Honors Seminars

Fall 2023
## General education requirements courses fulfill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE NUMBER</th>
<th>CREDIT FOR THOSE ON 2022-2023 ACADEMIC CATALOG AND BEYOND</th>
<th>CREDIT FOR THOSE ON EARLIER CATALOG YEARS</th>
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<tr>
<td>HON 2020</td>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>Social Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>HON 2030</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities: Non-literature</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities: Non-literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>HON 2050</td>
<td>Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction</td>
<td>Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction (Group G: Other)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HON 2060</td>
<td>Global Challenges</td>
<td>Science and Technology in Society (STS)</td>
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<td>HON 2070</td>
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<td>Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction and Group G: Other for General Honors (GH) distinction</td>
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<td>HON 2090</td>
<td>Does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction</td>
<td>Cross Cultural Awareness (CCA) (must have a total of 3 credits for Gen Ed requirement)</td>
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<td>HON 2200</td>
<td>Social Science</td>
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<td>HON 2230</td>
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Who Decides What’s Cool?

Businesses want you, and people of your age group, to connect with their brands, because a young customer today may become a loyal consumer for decades. As an essential part of this strategy, companies have been marketing to you for years, telling you what’s cool even before you were old enough to realize it. In this course, we will examine marketing practices, founded in psychological and economic theories, to better understand consumer behavior and its relationship to marketing strategy.

Meets: TTR 2-3:15 p.m.
Professor: Amanda Fine
Credits: 3
CRN: 80008
HON 2020
The Quest for Wellbeing

The quest for self-improvement, health, and wellbeing is a major focus of people’s leisure time (and a major industry in the US). This seminar will use a combination of discussions and experiences to explore how wellbeing is conceptualized in different cultures, and to critically evaluate the impact of popular leisure-based wellness activities, including yoga, journaling, and art.

Meets: TTR 2-3:15 p.m.
Professor: Em Adams
Credits: 3
CRN: 91116
How is ethical knowledge like and unlike scientific knowledge of the world around us? Are ethical judgments responses to ethical facts out there in the world, or merely records of our own biases and preferences? In this course we will consider how knowledge of the natural world ("scientific" knowledge) is like and unlike ethical knowledge. We will also look at the ways that science can change or improve ethical knowledge, and the ways that ethics can improve and expand scientific knowledge.

Meets: TTH 2-3:15 p.m.
Professor: Charles Starkey
Credits: 3
CRN: 91118
HON 2030
Cults and Conspiracy Theories

This course will focus on the relationships between ancient and contemporary religious communities, secret societies and conspiracy theories. By looking at interesting readings, current articles, interviews, as well as films, we will investigate these fascinating and often controversial phenomena.

Meets: TTR 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Professor: Peter Cohen
Credits: 3
CRN: 83775
HON 2030
Art and Culture of India

This course will explore the art and culture of India with emphasis on both the historical and contemporary. We'll be looking at, discussing, and interpreting the creative arts and cultures of India.

Meets: TTR 11-12:15 p.m.
Professor: Joey Manson
Credits: 3
CRN: 89548
HON 2030
Putin’s World

The course will examine historical, political, social, and cultural realities of contemporary Russia and will consider how it is possible that in the twenty-first-century world, linked by the internet and connected by the ties of the global market, a member of the EU could emerge as a despotic, tyrannical state that poisons and jails its political opposition, starves its own people, gaslights the world with torrents of misinformation and lies, and violates the sovereignty of other states in pursuit of its geopolitical dream.

Meets: TTR 2-3:15 p.m.
Professor: Olga Volkova
Credits: 3
CRN: 83524
HON 2050
Honors Entrepreneurship

Students will learn the foundational principles of conventional entrepreneurship and then move on to explore how difference makers are changing the world by starting socially conscious companies and organizations relying on these creative, efficient, and profit seeking principles. Open to all majors and all years.

