

College Honors Program

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The College Honors Program provides a high level of challenge and stimulation to talented students who seek a broad educational experience. The program is designed to serve students in all majors in all schools of the college. Honors courses explore central themes in the development of civilization and the interrelations of world cultures. The courses meet liberal learning requirements, so honors students complete part of their requirements with courses exclusive to the Honors Program. A number of honors courses are cross-listed with upper-level departmental courses.

The College Honors Program is open to incoming students, transfer students, and currently matriculated students who meet the entrance requirements of the program. Graduates of the program receive special recognition on diplomas and transcripts.

Application Guidelines:

- Entering Students: combined SAT score of 1350 (Math and Verbal) or graduation in the top 5% of high school class.
- Transfer Students: 3.4 cumulative average.
- Matriculated Students: 3.4 cumulative average and 12 credits earned.

The Honors and Scholars Program Council considers each application individually, focusing on the high school program, honors application essay, involvement in activities, and two letters of recommendation. Admission to the Honors Program is highly competitive, with less than 10% of the entering class being accepted.

Prerequisite for all honors courses: Membership in the College Honors Program or permission of instructor.

Requirements to Complete the College Honors Program

- A student must complete five units (=20 credits) of Honors study. The five units may be earned through coursework, study abroad, or independent research.
- Of the five units, one must be in philosophy or religion and one must meet the College's Global requirement. (No single course can be used to meet both of these requirements.)
- Departmental Honors projects can (upon approval by the Honors and Scholars Program Council) count toward the five units of Honors.
- Two of the five units can be earned through honors-by-contract study. Honors-by-contract allows a student to complete a traditional course for honors credit, when the student and professor together agree to a set of enhancements (in research or performance) that raise the demands placed on the student to the Honors level.
- Study abroad may count toward College Honors, when approved in advance by the Honors Coordinator.

COURSES

CHE 201H, 202H/Honors General Chemistry I, II

2 course units

(annually)

A presentation of the laws and principles describing states of matter and the energy relationships among them. Practical applications of chemistry in such areas as organic, nuclear, biochemical, and environmental are included as are the historical and philosophical relationships between chemistry and other disciplines. Laboratory experiments are coordinated with the lectures.

ECO 101H/Honors Principles of Economics: Micro

1 course unit

(annually)

An introduction to the analysis of price determination in product and resource markets under various market structures within the parameters set forth in a capitalistic system. A research paper is required.

ECO 102H/Honors Principles of Economics: Macro

1 course unit

(annually)

An analysis of economic concepts and their application in an increasingly interdependent global economy. Contemporary problems of unemployment, inflation, and economic growth are considered. The role of government, especially fiscal and monetary policy, is discussed. Students taking this course may not also take ECO 102.

FSP 101 H, FSP 104 H, FSP 111 H, FSP 133 H /Honors First Seminar

1 course unit

(annually)

Specific topic varies from year to year.

HON 203/Issues in Philosophy

1 course unit

(annually)

Study of several major philosophical issues such as: the nature of reality, the existence of God, free will, knowledge, and morality. Explores ways of rationally evaluating classical and contemporary arguments supporting different positions on those issues. Students learn to develop and defend their own views on the issues. Students taking this course may not also take PHL 100.

HON 216/The Sociological Perspective

1 course unit

(annually)

Exploration of what makes social solidarity possible, how society shapes our sense of self, how social institutions such as religion, education, economy, and family affect our lives, and how society changes. Students taking this course may not also take SOC 101.

HON 220/African Diaspora: Religion and Culture

1 course unit

(alternate years)

An analysis of the Caribbean, Latin America, and North America. The centrality of African religious values and world view to the sacred and secular expressions of the four locales, African religion's fusion with the cultural norms of Europe and the Americas, and the interrelationship of these values to African - people's "quest for freedom" will be stressed.

HON 230/Islam in Comparative Perspective**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

Background and formation of doctrine, law, beliefs, and practices; the life of the Prophet Muhammad; the nature and function of the Qur'an; Islamic mysticism; major movements and trends in renewal and reform. The dialogue between Islam and other traditions.

HON 243/International Studies**1 course unit**

(annually)

An examination of traditional, modern, internal, and external influences on Asian, African, and Latin-American societies in various stages of economic and political development since 1945.

HON 262/Goodwives and Witches: Women in Colonial America**1 course unit**

(annually)

An interdisciplinary course exploring women's roles, experiences, and challenges in early America, ranging from the years 1630 to 1800. Particular attention is paid to women who dissented from society's gender norms and expectations.

HON 265/Environmental Ethics**1 course unit**

(occasionally)

A comprehensive overview of the key issues and arguments within the field of environmental ethics. Environmental ethics is a field of applied ethics that addresses environmental issues and problems from a normative standpoint.

HON 272/Philosophy of Religion**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

An examination of various topics connected with religious belief including the definitions, types, and the extent and nature of religious belief, plus the grounds of religious belief. Students taking this course may not also take PHL 250.

