REQUIRED HONORS COURSES:

HONR 104: Honors Inquiry I. 3 cr. Required. (Taught by 7-8 different English professors). This is the first of a two-semester course sequence focusing on a theme chosen by the Course Coordinator and approved by the Honors College. Faculty from throughout the University will consider how that theme relates to their particular areas of research and expertise. Required "plenary" sessions will augment lectures and discussion. The course is intended to be taken in the student's freshman year though other arrangements may be made for students whose courses of study do not permit this. This course is required for all Honors College students who matriculate during first semester freshman year. Lecture. CENG.

HONR 132: Honors Philosophy. 3 cr. Required. (multiple sections, taught by different Philosophy professors). Philosophy, the love of wisdom, is a discipline for discussing deep questions about ourselves and our world. Students read and discuss selected works by major figures throughout the history of philosophy; they are encouraged to think critically and to formulate their own answers to perennial philosophical questions. This course is required for all Honors College students and is only open to them. Lecture. CPHI. Some of the faculty have provided course descriptions (check online for other sections):

- 03: Honors Philosophy – Way of Life, Knowledge, Personal Identity (taught by Dr. Kelly Arenson, Philosophy). In this course we begin with the basic question, what is philosophy? In investigating this we look to Socrates, the quintessential philosopher of the ancient world and arguably of the entire Western philosophical tradition. Accounts of Socrates’ conversations and death will help familiarize us with the sorts of questions philosophers ask and how they ask them. Two of these questions are the focus of the remainder of the class. First, how do we know what we know? In answering, we will consider whether we can know anything about the external world, other people, and ourselves. Second, what is the nature of personal identity? Here we consider the role of psychology (e.g., your memories and thoughts) and biology (e.g., the functioning of your body) in determining what makes you who you are. The course draws on ancient and contemporary sources, as well as fiction and film.

HONR 145: Honors Theology. 3 cr. Required. (Multiple sections, taught by different Theology professors). Theology faculty offer classes each term based upon the faculty member’s particular area of expertise and research interest. This course is required for all Honors College students and is only open to them. Lecture. Some of the faculty have provided course descriptions (check online for other sections):

- 01: A Comparative Study of Inwardness (taught by Dr. Sebastian Madathummuriyil, Theology). “I’m spiritual but not religious.” Don’t you hear that often, when you are getting to know a friend or acquaintance and the topic turns to spirituality, meaning-making or pondering the
immense mystery of this universe? “Being spiritual not religious” involves the discovery of a deeper, more fundamental and authentic self. This quest for inwardness and retreat to one’s inner world is the defining characteristic of human being. This course will explore the religious views of human nature and purpose, particularly the idea of inwardness and awareness of the self in relation to something larger – be it God, Divine, Mother Nature or Nameless which has been a common theme in many religious traditions throughout history. The course will enable students to develop an outlook about inwardness informed by Christian, Hindu and Buddhist traditions.

- **03: Jesus Through the Centuries (taught by Dr. Radu Bordeianu, Theology).** We will attempt an investigation into the identity of Jesus the Christ. We will insist on his Jewish, human, and divine identities as portrayed in the Bible, as well as visual representations of Jesus in various historical, geographical, and socio-political contexts by focusing on works of art through the centuries.

- **04: Honors Faith and Atheism (taught by Dr. Marie Baird, Theology).** This course will familiarize students with traditional arguments from the philosophy of religion that seek to prove (or strongly support belief in) God’s existence. Equally, students will learn the major critiques of these arguments, along with the strengths and weaknesses of these counter-arguments. More generally, the course will show how religious claims, scientific advancements, and philosophical forms of argumentation may be brought in meaningful dialogue with one another.

**THEME AREA COURSES:** Courses from two different theme areas are required for honors students who matriculated first semester freshman year. Honors students may take all their theme areas as honors courses if they wish.

**Faith and Reason. TAFR. 3 cr.**

- **HONR 201: Seminar in Faith and Reason -- Faith and Science (taught by Dr. Don Keyes, Philosophy).** Religious experience leads to a certain kind of truth that is not otherwise accessible. It can be apprehended rationally.