Meets: T 6-7 p.m.
Professor: John Michael Hannon
Credits: 1
CRN: 85650
HON 2060
Social Media is Culture

Most college students have never lived in a world without social media. Posting pictures, videos, and thoughts to circles of friends, acquaintances, and even strangers is now a part of daily life and culture. This class explores how this technology, which has been around for only two decades, has fundamentally transformed culture and what future trajectories might be.

Meets: TTR 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Professor: Alexander Billinis
Credits: 3
CRN: 87931
Butterflies are fascinating creatures, with vibrant colors, graceful flight patterns, and a remarkable life cycle. But butterflies also act as indicators and flagship species for biodiversity studies. In this class, we will discuss the basic entomology of order Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), butterfly global diversity and conservation, butterflies in art and culture, and the role of butterflies as natural resources for sustainable ecotourism. Students in the class will receive GenEd STS or Global Challenges credit, depending on their catalog year.

Meets: TTR 11-12:15 p.m.
Professor: Suellen Pometto
Credits: 3
CRN: 88242
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: MWF 1:25-2:15 p.m.
Professor: Eliza Gallagher and Neil Calkin
Credits: 3
CRN: 89429
HON 2090
Spanish Conversation

In this Honors seminar, students will analyze short stories, articles, short films, and other authentic texts from the Spanish-speaking world. Also, they will apply their Spanish language and culture knowledge and use problem-solving techniques to design and solve virtual escape rooms in Spanish.

Meets: M 9:05-9:55 a.m.
Professor: Rosa Pillcurima
Credits: 1
CRN: 88316
HON 2090
French Discussion Group

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: M 11:15-12:05 p.m.
Professor: Kenneth Widgren
Credits: 1
CRN: 83813
HON 2090
Global History of Slavery

The course examines slavery in global history from the ancient era to the present. Course readings cover different types of slavery as well as the multiple meanings of slavery, mastery, and freedom. Students develop a research project on slavery in an era and location of interest to them.

Meets: TTR 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Professor: Stephanie Hassell
Credits: 3
CRN: 91115
HON 2090
Democracy in Crisis

Democracy is threatened, and in some cases failing, in countries across the world. In this class, we will explore the rise of authoritarianism, violations of national sovereignty, and the weakening of democratic norms even in well-established democracies. We will discuss the work necessary to protect and strengthen democracy in the U.S. and abroad.

Meets: TTR 3:30-4:45 p.m.
Professor: Vladimir Matic
Credits: 3
CRN: 89581
HON 2200  
Tomboys: Gender in Schools

In this course, we will learn about a variety of views of gender and their origins, as well as the role of schools in perpetuating particular notions of gender. Through these explorations, we will seek to develop our understandings of tensions around status quos and social change.

Meets: TTR 12:30-1:45 p.m.
Professor: Stacy Megan Che
Credits: 3
CRN: 89475
19th-century France was fascinated by the great Gothic cathedrals. This interest spills over from physical restoration into the literature of the period. We will study two novels in which a cathedral figures prominently, almost as another character. All readings in English translation.

Meets: MWF 9:05-9:55 a.m.
Professor: Kenneth Widgren
Credits: 3
CRN: 91114
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, including superhero and action-adventure comics, serialized comic strips and webcomics, and indie and alternative comics. In so doing, we’ll not only discuss the affordances and constraints of publishing in a sequential medium, but will also examine the role that comics have played in shaping national discourses on a variety of topics, including patriotism, race, gender, sexuality, and social justice movements.

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

Professor: Keri Crist-Wagner and April Pelt

Credits: 3

CRN: 85354
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 required; no prior video game experience necessary.

Meets: TTR 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Professor: Seth McKelvey
Credits: 3
CRN: 89433
This course analyzes modern quest narratives from Star Wars to Watership Down to The Lord of the Rings to Avatar: The Last Airbender, focusing on their portrayals of heroism (virtues and vices). Students will write short stories employing the elements and archetypes often included in this genre.