HON 280/Creative Computing**1 course unit**

(annually)

An examination of the outer limits of the nature and capabilities of the computer. Producing and creating music, art, and literature using a computer. The computer and the mind, artificial intelligence, programs that learn. Explorations, simulations, and experiments using a computer. No prior computer programming experience presumed.

HON 321, 322/Honors Organic Chemistry I, II**2 course units**

(annually)

Prerequisite: Honors General Chemistry or General Chemistry with permission of the instructor
A study of organic chemistry exploring modern concepts of bonding, synthesis, and reactivity with emphasis on computer-aided molecular modeling and spectroscopic methods including NMR, IR, and MS.

HON 332/Gender and National Identity in Latin America**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

This seminar examines the historical period of nationalism in Latin America that followed the wars of independence from Spain. Intellectual and cultural debates about the nationhood in two exemplary cases, Argentina and Peru, will be studied. Class lectures and discussion will focus on issues of identity, tradition, language, and representation that form the core of the ideological currents of Latin-American nationalism. Readings will come from a variety of sources including histories, essays, testimonials, and literary texts, and will include theoretical questions as well as specific historical material. Interdisciplinary.

HON 338/Gender and Democracy**1 course unit**

(same as WGS 380)

(annually)

Scholars and policy makers alike have acknowledged the centrality of gender in debates about the meaning of democracy in our changing world. Men's and women's access to political power and economic opportunity, and the role of reproduction in citizenship, are among the manifold topics that highlight the complexity of what we call "democracy." The course will take up these issues in several key locations.

HON 340/Italian Culture and Literature of the 20th Century**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

This course concentrates on the Italian culture of the 20th century as reflected and represented in its literary production. Different aspects of contemporary Italian history will be discussed through readings representative of the different literary movements which have influenced the Italian cultural discourse of the past 100 years. Texts from various genres will be analyzed on the basis of their aesthetic significance.

HON 341/Italian Civilization through Literature**1 course unit**

(occasionally)

The course concentrates on the masterpieces of Italian literature from the Thirteenth to the Nineteenth century. Various aspects (philosophical, economic, political) of Italian civilization will be analyzed and discussed through its most significant literary works. Works of poetry, prose, and theater will be presented and investigated on the basis of their cultural value and their aesthetic significance. Particular emphasis will be given to the study of the connection between the works and the historical epoch they represent.

HON 344/The Holocaust in Art and Literature**1 course unit**

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing or permission of instructor

Study of the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews through the examination of art and literature by victims, survivors, and others including contemporary artists and writers who have used the Holocaust as a theme in their work. Interdisciplinary.

HON 347/Paris Before the Great War**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

An exploration of the cultural and artistic crosscurrents—in fact the beginnings of modernism—in Paris from 1900 to 1914 including work by such artists as Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Braque, Gris, and Leger and literature by such authors as Colette, Apollinaire, Jacob, Stein, and Proust. Interdisciplinary.

HON 349/Cities and Sanctuaries of the Ancient World**1 course unit**

(alternate years)

An exploration of the major cities and sanctuaries of the Greek world from their foundations through the end of Roman rule. The course will examine various topographical, political, and religious aspects that shaped the foundation, growth, and development of these important ancient places. Various media, particularly architecture and decorative sculptural programs, will be examined in context with regard to their cultural, historical, religious, political, and/or artistic value.

HON 352/Artistic Reincarnations: The Aesthetics of Adaptation**1 course unit**

(occasionally)

Examination of the adaptation of works of literature or other art forms to other literary genres or art forms. After discussion of a variety of types of adaptation (e.g., novel to play or film, scripture to play, epic poem to novel, illustrations of novel or play, music for film or ballet), students create their own adaptations to be discussed by the class, as well as research and analyze adaptations of their own choice on which they write a research paper and give a class presentation.

HON 355/Biomedical Ethics**1 course unit**

(annually)

Biomedical ethics is an area of research lying on the border between medicine, biology, philosophy, and law that deals with questions concerning the ethical and social implications of the use of biomedical technologies in clinical practice and medical research. Topics in contemporary bioethics include: patient autonomy vs. medical paternalism, confidentiality, termination or withholding of life-saving treatment, implications of new reproductive technologies, experimentation with human subjects, fetal tissue research, and just allocation in health care delivery. The course will also examine emerging issues such as eugenics, cloning, and genetic engineering. Emphasis will be placed on both the acquisition of theoretical and conceptual understanding, through course readings and lectures, and on the development of practical skills of moral reasoning and ethical decision making.

HON 370/Honors Topics**1 course unit**

(every semester)

Study of varying topics, usually interdisciplinary, from appropriate historical, literary, philosophical, scientific, and/or theoretical perspectives. May be repeated when topic changes.

HON 375/This Year's National Election**1 course unit**

(occasionally)

The course, which will be offered in the fall semester of even-numbered years to coincide with presidential and congressional elections, will place the unfolding campaign in historical context. Particular attention will be given to the role and function of political parties over time.