

Spring 2023 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.

Lower-Division Honors: Cultural Visions Courses

ANTH 20623: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Section: 610 or 620

Professor: Staff

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 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.

GEOG 10003: World Regional Geography

Section: 620

Professor: Dr. Ashley Coles

Core and Honors Designation: GA and SSC, Cultural Visions

Description: Regional geography synthesizes human and physical geography to present a holistic portrait of place or a region. We will "visit" nine of the world's regions and study them through the eyes of the people who live there. This course will appeal to students interested in the intersection of geopolitics, global economics, culture, and environmental issues.

GRMN 20973: Afterlife of the Classical Greek Tradition

Section: 615

Professor: Dr. Scott Williams

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and HT, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this course examine examples of the modern appropriation of classical Greece in literature, drama, and film in post-1945 English language and German language (in translation) literature and culture. Students discover how the past is used to understand our present and explore our understanding of fiction and fact as manifested in the literary tradition of different cultures. In the last few weeks, students take over the class as we re-enact meetings of the Athenian democracy as the city-state recovers from Spartan occupation. Each student takes the role of an historical or fictional Athenian and decide how to shape the democracy. You will even have a chance to put Socrates on trial.

HNRS 20113: College Life and Identity

Section: 635

Professor: Dr. Cameron Potter

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students 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 provides 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 are 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: Ms. Leslie Ekpe

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students explore how their identities and life experiences help to shape how they make decisions and navigate society. In this dialogue-intensive course, students engage with the intersecting topics of race, class, gender, education, faith and spirituality, community building, and inclusion. Students 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 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 balances intense self-reflection with mindful inquiry into the experiences of others.

HNRS 20113: College Life and Identity

Section: 675

Professor: Ms. Sharon Gooding

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: This course helps students explore and critically examine identity development as it relates to social systems. Presented through interdisciplinary course material, experiential learning opportunities, and interactive dialogue, students engage actively with concepts, theories, and principles vital to understanding key elements of identity development. Grounded in principles of critical self-reflection and self-awareness, students learn about DEI topics such as equity, intercultural competence, privilege, intercultural conflict, and counter-narratives. Students also gain perspective on the life experiences of others and learn skills to engage in mindful and empathetic interactions while analyzing contemporary and historical issues necessary to become ethical leaders and responsible citizens in a global community.

HNRS 20123: Mindfulness for College Students

Sections: 645

Professor: Dr. Wendy Williams

Core and Honors Designation: HUM, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this experiential course study and practice mindfulness through Koru, the evidence-based mindfulness curriculum designed specifically for college-aged adults. Students develop a non-judgmental, accepting, and curious attitude about their moment-to-moment experiences thereby feeling less overwhelmed by the challenges of life. Students also learn about the mindfulness movement in America and mindfulness in other cultures.

HNRS 20133: Spaces and Places

Sections: 655

Professor: Dr. Jason Titus

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and CA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this course explore the power of locations, built structures and systems, and the meaning-making which occurs in them. Investigate the spaces and places of TCU and examine how spaces gain meaning, meaning impacts culture, and how learning and curriculum hold relationships with the places where they are delivered. From residence halls (dorms) to academic buildings to common spaces, students engage in participatory research and self-discovery to gain skills and knowledge to foster a greater sense of belonging and intercultural connectedness at TCU. Dive deeper into your cultural identities, cultural awareness, and the places that matter to you in order to take that knowledge and apply it to make change at TCU and beyond.

HNRS 20243: Culture, Literature and Adaptations

Section: 655

Professor: Dr. Sylviane Greensword

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and LT, Cultural Visions

Description: This course introduces students to intercultural inquiry 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: 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 – Africa

Section: 610 OR 620

Professor: Dr. Juan Carlos Sola-Corbacho

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and GA, Cultural Visions

Description: Students in this class become familiar with the more than 50 African states, including fully recognized states and the territories only partially recognized as such. Students explore and make presentations on these African states – their geography, their people, their culture, their traditions, and their political and economic situation. We 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 read, discuss, and write about the latest news and the most important current issues in Africa. They also research, analyze, and debate some of these issues, including migration, gender inequality, and environmental problems.

HNRS 20503: Cultural Contact Zones - CommYOUinity Minded

Section: 674

Professor: Dr. Whitnee Boyd

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and GA, Cultural Visions

Description: Our senses of community are deeply shaped by our social identities. Our identities are actually resources with which we each can contribute to a more just society. Students in this course take a critical dive into the complex intersection of racial identities with other social identities (gender, class, sexuality, and others). Guided by the concept of collective impact, students will undertake project-based work in connection with local efforts focused on building a more equitable and just Fort Worth. Through this self-exploration and local partnership, students derive a more holistic understanding of who they are and how they are connected to others within and beyond the TCU community.

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 explore the interplay of racial and social binaries within the context of sports. Students examine the popularity of sports and why they play such a large role in the U.S. social structure while also inspecting the images and commentaries generated within and around the world of sports.