Meets: TTR 11-12:15 p.m.
Professor: Brett Patterson
Credits: 3
CRN: 89591
Disney as Cultural Adaptation

Disney is a dominant media force, and we explore facets of the enterprise to engage with how Disney reaches global audiences. Students will engage with texts that rework, reimagine, and reboot tales as old as time, and explore how the revised texts are positioned within the cultural memory.

Meets: TTH 5-6:15 p.m.
Professor: Peter Bryan
Credits: 3
CRN: 80106
HON 2210
Imaginary Friends in Fiction

We will examine a variety of texts featuring imaginary friends in order 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: TR 5-7:45 p.m.
Professor: April Pelt
Credits: 3
CRN: 89589
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: TTR 11-12:15 p.m.
Professor: Elizabeth Gilmore
Credits: 3
CRN: 84304
HON 2820*
The World of Ideas

How we see the world—and how we approach the problems that face us—has been shaped by a series of intellectual frameworks and perspectives that developed across many centuries. This course will center on intensive examination and discussions of these frameworks and their implications.

Meets: T 6:15-9 p.m.
Professor: William Lasser
Credits: 3
CRN: 87578

*Dixon Global Policy Scholars course
Various groups have fought for, and secured, civil and human rights in the U.S. and beyond, but that struggle is ongoing for many. This course explores how the civil and human rights we all avail ourselves of today came to fruition and how history has informed the U.S. legal framework as it relates to civil and human rights.

Meets: W 6:15-9 p.m.
Professor: Nadia Aziz
Credits: 3
CRN: 91112
HON 3960
Solving World 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: TTH 11:00-12:15 p.m.
Professor: Zeynep Taydas
Credits: 3
CRN: 91120
HON 3980*
Developing Math Puzzles

Students will work within the international Sudoku community to construct puzzles with logical constraints, develop code to augment existing puzzle-setting software used by the world's top constructors, and publish their work in appropriate international venues.

Meets: M 2:30-3:20 p.m.
Professor: Neil Calkin and Eliza Gallagher
Credits: 1-3
CRN: 91121

*Note: requires permission of instructor
HON 3980*
Researching Clemson History

This course introduces students to the methods of conducting historical research. Students will collaboratively research an aspect of Clemson history and produce a co-authored chapter/article/exhibit with the instructor. This year's topic will be the history of the Clemson University Honors College.

Meets: M 4-6 p.m.
Professor: Joshua Catalano
Credits: 1-3
CRN: 91122

*Note: requires permission of instructor
HON 3980*
Representations of Greek Life

This course explores media representations and experiences of Greek Life using sociological and feminist methods.

Meets: W 4-6:00 p.m.
Professor: Briana Pocratsky
Credits: 1-3
CRN: 89590

*Note: requires permission of instructor
HON 3980*
CI: C.C.A.R.E. Special Research

This is a creative inquiry course where students research topics related to mental health/academic success and then create a podcast called In the Spotlight. Students must apply and be selected to participate in this creative inquiry. We are looking for three students for the Fall 2023 semester.

Meets: TBD based on student schedules
Professor: Sherece Smith
Credits: 2
CRN: 88694

*Note: requires permission of instructor
The Youth Scholars Program (YSP) Creative Inquiry is the primary organizing body for partnership between the Clemson University Honors College and local elementary, middle, and high schools in nearby school districts. CI Members will get hands-on experience with mentoring and tutoring students from 5th-12th grade through bi-weekly school visits during the class time and at various other times throughout the week (flexible times to be determined). Students will also be the primary organizers in strengthening partnerships between larger groups of Clemson students and local schools, through various research endeavors that directly inform programmatic and logistic decisions of the YSP.

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

Professor: Sarah Winslow and Michael L. LeMahieu

Credits: 2

CRN: 88355

*Note: requires permission of instructor