-Corbacho

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and GA, Cultural Visions

Description: In this class we will focus on the more than 50 African fully recognized states and the territories that are only partially recognized as such. Students will make individual presentations on their geography, their people, their culture, their traditions, and their political and economic situation. We will pay particular attention to the political, cultural, social, and economic differences and similarities among them and between Africa and the rest of the world, especially the United States. Students will read, discuss, and write about the latest news and the most important current issues in Africa. They will also research, analyze, and debate migration, gender inequality, and environmental problems in Africa.

HNRS 20503: Cultural Contact Zones - #BlackLivesMatter

Professor: Dr. Lynn Hampton

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and GA, Cultural Visions

Description: This course seeks in part to answer a call from students and young activists around the country to examine in a more critical way the failures of democracy, capitalism, and leadership to make #BlackLivesMatter. Utilizing both historical and contemporary contexts, students will engage in in-depth analysis of the political, economic, educational, and criminal justice systems. An important emphasis will be placed on the role of student activists in shaping the cultural, social, economic, and political landscape of our country's major social institutions. Moreover, we will assess the impact of these student activists as agents of change and discuss what the future of the Black Lives Matter movement might look like.

HNRS 20813: Philosophy and Science of Social Justice

Professor: Dr. Mikio Akagi

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Discussions of justice in the 21st century focus increasingly on issues like sexism, racism, transphobia, and ableism. But what are things like race, gender, and disability? Are they biological differences, or are they socially-constructed? Is there such a thing as "implicit" prejudice? Can "equal treatment" sometimes be unjust? In this course we will examine work in the humanities and the sciences, asking how theoretical perspectives can be informed by scientific methods and how theories of social justice can be used to criticize and inform our understanding of science.

PHIL 10103: Mind, Meaning, and Morality

Professor: Dr. Richard Galvin and Dr. Blake Hestir

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CSV, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this course explore various conceptions of mind, meaning, and morality from the ancient Greeks to the contemporary world, with particular attention to the metaphysical and ethical questions, “What (who) are we?” “How should we live?” and “What makes our lives meaningful?” Answers from various figures in Western and Eastern thought are compared, discussed, and evaluated, offering students the opportunity to consider their conceptions of themselves as individuals and as human beings.

RELI 10023: Religion – Communities: South Asian Religions

Professor: Dr. Antoinette DeNapoli

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and RT, Cultural Visions

Description: Through use of primary and secondary texts, films, poetry, art, and music, this course introduces the four dominant religions of South Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism (Theravada, Mahayana, and Tibetan), Jainism, and Sikhism. We explore the histories, cultures, institutions, practices, and people of these religions, learning about them from both outsider (academic) and insider (indigenous) perspectives. The indigenous approach enables students to understand these religions as their practitioners understand, experience, interpret, and live them—that is, to “see” the world as a Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, or Sikh might see and experience it.

Honors Elective Courses

BIOL 10003: Contemporary Issues in Biology

Professor: Dr. Molly Weinburgh

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Lab section also required

BIOL 10513: Introductory Biology II

Professor: Dr. Mark Demarest

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Lab section also required

CHEM 20213: Quantitative Analysis

Professor: Dr. Jeff Coffey

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

Lab section also required

COMM 10163: Public Address

Professor: Dr. Paul King

Core and Honors Designation: OCO, Honors Elective

ECON 10223: Introductory Microeconomics

Professor: Dr. Doug Butler

Core and Honors Designation: SSC, Honors Elective

ECON 10233: Introductory Macroeconomics

Professor: Dr. Steve Nicar

Core and Honors Designation: SSC, Honors Elective

ECON 30483: Financial History

Professor: Dr. Steve Quinn

Core and Honors Designation: HT and WEM, Honors Elective

HNRS 20003: Experimental Course – Gaming Representation

Professor: Dr. Wendi Sierra

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Description: Sony's PlayStation invites gamers to "live in your world, play in ours". As enticing as this proposition might sound, there's no ignoring the fact that, as cultural artifacts, games carry with them a complicated mix of messages and values. In other words, "our" world always intrudes into game space. In this course, we will use textual analysis to explore how games represent race, gender, and sexuality via characters, narratives, and mechanics. We seek to move beyond characterizing games as good or bad based on these features, but instead to explore how power is represented in existing games and consider what alternatives might exist.

HNRS 20623: The Genius of Hip Hop

Professor: Dr. Frederick Gooding, Jr.