HNRS 20813: Philosophy & Science of Social Justice

Section: 655

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 social constructs? Is there such a thing as “implicit” prejudice? Can “equal treatment” sometimes be unjust? Students 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.

RELI 10023: Understanding Religion: Communities – South Asian Religions

Section: 658

Professor: Dr. Antoinette DeNapoli

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and RT, Cultural Visions

Description: Using primary and secondary texts, films, poetry, art, and music, students in this course explore the four dominant religions of South Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism (Theravada, Mahayana and Tibetan), Jainism, and Sikhism. We examine 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.

RELI 10033: Understanding Religions – World Religions

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. The course also includes a regular meditation and mindfulness practice.

RELI 10033: Understanding Religion – The Qur’an

Section: 674

Professor: Dr. Sam 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 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, we attend to questions of universal human concern and areas of similarity and difference with the other Abrahamic religions, Judaism and Christianity. Students also reflect on the process of studying the religion of others, past and present.

SCIE 30603: Religion and Healthcare

Section: 655

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 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.

SOCI 20223: Social Problems

Section: 635 OR 655

Professor: Dr. Erik Kojola

Core and Honors Designation: SSC and CSV, Cultural Visions

Description: This course examines a range of contemporary social problems including poverty, racism, gender inequality, climate change, and health disparities. The course emphasizes how individuals experience these problems and the larger social and historical contexts that create these problems. Students examine social systems of racism, sexism, patriarchy, colonialism, and capitalism and the social theories we can use to understand and assess how and why social problems exist and change.

Lower-Division Honors: Honors Elective Courses

BIOL 10503: Unity and Cells

Sections: 002 OR 010

Professor: Dr. Laura Luque

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Spring 2023 will be the last semester that students will earn 1 Honors Elective credit for BIOL 10503 (even though the course is not listed with a 600-section).

BIOL 10513: Diversity and Organisms

Sections: 002 OR 010

Professor: Dr. Mark Demarest

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Spring 2023 will be the last semester that students will earn 1 Honors Elective credit for BIOL 10513 (even though the course is not listed with a 600-section).

BIOL 10523: Introduction to Biological Investigation

Sections: 040 OR 050 and LAB

Professor: Dr. Laura Luque and Dr. Mark Demarest

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

Spring 2023 will be the last semester that students will earn 1 Honors Elective credit for BIOL 10523 (even though the course is not listed with a 600-section).

BIOL 10003: Contemporary Issues in Biology

Sections: 605 (Lecture) and 606 (Lab)

Professor: Dr. Molly Weinburgh

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

CHEM 20123: Quantitative Analysis

Sections: 650 (Lecture) and 651 (Lab)

Professor: Dr. Jeffery Coffey

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

COMM 10163: Public Address

Sections: 605 OR 615 OR 665

Professor: Dr. Christopher Harper

Core and Honors Designation: OCO, Honors Elective

ECON 10223: Microeconomics

Sections: 635

Professor: Dr. Zack Hawley

Core and Honors Designation: SSC, Honors Elective

ECON 30483: Financial History

Sections: 630

Professor: Dr. Stephen Quinn

Core and Honors Designation: HT and WEM, Honors Elective

ENTR 20153: Entrepreneurship and Business Regulatory Environment

Sections: 670

Professor: Kelly Trager, JD

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

ENTR 20153: Entrepreneurship and Business Regulatory Environment

Sections: 686

Professor: Professor Gregg Lehman

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

HNRS 20643: Video Game History

Sections: 645

Professor: Dr. Wendi Sierra

Core and Honors Designation: HUM and HT, Honors Elective

Description: Computer and video games have a history that now spans more than half a century and already includes dramatic changes due to both technology and culture. However, the study of game history isn't just about memorizing when particular games were released and who the major developers are. Video game history is about the complex interaction of society, technology, and culture. Students in this course explore all of the above: key titles gaming and their creators as well as the gaming industry's cultural influences and impacts. Most importantly, students consider how moments of technological innovation are always filtered and shaped by human experience.

MUSI 20213: Advanced Theory

Sections: 620

Professor: Dr. Blaise Ferrandino

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

PHYS 20484: Physics II – Electromagnetism and Optics

Sections: 610 (Lecture)

Professor: Dr. Yuri Strzhemechny

Core and Honors Designation: Honors Elective

Students must also enroll in a non-Honors lab

POSC 20303: International Politics

Sections: 645

Professor: Dr. Manochehr Dorraj

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

PSYC 10524: Principles of Behavior II

Sections: 635 (Lecture) and 636 (Lab)

Professor: Dr. Gregory Repasky and Dr. Milos Lack

Core and Honors Designation: NSC, Honors Elective

THEA 11013: Survey of Musical Theater

Sections: 620 OR 640 (Lecture) AND 601 OR 641 (Lab)

Professor: Professor Jessica Humphrey

Core and Honors Designation: FAR, Honors Elective

University Honors: Colloquia Courses

Colloquia courses are reserved for third- and fourth-year Honors students pursuing University Honors. Students must have officially declared University Honors as their Upper-Division intent before enrolling in a Colloquia course. Please reach out to your [Honors academic advisor](#) if you have questions.

