

Fall 2021 Honors Course Descriptions

All courses are subject to change; check Class Search for a definitive list of offerings. All Honors courses have a 600-section. Make sure you have the correct section before enrolling.

Cultural Visions Courses

Introduction to Art History

ARHI 10043-620

Professor: Dr. Kristine Ronan

Core and Honors Designation: FAR and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: This course offers a broad overview of the history of visual arts and focuses on the history of the visual arts with a focus on the relationship between art and its historical and societal contexts. In this regard, the course provides students the tools to understand how art reflects its associated cultures' mores, values, worldview, and sensitivities. These tools would be the skills to describe and analyze the formal and design elements of a work of art and an understanding of how art, in terms of style and subject matter, relates to its cultural circumstances. Students will gain an appreciation of the aesthetic values of these cultures and an understanding of the historical, social, economic, political, and/or religious contexts for the creation of art. Through reading, writing, speaking, and seeing, students will enhance their skills in critical thinking and the synthesis of ideas within the discipline of art history.

Engaging Difference and Diversity

CRES 10103-680

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 is an introductory course 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, include a community visit, and introduce students to people engaging in racial and ethnic equity in Fort Worth, Texas.

Dance in World Cultures

DANC 10453-635

Professor: Lily Sloan

Core and Honors Designation: FAR and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this course engage in a historical and 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.

Global Women's Literature

ENGL 20213-630

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.

Astrobiology

ENSC 20003-655

Professor: Dr. Rhiannon Mayne

Core and Honors Designation: CSV, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this course will explore some of the big topics and questions in Astrobiology: What makes Earth so habitable? How might life originate on other planetary bodies? How are we actively looking for life on other planetary bodies in our Solar System and beyond? Finally, students will be asked to examine what it means to be an intelligent life-form and what responsibilities, if any, might come with such intelligence.

World Regional Geography

GEOG 10003-635

GEOG 10003-636 (Lab-Required)

GEOG 10003-637 (Lab-Required)

GEOG 10003-638 (Lab-Required)

Professor: Dr. Jeff Roet

Core and Honors Designation: SSC and GA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this seminar-style class will use interdisciplinary inquiry and experiential learning to explore the transition to adulthood, personal and community identity development, and the aspects of college life that make these years formative. By engaging with text, in dialogue, and in practices such as mindful meditation and reflective writing, students will develop a holistic understanding of who they are and how they exist amongst other people in their campus, local, national, and global communities.

College Life and Identity

HNRS 20113-670

Professor: Dr. Lauren Nixon

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this seminar-style class will use interdisciplinary inquiry and experiential learning to explore the transition to adulthood, personal and community identity development, and the aspects of college life that make these years formative. By engaging with text, in dialogue, and in practices such as mindful meditation and reflective writing, students will develop a holistic understanding of who they are and how they exist amongst other people in their campus, local, national, and global communities.

College Life and Identity

HNRS 20113-674

Professor: Dr. Whitnee Boyd

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this course 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.

College Life and Identity

HNRS 20113-681

Professor: Dr. Estee Hernández

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this course 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.

Culture, Literature and Adaptations

HNRS 20243-615

HNRS 20243-635

Professor: Dr. Wendy Williams

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and LT, Cultural Visions

Description: In this Lower-Division Honors seminar, students read four nineteenth-century British novels and watch eight twentieth- and twenty-first century film adaptations to learn about cultural difference and social change. Through student-led discussions, community building assignments, and a close-knit classroom environment, students examine contemporary American values and issues by comparing them to those described in nineteenth-century British literature.

Culture, Literature and Adaptations

HNRS 20243-610

HNRS 20243-640

Professor: Dr. Andrew Ryder

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and LT, Cultural Visions

Description: Students will study the culture of Texas across a variety of media in this Honors Lower-Division seminar. The course presents a web of narratives and themes adapted from literature and history to popular music, cinema, and video (including the genres of revisionist Western, outlaw country, Chicano/a identity, sports journalism, high-school comedy and drama, action film, Tejano, neo soul, dance-pop and R&B). Through student presentations and small-group discussion, as well as informal and academic writing, students will gain a new perspective on a complex diversity of voices as well as the artistic potential of cross-media adaptation.

Faith and Social Movements

HNRS 20403-620

HNRS 20403-630

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 (North and South), 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, immigration, human rights, and contemporary interfaith dialogue.

Cultural Contact Zones – Asia

HNRS 20503-602

HNRS 20503-610

Professor: Dr. Juan Carlos Sola-Corbacho

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and GA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this class will focus on the 48 Asian sovereign states, the 6 that are not members of the United Nations, and the 6 territories administered by non-Asian and other Asian countries. 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 Asia and the rest of the world. Students will also read, discuss, and write about the latest news and the most important current issues in Asia. They will also research, analyze and debate migration, gender inequality, and environmental problems in Asia.