Core and Honors Designation: HUM, Honors Elective

Description: Have you ever listened to Hip Hop? Or watched a Hip Hop video on TV? Or listened to someone recite rhymes while they listened intently with their headphones on? If so, then of course, this is your course! In this dynamic class, we seek to understand how something so controversial and marginal could become so mainstream and central. We will analyze how Hip Hop works while studying telling examples from both well-known and underground tracks. After taking this course, students will be able to recognize the biases and stereotypes subtly conveyed against Hip Hop while developing a heightened appreciation for the power of Hip Hop to create community while communicating creativity. It will be dope!

MANA 20153: Legal and Social Environment of Business

Professor: Professor Gregg Lehman

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

MUSI 10053: Survey of Music

Professor: Dr. William Gibbons

Core and Honors Designation: FAR, Honors Elective

MUSI 20203: Advanced Theory (Music Majors)

Professor: Professor Joseph Carter

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

MUSI 20213: Advanced Theory (Music Majors)

Professor: Dr. Till Meyn

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

PHYS 20484: Physics II with Lab – Electromagnetics and Optics

Professor: Dr. Richard Bonde

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Lab section also required

PHYS 20484: Physics II with Lab – Electromagnetics and Optics

Professor: Dr. Yuri Strzhemechny

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Lab section also required

POSC 20203: Introduction to Political Theory

Professor: Dr. Samuel Arnold

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

PSYC 10524: Principles of Behavior II

Professor: Dr. Gregory Repasky

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

Lab section also required

RELI 10033: Religion: Texts and Ideas – The Wisdom Books

Professor: Dr. Darren Middleton

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and RT, Honors Elective

RELI 10033: Religion: Texts and Ideas – The Qur'an

Professor: Dr. Samuel Ross

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and RT, Honors Elective

SCIE 30603: Religion and Healthcare

Professor: Dr. Mathew Crawford

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and RT, Honors Elective

SOCI 20213: Introductory Sociology

Professor: Dr. Angela Thompson

Core and Honors Designation: SSC and CA, Honors Elective

SOCI 20223: Social Problems

Professor: Dr. Erik Kojola

Core and Honors Designation: SSC and CSV, Honors Elective

THEA 10113: Survey of Theatre

Professor: Professor Jessica Humphrey

Core and Honors Designation: FAR, Honors Elective

Lab section also required

Colloquia Courses

HCOL 40000: The World in News

Professor: Dr. Juan Carlos Sola-Corbacho

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Is globalization affecting cultural diversity? How? Can we identify globalization with “Westernization”? Should we preserve traditional cultural/national ways of life with no exceptions? Should we accept new behaviors and customs coming from other regions or countries? To answer these questions, students will read, compare, and discuss the latest news published in English in newspapers and magazines edited in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. We will also interview people involved in the preservation or prohibition of cultural traditions or practices in different parts of the world.

HCOL 40000: Citizenship

Professor: Dr. Santiago Piñón

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This course considers the fundamental question of what it means to be a citizen and how the duties and rights of citizenship should be defined and enacted. The category of citizen has been used to both include and exclude individuals in/from the civitas. This course considers some of the definitions of what it means to be a good citizen and how an individual ought to fulfill the duties of citizenship, particularly in relation to the State. Through examination of religious, political, historical, and fictional texts, students will analyze and evaluate various responses to this enduring question.

HCOL 40000: Beyoncé and Intersectionality

Professor: Dr. Lynn Hampton

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: From “Formation” to “Lemonade,” this course utilizes the artistry, musicianship, and feminism of Beyoncé to explore deeper issues of patriarchy, racism, classism, and sexism in our society. Through engagement of black feminist thought and intersectionality (the works of Kimberlé Crenshaw, Audre Lorde, and bell hooks in particular), students will explore how intersecting identities of race, class, and gender create powerful legacies of oppression and resistance.

HCOL 40000: Presidential Leadership

Professor: Dr. James Riddlesperger

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: In this highly interactive course, students engage in cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary learning about the nature and exercise of executive power in democratic societies, working collaboratively with students at the University of Guanajuato, Mexico. Each class meeting includes one hour of shared time (via Skype) with students at the University of Guanajuato, one hour of professor-led discussion at each institution, and a recorded lecture by a world leader.

HCOL 40000: The End of the American Century?

Professor: Dr. James Scott

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This course examines the future of American leadership in a dramatically changing global context. Of vital importance in the globalizing world, the contemporary challenges and opportunities for U.S. foreign policy in the current world order have major implications for Americans and the rest of the world. The course focuses on the roles and purposes of the U.S. in the world, its interests, the problems it faces, and the approaches to those things that have been and may be implemented. Students will formulate and advocate preferred solutions to the current dilemmas facing the United States.