  The relation between biblical faith and natural science will be given special attention. This will show why there is tension between faith and reason and how reason overcomes that tension.


  Students will give oral seminar reports leading to discussion. Each student will choose the topic of the report based on the following suggested authors, themes, or some combination of those. Authors include, but are not limited to: Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, Hume, Dostoevsky, Dawkins, and Polkinghorne. Themes include, but are not limited to: evolution and creation, global warming, the evil of innocent suffering, and new arguments about life after
death. The list of books on reserve in the library might suggest additional topics. Students must obtain approval of the topic they choose from the professor and teaching assistant, who will determine the date of the presentation.

The course concludes by studying the aesthetics of faith and reason, referring to a new Eastern Orthodox philosophical theology by David Bentley Hart in *The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Faith*. The class will focus on his argument that the ultimate theology of creation can be found in the fugues of Johann Sebastian Bach.

- **HONR 301: Honors Tutorial in Faith and Reason – Heroes and Hallows** *(taught by Dr. Kathleen Glenister Roberts, Professor of Liberal Arts and Director of the Honors College)*. Examines the works of philosophers, saints, and theologians from various faith traditions as their themes relate to the fantasy literature of J.K. Rowling. This Faith and Reason course is taught at the 300-level because of its tutorial format. The class will be divided into smaller groups which will spend some class times preparing readings and discussion questions, and then meet in small discussion sessions with the instructor.

**Global Diversity. TAGD. 3 cr.**

- **HONR 202: Honors Seminar in Global Diversity - Nation And Violence: Latin American Literature/Culture** *(taught by Dr. Eduardo Ruiz)*. This course explores Latin American identities through considerations of violence, globalization, and postcolonial power structures. The goal is to challenge the received stereotypes of what constitutes Latin America in the context of social and historical change. The working corpus includes literature, film, and essay writing. Conducted in English.
- **HONR 302: Honors Tutorial in Global Diversity – Latin American Literature** *(taught by Dr. Emad Mirmotahari, English)*. This Global Diversity course is taught at the 300-level because of its tutorial format. The class will be divided into smaller groups which will spend some class times preparing readings and discussion questions, and then meet in small discussion sessions with the instructor.

**Social Justice. TASJ. 3 cr.**

- **HONR 203: Honors Seminar in Social Justice - Literary Journalism** *(taught by Dr. Mike Dillon, Chair of Journalism and Multimedia Arts)*. Literary Journalism explores the fusion of nonfiction narrative writing and the methods and conventions of literature. In addition to studying and discussing classics and contemporary stories in the Literary Journalism oeuvre from Jack London to Hunter Thompson, and covering topics such as war, crime, and sports, students will report and write their own literary journalism stories.
HONR 203: Honors Seminar in Social Justice - From Black Lives Matter to Drone Strikes – U.S. Social Justice and Human Rights Issues (taught by Prof. David Harris-Gershon, internationally acclaimed author and adjunct faculty in the Honors College). The best way to describe this class is to first share what Ta-Nehisi Coates wrote recently in Between the World and Me: “America believes itself exceptional, the greatest and noblest nation ever to exist, a lone champion standing between the white city of democracy and the terrorists, deshops, barbarians, and other enemies of civilization ... I propose to take our countrymen’s claims of American exceptionalism seriously, which is to say I propose subjecting our country to an exceptional moral standard.”

In this class, we will accept Coates’ proposition, subjecting the United States to an exceptional moral standard by exploring domestic social justice and human rights movements which reveal the oppression of citizens and the suppression of rights in America. We will also explore ways in which the U.S. has not lived up to said standard abroad, particularly in the Middle East, via policy positions and military actions.

However, we will precede everything by first exploring the dominant political philosophies which have shaped our constitutional democracy and policy making, thus giving us a substantive backdrop from which to view social justice issues of today.

Creative Arts.

HONR 204: Honors Seminar in Creative Arts - Enjoyment of Music – Pittsburgh LIVE (taught by Dr. Ed Kocher, School of Music). This course leads to an understanding of how music’s basic elements, melody, harmony, rhythm and form, are used to communicate the composer’s expressive intent. The Enjoyment of Music: Pittsburgh Live is an experiential class. We will listen to a wide variety of music, and we will attend live performances on and off campus. There are four evening performances that meet outside of class time.

