

Honors Seminars

Fall 2025

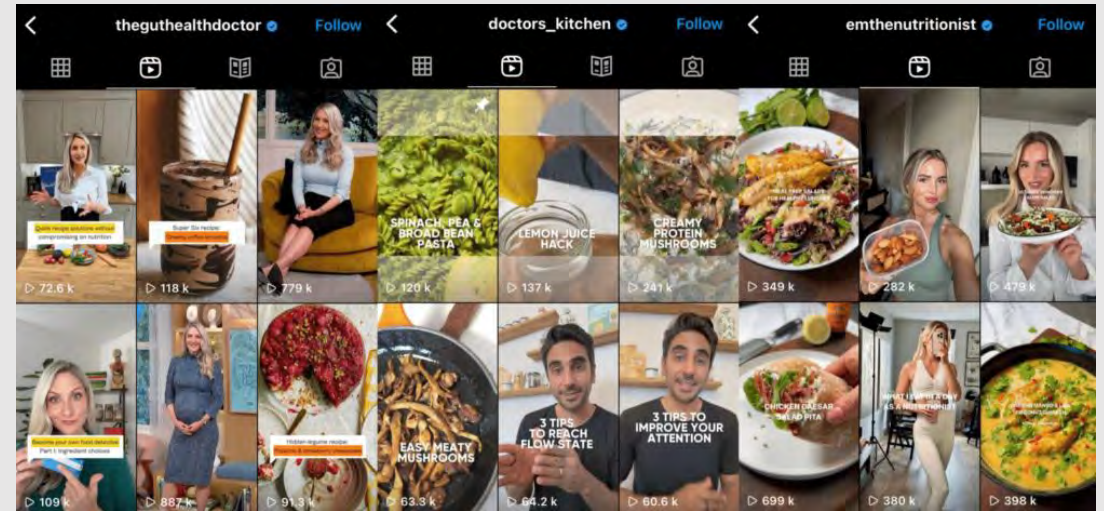
General education requirements courses fulfill

COURSE NUMBER	CREDIT FOR THOSE ON 2022-2023 ACADEMIC CATALOG AND BEYOND	CREDIT FOR THOSE ON EARLIER CATALOG YEARS
HON 2020	Social Science	Social Science
HON 2030	Arts and Humanities: Non-literature	Arts and Humanities: Non-literature
HON 2050	Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction	Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction (Group G: Other)
HON 2060	Global Challenges	Science and Technology in Society (STS)
HON 2070	Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction	Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits and Group G: Other for General Honors (GH) distinction
HON 2090	Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction	Cross Cultural Awareness (CCA) (must have a total of 3 credits for Gen Ed requirement)
HON 2200	Social Science	Social Science
HON 2210	Arts and Humanities: Literature	Arts and Humanities: Literature
HON 2230	Oral Communication	Oral Communication
HON 3960	Global Challenges	Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction (Group G: Other)
HON 3980	Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction	Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction (Group G: Other)

HON 2020

Influencing Nutrition

How much influence do social media influencers, or what you see in the popular media, have on what you eat or how you approach your overall diet? Explore how these platforms shape today's narrative about nutrition.



Meets: M/W/F 9:05-9:55 a.m.

Professor: Elliot Jesch

Credits: 3

CRN: 80007

HON 2020

Marketing and Pop Culture

Dive into the fascinating world where marketing meets pop culture in this dynamic social science honors course! Explore how modern marketing strategies influence and are shaped by the ever-evolving trends in pop culture, from music and movies to social media, sporting events, and fashion.

Meets: M/W/F 10:10-11 a.m.

Professor: Larry Carter

Credits: 3

CRN: 88547



HON 2030

The Study of Singleness

Single people — once stigmatized, have been increasingly integrated into popular cultural and social norms, with a notable example, Barbie, a never-married woman whose narrative and identity stem from her search for personal fulfillment, not a romantic partner. This course will examine how unmarried individuals negotiate the practical challenges, social stigmas, and familial pressures of living in a marriage-oriented world.

Meets: T/TH 2-3:15 p.m.

Professor: Ryan Hilliard

Credits: 3

CRN: 83177



HON 2030

Cults and Conspiracy Theories

Cults and secret societies have permeated today's culture. We will investigate several conspiracies and secret societies in popular culture, including the moon landing, Knights Templar (and their treasure), the new world order, assassinations of prominent figures, what happened at Roswell in 1947, apocalyptic cults, and more.