HCOL 40000: Capitalism and Socialism

Professor: Dr. Sam Arnold and Dr. Rob Garnett

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: What would our economy look like if liberty, justice, and democracy were its foundational principles? How entrepreneurial and equitable would such an economy be? Students in this uniquely experiential course will explore the historical origins and multiple meanings of capitalism and socialism, the diverse array of nations and businesses that might be classified as one or the other (or both), and the prospective impacts of capitalism and socialism on our 21st century global economy. Through direct interaction with leading academic thinkers and real-world practitioners, students will develop their own informed stances on the merits and flaws of alternative business models and economic systems while also learning to recognize the humane values and practical wisdom of people with whom they disagree.

HCOL 40000: Social Media and Identity

Professor: Dr. Estee Hernández

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Social media is part of our everyday lives but we probably don't spend much time thinking about how it influences who we are. In this course, we'll apply sociological and identity theories to understand the formative and performative effects of social media: how it shapes the ways we see ourselves, how others see us, and how we choose (or are subconsciously drawn) to engage. Students will examine their own social media use through critical introspection, working toward a final digital portfolio project in which they demonstrate their understanding of and ability to enact self-authorship online.

HCOL 40000: History of the Scientific Endeavor

Professor: Dr. Hayat Hokayem

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: In a world with unpredicted events, one wonders how to make sense of information, news, and phenomena around us. In fact, with the current situation of the pandemic, people's eyes turn to science in anticipation of a vaccine, a treatment, or a comprehensive explanation. However, despite the crucial importance of science, few understand the nature of scientific endeavor which is the keystone to scientific literacy. In this course we will discuss the nature and history of the scientific endeavor and relate that to what is happening to our current daily situation. The course engages in readings, discussions, and assignments about the nature of science that can be projected to various contemporary scientific professions and events.

HCOL 40000: Examining Ethical Leadership

Professor: Dr. William Gibbons and Dr. Kristen Queen

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: The TCU Mission Statement calls for all our students to become "ethical leaders"—but what exactly is ethical leadership, and how do we practice it? Through self-reflection and exploration of prominent leadership theories and styles including the Four Frames (Bolman & Deal) and Transformational Leadership (Downton/Burns), this course interrogates the idea of ethical leadership in a range of fields, from higher education to business, the arts, communities, and government. Discussion will also be dedicated to how gender, race, and ethnicity impacts leadership. Course activities include case studies, discussions of major readings in leadership theory, an experiential leadership project, and class visits from active leaders across TCU and the DFW Metroplex.

HCOL 40000: Resilience

Professor: Dr. Amber Esping

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This course examines the internal and external resiliencies that allow humans to endure and even to thrive in the most difficult of circumstances. We explore this topic through various cross-disciplinary, strengths-based lenses including solution-focused counseling, positive psychology, existential psychology, developmental psychology, and education theory. Readings emphasize empirical approaches to studying human resilience in various cultural contexts as well as representations of resiliency in literary nonfiction and film. Students also utilize psychometric assessments of resiliency to explore and cultivate their own capacity for overcoming adversity.

HCOL 40000: Scary Parents

Professor: Dr. Lauren Mitchell

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Who can you trust if you can't trust your parents? And yet, horror movies, fairytales, scary stories, and the case archives of medical history are filled to the brim with parents haunted by ghosts, possessed by demons, stalked by their pasts, and abusive to anyone who crosses their paths. In this horror-film centered course, we'll place conversations in history of medicine/art and current events with film and literary texts to consider the enigma of what it means to be a part of a family: while we know our parents as our caregivers, the unnerving fact of the matter is that we often don't know our parents as people. What could they be hiding? What are the things we have inherited without ever knowing? What are the mysteries that need to be solved...Or else?

HCOL 40000: Witches and Witch Hunts

Professor: Dr. Daniel Williams

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This colloquium will explore the cultural phenomena of witches, witchcraft, and witch hunts with a special focus what happened in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692. Belief in witchcraft and magic was widespread for centuries and in many ways supplemented standard religious beliefs. Moreover, belief in witchcraft is widespread today. Reading both primary and secondary sources, students will examine historical beliefs in witchcraft and, as a case study, the infamous—yet still baffling—events in Salem when nineteen people were executed, another tortured to death, and more than a dozen died in prison. Students will also consider the beliefs and practices of contemporary Pagan Witchcraft and popular representations of witches and witchcraft in Young Adult fiction, television, and film, including *The Wizard of Oz* and *Harry Potter*.

