

Spring 2022 Lower-Division Honors Course Descriptions

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

Cultural Visions Courses

ANTH 20623: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Section: 645 OR 655

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 broader global and historical perspective.

CRES 10103: Engaging Difference and Diversity

Section: 674

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

Section: 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.

ENGL 20213: Global Women's Literature

Section: 660

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 exile? And, importantly, how can memory serve as a corrective or a challenge to dominant discourses rooted in systems of power and oppression? This course will ask students to consider how literature by women from the Middle East and North Africa 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

Section: 610

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.

HIST 20223: Europe 1789-Present

Section: 610

Professor: Dr. Juan Carlos Sola-Corbacho

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and HT, Cultural Visions

Description: In this class we will focus on the history of Europe since the French Revolution, a turning point in the history of the Western World. We will undertake a historical analysis of the new political, social and economic ideas that have appeared (and the decline of some traditional concepts) by way of understanding the formation of present-day Europe. The class will combine presentations (by students and professor), research (necessary to write a paper and prepare for presentations), and class discussion. We will also have a number of Europeans in class, with whom we will converse about present-day Europe.

HNRS 20103: Africa Through Film

Section: 674

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

Section: 630

Professor: Dr. Cameron Potter

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students will explore various aspects of the constructive-developmental transition from adolescence to adulthood (cognitive development, sociology-emotional development, faith-stage development, and moral/ethical development), with particular attention to the relationship between the college experience and identity/values development. 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. Students will be encouraged to expand their perspectives through self-reflection, interactive texts, and participatory class discussion.

HNRS 20113: College Life and Identity

Section: 665

Professor: Dr. Lauren Nixon

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students 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.

HNRS 20113: College Life and Identity

Section: 674

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

Section: 675

Professor: Leslie Ekpe

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 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

Section: 680

Professor: Dr. Trung Nguyen

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students will explore the intersectionality of their racial and gender identities and use this understanding to analyze their own decisions. By learning how identities may influence an individual's intellectual and moral development, students will establish a foundation to guide them in making choices reflective of an ethical leader and a responsible citizen. Questions we will address together include: What principles can I use to determine whether I made the "right" decision? What aspects of my identity guide me in my decision-making process? How has my identity been shaped by the decisions I have made in the past?

HNRS 20243: Culture, Literature and Adaptations – The Hunger Games

Section: 655

Professor: Dr. Sylviane Greensword

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and LT, Cultural Visions

Description: This course introduces students to intercultural studies via the popular young adult series The Hunger Games. Assigned reading includes all four novels in the series, excerpts of its filmic adaptations, and short scholarly articles on the themes, production, and media coverage of The Hunger Games. Through student presentations, small group discussions, and academic writing, students will examine the extent to which the fictional dystopian society of Panem exposes realities of contemporary cultures and subcultures at home and abroad.

HNRS 20403: Faith and Social Movements

Sections: 610, 620, OR 630

Professor: Dr. Andrew Ryder

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and 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 contemporary case studies from the Americas, 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, religion and science, human rights, and contemporary interfaith dialogue.

HNRS 20503: Cultural Contact Zones – The Americas

Section: 620

Professor: Dr. Juan Carlos Sola-Corbacho

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and GA, Cultural Visions

Description: In this class we will focus on the Americas, from Canada to Argentina, and the lives of Americans at the beginning of the 21st century. We will learn about the 36 American sovereign states, and those 19 territories that are part of other European or American countries. We will analyze their peoples, cultures, traditions, and political/economic situations. We will also “meet” the most popular Americans (political leaders, actors, writers, and scientists) and look at expressions of regional identity such as the Peruvian Inti Raimy (summer solstice), how to play tejo (a traditional sport in Colombia), and the origin of the traditional Chilean festival known as “Fiesta Tapati.” The class will combine presentations (by students and professor), research (necessary to write a paper and prepare for presentations), and class discussion. We will also have a number of Americans in class, with whom we will converse about life in present-day America.

HNRS 20503: Cultural Contact Zones – US Schooling and American Society

Section: 645 OR 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.

HNRS 20613: Race and Sports

Section: 680

Professor: Dr. Clifford Harrell

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CSV, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in 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.

HNRS 20813: Philosophy and Science of Social Justice

Section: 665

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

Section: 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.

