Summer 2020 Honors College Course Offerings

HONR 202-55: Hon Sem: GD - Global Comm: 3 Cr. (taught by Dr. Kathleen Roberts).

HONR 205: Honors International Study Abroad I. 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 one course during Study Abroad.

HONR 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 HONR 205) total during Study Abroad.

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

HONR 295: Honors Research. 0 cr. Prereq: Permission of Honors College Director. This course allows students to earn HONR credits for non-honors courses with the completion of independent projects, virtually always in the context of their Honors Fellowship.

HONR 375: Advanced Honors II. 0 cr. This course allows post-matriculation students to earn HONR 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.

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

Fall 2020 Honors College Course Offerings

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.

HONORS PHILOSOPHY

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):

- 01: Honors Philosophy- (taught by Dr. Patrick Miller). In this course you will consider dozens of fundamental philosophical questions. Here are just a few. How should you live? Who are you: what do you want, what should you want, are you free to decide? How could you know, and what kind of thing are you—body, mind, or soul? Will you live forever? What kind of world do you live in: one ruled by divinity, by indifferent forces, or by no one and no thing? Does life have any meaning? Whether or not it does, how should you live?

Such questions have been raised and answered by some of the wisest people who have ever lived. We will consider both their questions and their answers, but we will do so with an eye to the relevance of past wisdom to the way we live now. To keep us true to the present, and the immediate future, we will watch the timely Netflix series Black Mirror. To get a better sense of this course, check out the podcast on which it is based: Living Wisdom (with Patrick Lee Miller). It’s available on various platforms.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/livingwisdompod


YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGSmsB68K08cZeMAHh4f6DQ?view_as=subscriber

Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/show/46Z9Jl6Th1AL8eXjQWENC

- 02: 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.

- **03: Honors Philosophy** (taught by Dr. Eyers, Philosophy).

**HONORS THEOLOGY**

**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):

- **03: 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.

- **04: World Religions (taught by Dr. Kevin Mongrain, Theology).** What is a “religion”? What are the major religions in the world? How do we understand them according to their own perspectives and historical experiences? These are some of the core questions we will answer in this course. The focus of the course is on introducing students to the major religions of human history: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In addition to introducing students to these religious traditions, the course gives them the resources to continue reading, observing, and learning about these world religions for the rest of their lives.

The aims of the course are: (a) develop a sophisticated understanding of the questions that arise when contemporary people discuss world religions; (b) form an appreciative contextual understanding of how different religions developed and how they understand the meaning of life and their role in history; and (c) begin thinking about the possible relevance of understanding world religions for living in this contemporary world of class struggle in a high technology economy, war, terrorism, global warming, and other the 21st century issues.

- **05: Christianity And Political Activism In The U.S. Context (taught by Dr. Anna Scheid, Theology).** We are living in a time of increased political activism across the globe. Around the nation and around the world, ordinary people are engaged in democratic movements and nonviolent resistance. This course will explore how Christian theology and ethics relate to political activism in the U.S. What is the history of political resistance in American
Christianity? How have Christian theological perspectives influenced social movements from the Revolutionary period to the abolition movement, from the Civil Rights Movement, to the modern right to life movement, from Black Lives Matter, to #metoo? What are the principles and practices of activism, and how effective is it really? This course will use both traditional (lectures, classroom discussion, etc.) and project-based learning methods of instruction.

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.

THEME AREA: FAITH AND REASON

Faith and Reason. TAFR. 3 cr.

- HONR 201-01: Seminar in Faith and Reason -
- HONR 201-55: Honors Tutorial in Faith and Reason – Heroes and Hallows (taught by Dr. Daniel Scheid). Examines the works of philosophers, saints, and theologians from various faith traditions (particularly Christian and Buddhist) as their themes relate to the fantasy literature of J.K. Rowling (focused on Book 7, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows). This Faith and Reason course is in a tutorial format (HONR 201R). 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. Students must also register for one section of HONR 201R with Dr. Daniel Scheid.