Meets: M/W/F 8-8:50 a.m.

Professor: Peter Cohen

Credits: 3

CRN: 83414



HON 2050

Architecture and Architects

What is it that architects actually do? And how do they do it? What motivates them? What worries them? What challenges does designing today's built environment pose? This seminar will offer a look into the field of architecture as it rapidly, and radically, changes.

Meets: W 6:15-7:05 p.m.

Professor: Tim Brown

Credits: 1

CRN: 91391



HON 2050

Entrepreneurship

Explore the exciting dimensions of starting and running a successful business. Through engaging discussions and interactive exercises, you will gain valuable insights into entrepreneurship. Learn from industry experts and unleash your creativity in a supportive learning environment.

Meets: M 1:25-2:15 p.m.

Professor: Hope Parnell

Credits: 1

CRN: 84997



HON 2060

Innovation, Inequality, Culture

What are societal, institutional, technological, technocratic, and cultural factors fostering innovation and commerce, and those which result in inequality? What is the role of expanding automation and AI technology in this discussion?

Meets: T/TH 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Professor: Alex Billinis

Credits: 3

CRN: 86725



HON 2060

Infrastructure and Culture

Beyond the products or services you sell, the local customs, traditions and infrastructure are tied closely to the culture with which we live and do business. This course will study those closely tied links to traditions, transport, politics and more that help modern commerce thrive or cause enterprises to fail.

Meets: T/TH 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Professor: Alex Billinis

Credits: 3

CRN: 86946



HON 2070

Puzzles & Paradoxes: Serious Fun!

Whether you already like puzzles or want to learn more about solving and constructing them, we hope you'll join us for this seminar! We'll explore physical, verbal, and mathematical puzzles and both sensory and logical paradoxes. By the end of the semester, you will be constructing cryptic crossword and variant sudoku puzzles to share with others.

Meets: M/W/F 12:20-1:10 p.m.

Professor: Eliza Gallagher and Neil Calkin

Credits: 3

CRN: 87671



HON 2090

French Conversation

This course is open to Honors students in FREN 2020 and above. We will explore and discuss a wide range of topics concerning French culture, history, art, and literature. Group discussions will be mainly in French (but in English when appropriate). Course materials will also be in French.

Meets: W 1:25-2:15 p.m.

