

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.

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.

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 worlds, "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: 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

Colloquia Courses

City as Text: Fort Worth

HCOL 40000-640

Professor: Dr. Frederick Gooding

HCOL 40000-641

Professor: Dr. Wendy Williams

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Welcome to City as Text: Fort Worth! This is a high-impact, experiential opportunity for anyone interested in appreciating the relationship a city forms with both its citizens and visitors. For you as a participant, this means several things. As you move through this territory, you will record your experiences and observations both in writing, photographs, and social media to figure out why and how you see what you do; why and how you react to what you do; and to begin to think about what difference your own specific presence makes to any close interaction you witness en route. You will never see the city of Fort Worth the same way again! *Note: This is an eight-week course (five contact hours per week, ending mid-October). Students must provide or arrange their own transportation to weekly learning sites and must comply with all relevant TCU COVID-19 policies regarding off-campus activities.*

Modernity and After

HCOL 40000-645

Professor: Dr. David Bedford

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: The goal of this colloquium is to understand the present age by asking what is new about it compared to the era of modernity (1450-1918). Students will explore how our post-modern era affects our worldview, literature, theater, arts, and technology – and other student-selected focal points. The group will develop a final summary statement and decide whether and how it might be shared.

Treks and Texts

HCOL 40000-680

Professor: Dr. Dan Williams

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: In this interdisciplinary colloquium, students discuss a variety of texts in the genre of nature and environmental writing, beginning with Thoreau, as well as current issues concerning the environment. Students also spend a considerable amount of class time outside, volunteering at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge and participating in short excursions to nearby parks and natural habitats. Three times during the semester optional Saturday day hikes will be offered and at least one canoe trip. Experiencing the outdoors is a crucial component of this colloquium. *Note: Students must provide or arrange their own transportation to learning sites and must comply with all relevant TCU COVID-19 policies regarding off-campus activities.*

Reproductive Justice & Narrative

HCOL 40000-681

Professor: Dr. Lauren Mitchell

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: When the phrase “Reproductive Justice” comes up, many people immediately think about the legal policies that dictate pregnancy decisions—particularly abortion. But these policies, and the way that pregnancy and abortion is discussed in public rhetoric, fail to incorporate the stories that shape these decisions, whether it is to parent, to create an adoption plan, or to end a pregnancy, or if someone is suffering miscarriage or perinatal loss and anomaly. This course will be centered on the narratives of pregnant people, framing them as the experts of their own experience. In addition to learning about the legal, political, and medical nuances that fold into the personal decisions around pregnancy care, students will be asked to employ the methods of Narrative Medicine (which will be taught in class) to increase empathetic awareness and to underscore the importance of story.

Disease, Disorder, and Disability

HCOL 41013-674

Professor: Dr. Mikio Akagi

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: What is disease? Are diseases purely biological conditions, or does society shape our conception of what a disease is? What does it mean to be healthy, or normal? Are psychiatric disorders real? Are disabilities medical conditions or social ones? Answering questions like these requires considering unresolved problems in biology, psychology, medicine, and philosophy. We will explore these problems, focusing on issues like biological concepts of normality, the nature of genetic disease, the nature of mental illness, and the classification of mental disorders like depression, autism, and schizophrenia. No previous background in philosophy, science, or medicine is required.

Art and Activism

HCOL 41093-665

Professor: Dr. Suki John

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This course empowers each student to engage as audience, participant, and critic of activist art. Just as art seeks to challenge us, we challenge each other and ourselves by interacting vigorously with a wide range of art works created with the goal of influencing our thought and action. Organized around themes of “Time and Place” and “Burning Issues,” we look to conditions that inspired specific artistic examples and movements. Examining some of the most successful – and some of the least laudable – works of activist art, we look at ways artists have attempted to sway public thought and action. Students determine their own “burning issues” and form groups around shared concerns. As a final project, groups take the first steps in creating activist art.

Callings

HCOL 41123-650

Professor: Dr. Rob Garnett

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: What calls us to the positions and duties that make us who we are? In this reflective, discussion-centered course, students explore the idea that each of our lives is (or can be) a vocational journey, a lifelong quest for identity, belonging, and purpose, shaped and constrained by one's economic, cultural, and social circumstances. By learning to think more complexly about calling as a two-way conversation between self and society, students are able to formulate their own vocational visions: provisional statements of who they are, where they stand, and who they see themselves becoming, in dialogue with the values and expectations of others.

Transcultural Dialogues – USA/Bulgaria/Romania

HCOL 41133-615

Professor: Dr. Juan Carlos Sola-Corbacho

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Students in this unique intercultural course will analyze and compare important current issues and values in the United States, Hungary, and Bulgaria (such as youth, the role of women, the situation of sexual and ethnic minorities, migration, social violence, and the role of religion). Through an online forum created specifically for this class, we will have three classrooms working as one: 12 students at TCU, 12 students at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (Romania), and 12 students at the Sofia University Saint Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria).

Asian Cultures on the Go

HCOL 41143-655

Professor: Dr. Ze-Li Dou

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: Historical, philosophical, and artistic aspects of several Asian cultures will be discussed through an ancient board game called Go. Go is a two-person strategic game with simple rules but complex and subtle tactics. Partly for this reason, Go became an integral part of the high culture in China, Korea, Japan and beyond. Go's globalization, its relevance in current research in artificial intelligence (AI) will also be addressed. No prior knowledge about the game or the history of Asia is required. About half of the lectures will be devoted to the actual learning and playing of Go.

Journalism and Moral Courage

HCOL 41193-674

Professor: Dr. Melita Garza

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: What does it mean to stand on the front lines of truth? Who has the moral courage to shed light on human suffering from danger zones like Syria and “safe” zones like Annapolis, Maryland? Why does press freedom matter to a free society, including the United States? How do journalistic norms such as, “speak truth to power” and be “a voice for the voiceless,” help keep us free? Where and when can you find answers to these urgent questions? If you think you can handle the truth, then please consider enrolling in this course!

Society Through Multimedia

HCOL 41203-630

Professor: Dr. Sean Atkinson

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This course takes a critical look at society through the lens of popular digital media, broadly construed to include video games, internet videos, TV, and film. What connects these varied genres is the interaction of sounds, visuals, and texts that allows for nuanced and multilayered views on many issues that impact society, such as the role of technology, the environment, politics, and the nature of humanity. Each individual example of multimedia addresses these issues in differing ways and via differing modalities, resulting in a multifaceted look at the societies we inhabit.

Design for Social Impact

HCOL 41223-615

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.

Musical Theater & American Politics

HCOL 41313-680

Professor: Dr. Will Gibbons

Honors Designation: Colloquium

Description: This course will trace political and social movements in the United States from the 1920s to the present through the lens of musical theater. Through discussion, reading and viewing assignments, and individual/group projects, students will explore how issues of class, gender/sexuality, race, and national identity play out on the stage and screen. Productions examined will include *Show Boat* (1927), *Annie Get Your Gun* (1946), *South Pacific* (1960), *Chicago* (1975), *Dreamgirls* (1981), *Rent* (1996), *Urinetown* (2001), and *Hamilton* (2015).

Beyoncé and Intersectionality

HCOL 41373-680

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.

Resilience

HCOL 41413-680

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.