THEME AREA: GLOBAL DIVERSITY

Global Diversity. TAGD. 3 cr.

- HONR 202-55: Honors Tutorial Global - Latin American Literature and Film (taught by Dr. Eduardo Ruiz). This course explores Latin American identities through considerations of exile and migration movements within Latin America and from Latin America to the United States. Issues of gender and human rights will also be explored. The goal is to challenge received Latin American stereotypes in the context of violence and the pressures of globalization. The working corpus includes literature, film, and essay writing. Conducted in English. This Global Diversity course is in a tutorial format (HONR 202R). 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. Students must also register for one section of HONR 202R with Dr. Eduardo Ruiz.
• **HONR 202-56: Honors Tutorial Global Diversity – Linguistics (taught by Dr. Kathleen Roberts).** This Global Diversity course is in a tutorial format (HONR 202R). 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. **Students must also register for one section of HONR 202R with Dr. Kathleen Roberts.**

**THEME AREA: SOCIAL JUSTICE**

*Social Justice. TASJ. 3 cr.*

• **HONR 203-01: Honors Seminar Social Justice – Fake Data (taught by Dr. James Schreiber).** Information, and specifically, data and the inferences from that data spread quickly across the world in this instantaneous digital work. Tweets and posts are liked, retweeted and commented on without examination of what is in the tweet or post. Old pictures, video, numbers, graphics are constantly shared and re-shared. And many of them are wrong, or simply selectively edited to lead to a incorrect interpretation. This is the digital misinformation highway. This is a course that will hone your digital citizenship skills. It is about "calling out this false information—thus calling out lies. And they are lies and you will being honing your skills in spotting, dissecting, and publicly refuting false claims and inferences based on quantitative, statistical, and computational analysis of data. Information skills fostered in the course includes spotting misinformation, causal fallacies, statistical traps, data visualization, big data, interpreting scientific claims, fake news and social media, and refutation techniques. This course will introduce students to data analysis and visualization with R, JMP, and Tableau Public. As an introductory course, everyone is welcome.

• **HONR 203-55: Honors Tutorial Social Justice – Celebrity (taught by Dr. Laura Engel).** This course will focus on celebrity biographies and memoirs that explore issues of social justice and in some cases chronicle the intersections between fame and political activism. Texts may include Michelle Obama’s Becoming, Ali Wong’s Dear Girls, Jonathan Van Ness’s Over the Top, Christina Crawford’s Mommy Dearest, Jane Fonda’s My Life so Far, and Trevor Noah’s Born a Crime. Fulfills social justice and creative arts theme areas. This Social Justice course is in a tutorial format (HONR 203R). 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. **Students must also register for one section of HONR 203R with Dr. Laura Engel.**

**THEME AREA: CREATIVE ARTS**

*Creative Arts. TACA. 3 cr.*
HONR 204-01: 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 204-02: THEA: Improvisation (taught by Dr. Jill Jeffrey). This course is designed to use the art of improvisation to strengthen skills in communication & collaboration, and find the natural impulses that make humans relate to each other, even in uncomfortable situations. Through hands-on formats, students will participate in various acting scenarios that broaden the ability to think on their feet, finding creative ways to move a moment forward. The art of improv will be used to demonstrate how humans use it on a daily basis to overcome unexpected situations in the work, school, or home environment. Students will also learn that improvisation is not a limited theatrical form (i.e. comedy) and will be provided opportunities to create and workshop formats that focus on empathetic response to a variety of social situations.

COURSES FOR STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD:

HONR 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.

HONR 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 HONR 205) total during Study Abroad.

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

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

HONR 375: Advanced Honors II. 0 cr. This course allows post-matriculation students to earn HONR 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.
- **HONR 475: Honors Portfolio. 0 cr.** This course allows post-matriculation honors students to earn HONR credits for non-honors courses with the completion of independent projects, culminating in a portfolio of work.

**COURSES FOR HONORS FELLOWS:**

- **HONR 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.

- **HONR 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 HONR 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):**

- **HONR 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.

- **HONR 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.