Professor: Kenneth Widgren

Credits: 1

CRN: 91619



Spanish Conversation

Professor: Eben Williams

CRN: 86987



HON 2200

Beyond the Stethoscope: The Social Side of Medicine

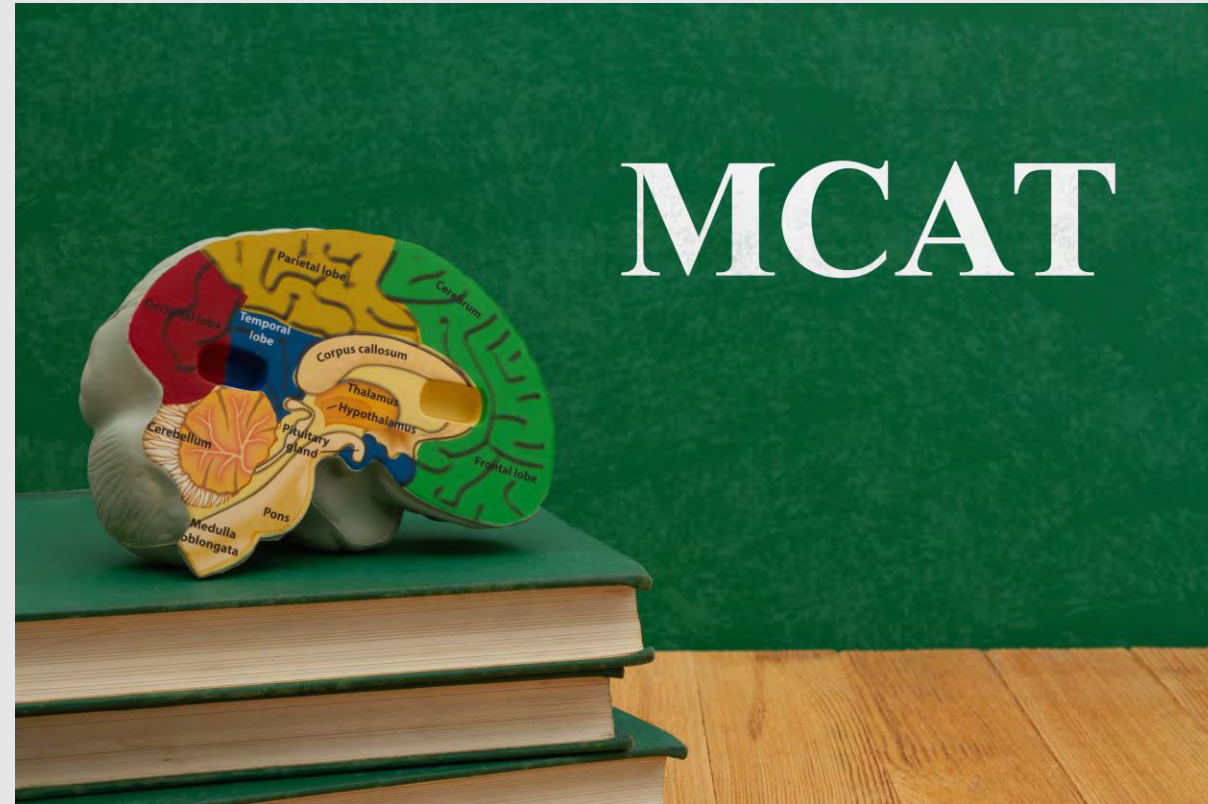
Studying for the MCAT? Do you aim to work in healthcare? Get help with your preparation to become a future healthcare practitioner and explore the human side of medicine. Besides MCAT preparation focused on sociological aspects of the test, this course will explore medical sociological insight and social epidemiology concepts.

Meets: M/W/F 11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.

Professor: Andrew Mannheimer

Credits: 3

CRN: 91850



HON 2210

The Cultural Work of Comics

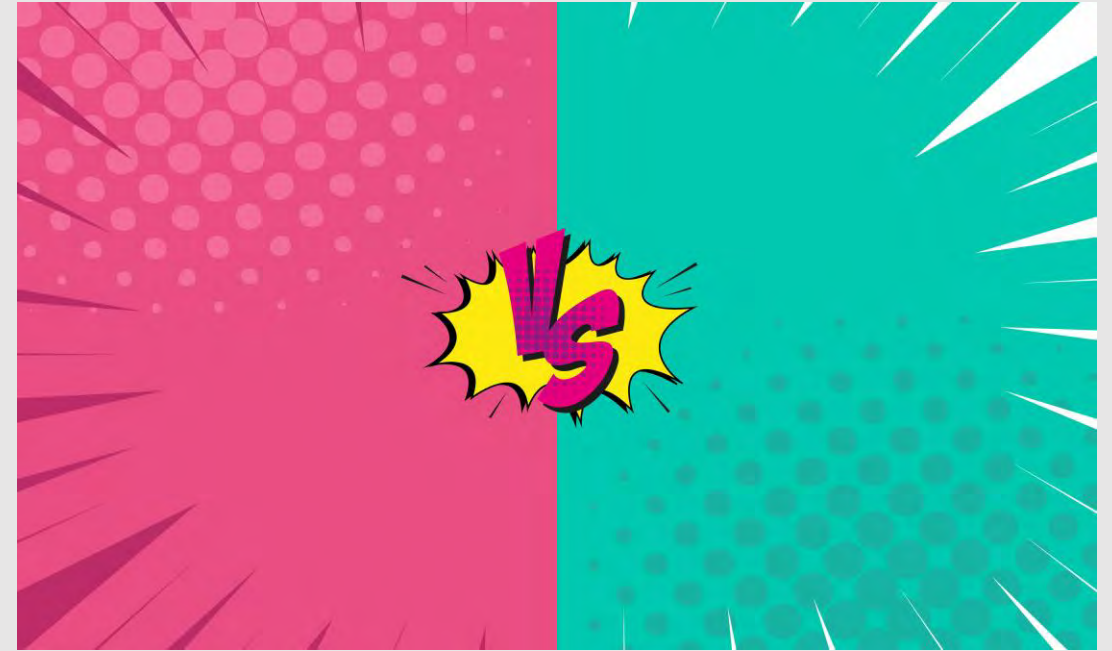
Comics have a rich history of both reflecting and subverting mainstream society, toeing the line between endorsing dominant cultures while also giving voice to marginalized populations. In this course, we'll examine comics in a variety of forms, discuss the affordances and constraints of publishing in a sequential medium, as well as examine the role that comics have played in shaping national discourses on a variety of topics.