HCOL 40000: Understanding Science

Professor: Dr. Mikio Akagi

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: We often put our trust in science, but many of us (including scientists!) do not have a firm understanding of what science is or why it works—when it does. In this course we will examine foundational questions about science. What is it? Is scientific progress fundamentally rational? Are scientific theories true, or just useful? How do scientists choose what gets published, and do they choose well? Is science objective? Should it be? And how can science go terribly wrong—by supporting bigotry, or lending authority to nonsense? This course is open to students of all majors.

HCOL 41043: Design Thinking and Innovation

Professor: Dr. Dusty Crocker

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This course explores the use of design thinking principles to create innovative solutions to cultural and business problems. It is designed to improve creativity by exploring new ways of developing empathy for diverse audiences, identifying core problems and rapidly generating and testing multiple concepts of practical solutions to real-world business and societal problems. Students learn to present solutions using visual imagery, models, and infographics as well as written and oral presentation skills. This is an experiential, project-based course that requires active participation and collaboration among students.

HCOL 41063: Outlaws

Professor: Dr. Andrew Ryder

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: “Outlaws” is concerned with organizations that contest legality. It is divided into four units: “American Outlaws from the Civil War to the Depression,” “White Ethnic Difference and Gangs in the Mid-Twentieth Century,” “Black Power and Outlaw Liberation Projects,” and “Contemporary Gang Culture.” The class produces a sense of empathy and concern as well as understanding of the economic, political, and social causes of crime. We are also concerned with mass media and the legends surrounding various cultural figures. We will draw from multiple disciplines, including history, journalism, sociology, economics, criminology, ethnic studies, media studies, and literature.

HCOL 41163: Giving and Philanthropy

Professor: Dr. Ronald Pitcock

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: What does it mean to give \$100,000 thoughtfully? Students will answer this question practically by tackling work that affects real lives in meaningful ways. As students explore histories and philosophies of giving, they will also discuss and make moral judgments as they engage micro-decisions while considering macro-consequences. Students will direct \$100,000 in donor gifts; it is up to the students' collective wisdom as a foundation to grant these funds responsibly. Designed to prepare students to live thoughtful, philanthropic lives, this course will help some imagine a new vocation. [Note: Students in this colloquium may attend lunchtime Philanthropy Fridays on four Fridays during the semester.]

HCOL 41183: Mind, Consciousness, Self

Professor: Dr. Blake Hestir

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This colloquium offers students a unique opportunity to explore innovative philosophical conceptions of mind, consciousness, and self along with various contemplative practices that will aide in bringing attention to the interrelation between your mind, body, and environment. Students will immerse themselves in topics such as attention and awareness, embodiment, social and environmental "situatedness," mindfulness, interpersonal neurobiology, selflessness, and the ecological self. They will explore meditation techniques, perform mindful movement exercises, and write a self-narrative journal to facilitate self-understanding.

HCOL 41213: Sex, Evolution, and the Brain

Professor: Dr. Sarah Hill

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Using the lens of evolutionary psychology, we will explore what the research says about how you can be a happier, healthier, sexier, and better version of you. We will first go over the principles of evolutionary biology and why they're critical to self-discovery. Then, we'll go over research using this approach to understand our health, happiness, and relationships. The class will be goal-focused, with discussions centering on how we can best make ourselves into the version of ourselves that we most want to be.

HCOL 41223: Design for Social Impact

Professor: Dr. Stacy Grau

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Our community faces what we call “wicked problems” that require innovative thinking and a “design mindset”. This course introduces two key frameworks – design thinking and systems thinking – to help students develop innovative solutions to wicked problems in our own community. We also explore how each of us can contribute to these solutions through social entrepreneurship. Expect a hands-on experience and the opportunity to engage in real-world problem solving.

HCOL 41243: Gender

Professor: Dr. Wendy Williams

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: In this course, students explore critical questions about gender and sexuality in society. Through readings, film, discussion, and writing, students examine ways in which people embody and perform gender in various cultural contexts. Students also consider how gender intersects with other identity categories such as race, class, sexual identity, and nationality.

HCOL 41263: Democracy in the Workplace

Professor: Dr. Johnny Garner

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Having grown up in a democracy, many of us expect that our voices count, that our opinions matter. In many ways, that’s true in almost every context. And yet, as students enter the workforce, some are met with a challenging circumstance—how to share ideas, suggestions, complaints, criticisms, and other types of feedback that may not always be welcomed. Students in this course will explore how organizations balance participation and efficiency, how employees can express dissent in organizations, and how employees’ voices shape (or not) organizational decision-making.