Cultural Contact Zones – US Schooling and American Society

HNRS 20503-645

HNRS 20503-655

Professor: Dr. Lynn Hampton

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and GA, Cultural Visions

Description: Through classroom debates, policy discussions, and active learning exercises, students in this course will tackle a host of issues concerning the role of schools and schooling in U.S. society. What factors shape how schools are run, how schools are organized, and what curricular materials are taught? How do schools help to maintain and perpetuate social inequality? How do race, class, and gender affect the educational experiences of students within schools and within classrooms? Discussion of these topics will help to dispel myths about the role of education and schools in American society.

Race and Sports

HNRS 20613-674

Professor: Dr. Frederick Gooding, Jr.

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CSV, Cultural Visions

Description: Have you ever listened to sports radio? Or watched sports on TV? Or read what someone wrote about sports in the media? If so, then you are in the right course! In this dynamic class, we start with the principle that sports perform an important social function, and consequently so do the images and commentaries generated within and around it. If you're game, we will examine why sports hold such an important place in our culture, explore its mass-market global appeal and then appreciate how race intersects with and affects mainstream portrayals of sports in America.

Race and Sports

HNRS 20613-680

Professor: Dr. Clifford Harrell

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CSV, Cultural Visions

Description: This course will explore the interplay of racial and social binaries within the context of sports. We will examine the popularity of sports and why it plays such a large role in the social structure of our society while inspecting the images and commentaries generated within and around it.

Video Games and Representation

HNRS 20633-650

HNRS 20633-660

Professor: Dr. Wendi Sierra

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Vision

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.

Understanding Science

HNRS 20803-680

Professor: Dr. Mikio Akagi

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CSV, Cultural Visions

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.

Cultural Memory – LIT Culture

HNRS 20923-605

Professor: Dr. Ronald Pitcock

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and LT, Cultural Visions

Description: *“The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.”* –Milan Kundera

This course examines how US writers creatively use writing and filmmaking to shape a cultural memory of US history. We will study literature surrounding the JFK assassination, 9/11, and the Ragtime era. Sections on social memory will include optional study experiences (potentially—depending on COVID-19 policies) in Dallas (weekend) and New York (Fall Break). We will explore the relationship between memory, literature, and culture: how do authors memorialize events and how do their texts shape individual, public, and institutional memories, as well as cultural amnesia and fake news.

World Music

MUSI 10063-650

Professor: Dr. Tim Watkins

Core and Honors Designation: FAR and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: This course serves as an introduction to the variety of music found in cultures around the world outside the Western art music tradition. Students learn the universal elements common to all forms of music, then explore the comparative and internal diversity of African, Latin American, Irish, Egyptian, Balinese, Chinese, and Indian music, all analyzed within their distinct and evolving social and cultural contexts.

Mind, Meaning, and Morality

PHIL 10103-630

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.

Honors Elective Courses

Fundamentals of Accounting

ACCT 20353-615

Professor: Professor Maia Kelton

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Introductory Biology I

BIOL 10503-602

BIOL 10503-610

BIOL 10503-635

Professor: Dr. Giri Akkaraju and Dr. Laura Luque

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective; *Students must also enroll in the lab (BIOL 10501)*

Introductory Biology II

BIOL 10513-655

Professor: Dr. Mark Demarest

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

Business in Society

BUSI 10153-630

Professor: Staff

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective; *Students must also enroll in a non-Honors lab*

Public Address

COMM 10163-674

COMM 10163-680

Professor: Dr. Paul King

Core and Honors Designation: OCO, Honors Elective

Introductory Microeconomics

ECON 10223-605

ECON 10223-615

Professor: Dr. Zach Hawley

Core and Honors Designation: SSC, Honors Elective

Advanced Theory

MUSI 20203-620

Professor: Dr. Sean Atkinson

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Introductory Astronomy

PHYS 10273-630

Professor: Dr. Richard Bonde

Core and Honors Designation: NSC and GA, Honors Elective

Students must also enroll in a non-Honors lab

Introductory Astronomy**PHYS 10273-640****Professor:** Dr. Douglas Ingram**Core and Honors Designation:** NSC and GA, Honors Elective*Students must also enroll in a non-Honors lab***Physics I with Lab: Mechanics****PHYS 20474-640****Professor:** Dr. Anton Naumov**Core and Honors Designation:** NSC, Honors Elective*Students must also enroll in a non-Honors lab***International Politics****POSC 20303-605****Professor:** Dr. Eric Cox**Core and Honors Designation:** SSC and CA or GA, Honors Elective**Principles of Behavior I****PSYC 10514-640 (Lecture)****PSYC 10514-641 (Lab - required)****Professor:** Dr. Tracy Centanni**Core and Honors Designation:** NSC, Honors Elective**Understanding Religion: The Bible****RELI 10033-610****Professor:** Dr. David Grant**Core and Honors Designation:** HUM and RT, Honors Elective**Survey of Musical Theater****THEA 11013-600 (Lab – required)****THEA 11013-620 (Lecture)****THEA 11013-640 (Lecture)****Professor:** Dr. Jessica Humphrey**Core and Honors Designation:** FAR, Honors Elective