HCOL 40000: Worldbuilding

Section: 615

Professor: Dr. Wendi Sierra

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons provide frameworks for players to creatively solve problems and tell stories. More interestingly, these games present models for real-world social systems and frames for thinking about real-life characters and personalities. Students in this course explore a variety of tabletop role-playing games, looking carefully at how they model (and shape) societies and people, including the question of how these games encourage or discourage change in our actual world.

HCOL 40000: Life Design

Section: 665

Professors: Mr. Cedric James

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: What does it take to create a meaningful college career (and after) on your own terms? This course uses innovation principles of design thinking, commonly applied by designers, to address the wicked problem of designing your life as it relates to career exploration and the college experience. Life Design is offered in an inclusive environment where these matters are addressed through reflection, paired discussion, and in-class exercises. Students acquire practical tools to jumpstart their career along with the lifelong skills of self-reflection, making connections, finding determination, and prioritizing wellbeing.

HCOL 40000: Witchcraft and Witch Hunts

Section: 674

Professor: Dr. Dan Williams

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This colloquium explores 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 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 others died in prison. Students 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: Social Media and Identity

Section: 675

Professor: Dr. Estee Hernandez

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 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 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 41043: Design Thinking and Innovation

Section: 635

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 41163: Giving and Philanthropy

Section: 674

Professor: Dr. Ronald Pitcock

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: What does it mean to give \$100,000 thoughtfully? Students answer this question practically by tackling work that affects real lives in meaningful ways. As students explore histories and philosophies of giving, they also discuss and make moral judgments as they engage micro-decisions while considering macro-consequences. Students direct real funds through donor gifts to nonprofits; 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 41213: Sex, Evolution, and the Brain

Section: 665

Professor: Dr. Sarah Hill

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Using the lens of evolutionary psychology, students explore what current research says about sex, love, hormones, and the brain. After an introduction to the principles of evolutionary biology and why they are crucial to self-discovery, we turn to research based on these principles in order to understand the brain, sex, and relationships. The class is discovery-focused, with discussions centering on how we can use the results of research literature in the evolutionary sciences to better understand ourselves and our relationships.

HCOL 41263: Democracy in the Workplace

Section: 674

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 is true in almost every context. 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.

HCOL 41273: The Other Texas

Section: 640

Professor: Dr. Andrew Ryder

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This class provides knowledge and thinking skills about the history and culture of Texas, and stimulates intellectual reflection and innovation regarding social and economic challenges, media representation, and ethnic identity. Coursework draws on film, popular song, and literature, as well as social science. Students develop a strong awareness of and perspective on the diverse experiences of Texans, with a particular eye toward the voices of women and historically marginalized communities. Among other examples, we study country, rock, Latin pop, and R&B music, as well as sports culture, independent cinema, and new social movements.

HCOL 41443: City as Text – Fort Worth

Section: 620

Professor: Dr. Wendy Williams

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Students in this experiential learning course learn to increase their awareness of others and themselves, develop greater curiosity about their environments, and uncover hidden elements of expectations and attitudes. As students move through this territory, they record their experiences and observations in writing, photographs, and social media to figure out why and how they see what they do, why and how they react to what they do, and what difference their own specific presence makes to their environment. **Note: This is an 8-week course (5 in-class hours per week, ending in early March). Class sessions will take place in various locations around Fort Worth. Each Friday session will begin promptly at 10:00 am and end at 3:00 pm. Students are expected to arrange their own transportation and to be on-site for the full five-hour class period.**

HCOL 41483: Counting on Climate Change

Section: 645

Professor: Dr. Efton Park and Dr. Mike Slattery

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Our relationship with the Earth is changing at an unprecedented rate. The pace of change is accelerating, not only from our advancing technology but also from world population growth, economic growth, and increasingly frequent collisions between expanding human demands and the limits of the Earth's natural systems. To begin a shift toward a "sustainable society," significant action is required now! Students in this colloquium gain a greater understanding of the magnitude and pace of sustainability issues such as climate change, ocean acidification, and coastline erosion, and a greater ability to reason effectively about environmental and economic sustainability using basic mathematical tools.

HCOL 41513: Freedom in the Western World

Section: 615

Professors: Dr. Juan Carlos Sola-Corbacho

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Students in this class analyze and compare different ideas, forms, and degrees of freedom across the contemporary Western world (United States and Western Europe): freedom of religion, freedom of speech, political freedom (freedom of assembly and association), freedom of the press, freedom of movement, freedom of choice (clothing, euthanasia, abortion), and economic freedom. By the end of the semester, students are able to assess the extent and limits of freedom in the Western World and to define their own positions on controversial ideas such as the "need to limit freedom" in our societies.