RELI 10023: Understanding Religion: Communities – World Religion

Section: 680

Professor: Dr. Mark Dennis

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and RT, Cultural Visions

Description: This course offers an introduction to the teachings and histories of religious traditions mainly from Asia and the Middle East: Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism from India, Confucianism and Daoism from China, and Islam from Saudi Arabia. The course begins with a general discussion of the Humanities, critical thinking in the liberal arts, and theories of religion. The rest of the semester is devoted to case studies illustrating the intersection of religion and free speech, violence, and other fascinating topics. Those cases include the cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad and the protests of the Westboro Baptist Church as well as Tibetan self-immolations, the Mumbai attacks, and others.

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

Section: 660

Professor: Dr. Samuel Ross

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and RT, Cultural Visions

Description: This course introduces the life of the Prophet Muhammad and the scripture he proclaimed, the Qur'an. Through a combination of interactive lectures and hands-on assignments, students will examine historiographical methods for reconstructing Muhammad's biography, the enduring relevance of his legacy to Muslims today, the worldview of the Qur'an, its textual history, and debates over the Qur'an's interpretation. Throughout, attention will be given to questions of universal human concern and areas of similarity and difference with the other Abrahamic religions, Judaism and Christianity. Students will also think reflexively about the process of studying the religion of others, past and present.

SCIE 30603: Religion and Healthcare

Section: 670

Professor: Dr. Mathew Crawford

Core and Honors Designation: CA, Cultural Visions

Description: This course explores the relation between religion and healthcare in the American medical context, including the role faith plays for many facing illness. With the goal of fostering cultural competence, we will trace the historic interplay between religious practice and fostering human health in the West, emphasizing the prominence of Christianity, the development of secularism, and religious plurality. This course is suited for Honors students preparing for careers in healthcare as well as those broadly interested in religious and secular responses to illness.

Honors Elective Courses

BIOL 10003: Contemporary Issues in Biology

Section: 605 (Lecture) and 606 (Lab)

Professor: Dr. Molly Weinburgh

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

BIOL 10513: Introductory Biology II

Sections: 635 OR 645

Professor: Dr. Mark Demarest

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

Students must also enroll in a BIOL 10511 lab

BUSI 10153: Business in Society

Sections: 630 OR 640

Professor: Dr. Danyelle Ackall

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Students must also enroll in a BUSI 10151 lab

CHEM 20123: Quantitative Analysis

Sections: 670 (Lecture) and 671 (Lab)

Professor: Dr. Jeff Coffey

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

COMM 10163: Public Address

Section: 605

Professor: Dr. Paul King

Core and Honors Designation: OCO, Honors Elective

ECON 10223: Introductory Microeconomics

Section: 635

Professor: Dr. Zach Hawley

Core and Honors Designation: SSC, Honors Elective

ECON 10233: Introductory Macroeconomics

Section: 630

Professor: Dr. Stephen Nicar

Core and Honors Designation: SSC, Honors Elective

ECON 30483: Financial History

Section: 630

Professor: Dr. Steve Quinn

Core and Honors Designation: HT and WEM, Honors Elective

ENTR 20153: Entrepreneurial and Business Regulatory Environment

Sections: 635

Professor: Kelly Trager

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

ENTR 20153: Entrepreneurial and Business Regulatory Environment

Sections: 686

Professor: Gregg Lehamn

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

HNRS 20123: Mindfulness for College Students

Sections: 635 OR 645

Professor: Dr. Wendy Williams

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

MUSI 20213: Advanced Theory

Section: 620

Professor: Dr. Martin Blessinger

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

PHYS 20484: Physics II with Lab: Electromagnetism and Optics

Section: 610

Professor: Dr. Magnus Rittby

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

Students must also enroll in a non-Honors lab

PHYS 20484: Physics II with Lab: Electromagnetism and Optics

Section: 615

Professor: Dr. Yuri Strzhemechny

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

Students must also enroll in a non-Honors lab

POSC 20303: International Politics

Section: 655

Professor: Dr. Carrie Currier

Core and Honors Designation: GA or CA and SSC, Honors Elective

PSYC 10524: Principles of Behavior II

Section: 635 (Lecture) and 636 (Lab)

Professor: Dr. Gregory Repasky

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

SOCI 20213: Introductory Sociology

Section: 645

Professor: Dr. Angela Thompson

Core and Honors Designation: SSC and CA, Honors Elective

THEA 11013: Survey of Musical Theater

Sections: 620 OR 640

Professor: Dr. Jessica Humphrey

Core and Honors Designation: FAR, Honors Elective

Students must enroll in the lab, section 601, for Honors credit