Meets: T 4-6:45 p.m.

Professor: Keri Krist-Wagner & April Pelt

Credits: 3

CRN: 84772



HON 2210

Reading Video Games

Can you “close read” video games like literature? We will read about, watch, and play video games including Bioshock, Brothers: A Tale of Two Sons, The Stanley Parable, amongst others, with an eye for analysis and critical understanding. Laptop and controller required; no prior video game experience necessary.

Meets: T/TH 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Professor: Seth McKelvey

Credits: 3

CRN: 87674



HON 2210

Imaginary Friends in Fiction

We will examine a variety of texts featuring imaginary friends to understand why the imaginary friend has proven such an enduring and endearing figure for artists and filmmakers. More broadly, we will discuss the roles that the imagination plays in the continuing development of the self.

Meets: M 5-7:45 p.m.

Professor: April Pelt

Credits: 3

CRN: 87758



HON 2210

Heroic Quests

Powerful stories with heroic characters inspire us. This course explores the structure of such narratives, using the insights of myth studies and selected novels (Tolkien, Adams, Beagle, Le Guin, & McKillip) and films (Disney, Star Wars, & Marvel). Students also will write their own heroic quests.

Meets: M/W 3:35-4:50 p.m.

Professor: Brett Patterson

Credits: 3

CRN: 91604



HON 2230

A Good Person Speaking Well

We will study Greek and Roman speaking traditions, as well as ancient traditions from Asia, Africa, and the Americas. This class will focus both on specific speaking skills and practice, but also on ethical and critical questions about what makes a good speaker, and what it means to speak well.

Meets: T/TH 2-3:15 p.m.

Professor: Elizabeth Gilmore

Credits: 3

CRN: 91405



HON 3960

Solving Global Problems

Pandemics, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, persistent human rights violations, global refugee crisis, food insecurity, climate change, biodiversity loss, and water scarcity are among the most important challenges facing the world today. This course focuses on issues that transcend national boundaries and cannot be resolved by any one country acting alone. The goal is to better understand the dynamics of formal and informal global governance arrangements and what difference they make.

Meets: T/TH 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Professor: Zeynep Taydas Onur

Credits: 3

CRN: 88549



HON 3960

Water: Challenges to Quality & Access

Every person on Earth relies on access to water as part of their daily lives – but is that access sustainable or fair? This course examines the interplay between water quality, ecosystems, and human health. Concepts in hydrology, economics, conservation biology, and social equality are explored.

Meets: M/W 2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

Professor: David Kahn

Credits: 3

CRN: 88546



HON 3960

Stalin in Contemporary Russia

Explore contemporary Russia through Joseph Stalin's lasting influence, examining how Russia's failure to confront the trauma of Stalin's terror led to a regression into totalitarianism.

Meets: T/TH 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Professor: Olga Volkova

Credits: 3

CRN: 91603



HON 3980*

CI: Youth Scholars Program

The Youth Scholars Program (YSP) is an active partnership between Honors and Pendleton Elementary School. The mission of the YSP is to engage high achieving students from Title I schools. CI members will get hands-on experience with mentoring and tutoring students from 4th-6th grade.

Meets: W 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Professor: Kris Fuller

Credits: 1-3

CRN: 87013

*Note: requires permission of instructor



HON 3980*

CI: C.C.A.R.E. Special Research

In this creative inquiry course students will research topics related to mental health/academic success and create a podcast called In the Spotlight.

Students must apply and be selected to participate in this creative inquiry.

Meets: TBD based on student schedules

Professor: Sherece Smith

Credits: 2

CRN: 87247

*Note: requires permission of instructor



HON 3980

CI: Mathematical Puzzles

Provide "mathematical armor" to youth by engaging them with math puzzles. Activities include puzzle and video creation, field testing, website and database management, and development of analytic approaches to assess puzzle similarity and mathematical reasoning.

Meets: M/W/F 1:25-2:15 p.m.

Professor: Neil Calkin and Eliza Gallagher

Credits: 1-3

CRN: 88550