HONR 204: Honors Seminar in Creative Arts (taught by Dr. Roberta Aronson). This course will explore time travel - to Florence, 1400, and visit a culture that changed the course of history. We will study the beginnings of what later came to be identified as the Renaissance and the work of three (3) of the artists credited with starting the Renaissance: Donatello, Brunelleschi and Masaccio. You will have a great time seeing some of the most impressive art ever created, and you might even become an art snob!

HONR 204: Honors Seminar in Creative Arts – The Artist in Society (taught by Dr. Seth Beckman, Dean of the School of Music). This course will explore the role of the arts in our communities, focusing particularly upon three areas: the arts and social justice; the arts as an economic driver; and the arts for art’s sake. Local community leaders will join us as guest presenters.

COURSES FOR STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD:
- **IHP 205: Honors International Study Abroad.** 0 cr. Honors College students are strongly encouraged to study abroad. This online course structures reflection about the transformational nature of international study and how to effectively translate this transformation to future graduate school and employment opportunities. Concurrent enrollment required for Honors College students pursuing Honors College credit for Study Abroad.

- **IHP 206: Honors International Study Abroad II.** 0 cr. Honors College students are strongly encouraged to study abroad. This online course structures reflection about the transformational nature of international study and how to effectively translate this transformation to future graduate school and employment opportunities. Concurrent enrollment required for Honors College students pursuing Honors College credit for two courses (together with IHP 205) total during Study Abroad.

**COURSES FOR STUDENTS ADMITTED TO THE HONORS COLLEGE AFTER FIRST SEMESTER FRESHMAN YEAR:**

- **IHP 275: Advanced Honors I.** 0 cr. This course allows post-matriculation students to earn IHP credits for non-honors courses with the completion of independent projects, such as a professional blog, culminating in a portfolio of work.

- **IHP 375: Advanced Honors II.** 0 cr. This course allows post-matriculation students to earn IHP credits for non-honors courses with the completion of independent projects, such as a “white paper” or other informative material, culminating in a portfolio of work.

- **IHP 475: Honors Portfolio.** 0 cr. This course allows post-matriculation honors students to earn IHP credits for non-honors courses with the completion of independent projects, culminating in a portfolio of work.

**COURSES FOR HONORS FELLOWS:**

- **IHP 295: Honors Research.** 0 cr. This course is reserved for Honors College students whose Honors Fellows projects have been formally approved. Students seeking the Honors Fellow designation must take this course in conjunction with at least one 3-credit course that pertains to their Honors Fellows project. This course may be repeated.

- **IHP 395: Honors Fellowship.** 0 cr. This course is reserved for Honors College students whose Honors Fellows projects have been formally approved and who have successfully completed at least 18 credits of IHP credits or honors equivalent. Students seeking the Honors Fellow designation must take this course in conjunction with at least one 3-credit course that pertains to their Honors Fellows project. This course may be repeated.

**OTHER WAYS TO ACCUMULATE NEEDED HONORS COURSES (6 FOR BASIC, 10 FOR FELLOWS):**
- **IHP 300: Honors Directed Readings. 1-9 cr.** Students engage in independent study and research with a faculty mentor. Permission from the Honors College director required. May be repeated for up to 9 hours credit. **Readings.**

- **IHP 450: Honors Senior Project. 3 cr.** This course is an independent study, under the direction of a faculty member, within the student's major field of concentration or other area of personal interest. The Senior Honors Project produces a work of significant scholarship or creativity, as defined by the discipline in which the study is pursued. The components of the Honors Senior Project include:
  - A research paper or creative work
  - A reflective paper, commenting on the main paper or work and the experience of preparing it
  - A discussion of theoretical context which may appear in either the research paper or the reflective paper
  - An oral presentation or defense of the main paper or work
Students will present or defend honors projects before a faculty/student committee; and will submit an electronic copy of the final product of the Honors Senior Project to the Honors College office.