Fall 2021 Honors Seminars
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<th>Course</th>
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<td>Literature credit</td>
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<td>HON 1910*</td>
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<td>HON 2050</td>
<td>One-credit hour seminars; does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction (if taken three times will count towards Group G- “Other” for GH)</td>
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<td>HON 2200</td>
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<td>HON 3980</td>
<td>Creative Inquiry – does not fulfill general education area but counts towards credits for General Honors (GH) distinction (if three credits hours are taken, it will count towards Group G- “Other” for GH)</td>
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*For First-Year students only
HON 1900: Imaginary Friends in Fiction

Imaginary friends have proven an enduring, endearing figure in everything from picture books to horror films. In this course, we’ll identify recurring tropes and themes in texts about imaginary friends and discuss how these texts influence perceptions of people with imaginary friends. More broadly, we’ll discuss the roles the imagination plays in the continuing development of the self.

*First-year seminar (only open to incoming first-year students)

Meets: TR 5:00-6:15pm
Professor: April Pelt
Credits: 3
CRN: 80089
HON 1900: Recent History- End of World

This course examines the recent histories of apocalyptic thinking, paying particular attention to the growing anxiety around eco-apocalypse as it builds on and intersects with mid-20th century framework “nuclear modernity.” The course situates anxiety about eco-apocalypse (including emergent discourses of climate anxiety and climate grief) as both a reasonable and problematically universalizing phenomenon that erases experiences of world-ending destruction that Black, Indigenous, and other racialized people have, in many cases, already endured and lived through. To that end, the second half the course asks: how do we live with and after the end of the world? Here, the course centers texts, discussions, and class visits by academics and Indigenous cultural producers who are immersed in the work of rebuilding human and environmental worlds in the aftermath of apocalypse.

*First-year thematic seminar (only open to incoming first-year students)

Meets: TR 2:00-3:15pm

Professor: Matthew Hooley

Credits: 3

CRN: 84438
HON 1910: Streaming Popular Feminisms

This course explores the representation of feminisms in popular contemporary media. We will explore feminist concepts, methodologies, and works foundational to media studies and women, gender, and sexuality studies. In doing so, we will engage with popular culture to “read,” or critically analyze, messages about race, gender, class, and sexual orientation in our everyday lives. Students will develop critical thinking and feminist media literacy skills by examining representations of social identities and articulations of feminisms in television and movies in a changing media landscape. Students will learn how feminism both influences and is shaped by popular culture. Ultimately, this course will help us to better understand the (re)production of power and social inequalities in the U.S. in pursuit of a more equitable society.

*First-year thematic seminar (only open to incoming first-year students)

Meets: MW 4:00-5:15pm

Professor: Briana Pocratsky

Credits: 3

CRN: 90479
HON 1910: Writing, Body, and Earth

This seminar-style course explores the interconnectedness of humans and nature using the experience of place as a jumping off point for written associations. When we say body, we mean the whole person. When we say earth, we mean the whole planet. You’ll identify a local place to visit regularly by yourself with field journal in hand, gathering and evaluating sensory experience to find patterns that connect us in a fully human way to the earth. By paying attention to your experience, crafting your writing which could not be written without the particular place it’s written in, reading it aloud, and witnessing others’ stories, you become a participant with the places as well as observers of them. Topics for exploration include soil, water and fluids, air and breath, sound and hearing, insects and metamorphosis, perception, upright stance, emotion, sexuality, and more. Methods also include mapping and rough sketching (no drawing experience needed), sensory awareness activities, activity leadership, a personal project, and a concluding ritual designed by the class.

*First-year thematic seminar (only open to incoming first-year students)

Meets: TR 2:00-3:15pm

Professor: Jennie Wakefield

Credits: 3

CRN: 91090
HON 1920: Civitas: The Role of Citizens

You will learn about the history of citizenship in the US, as well as what it means to be a civically engaged citizen today. We will look at issues like voting, earning, and political participation, as well as the 2020 Presidential election, the US Census, and immigration. To become more well-informed citizens/voters, you will learn digital and information literacy skills to help you find, evaluate, and use quality news and other types of information sources. You will also more fully develop written, oral, and multimedia communication skills.

*First-year thematic seminar (only open to incoming first-year students)

Meets: MW 4:00-5:15pm

Professor: Leslie Lewis

Credits: 3

CRN: 89149
HON 1930: Diplomacy in Crisis

Though America is in possession of unparalleled military and economic power it cannot solve international problems alone. It needs alliances and cooperation of other powers. Diplomacy is crucial for the security of the United States and it seems to be in crisis and not sufficiently effective. If diplomacy doesn’t work, shall we be tempted to resort to use of military power or withdraw to isolation or maybe combine the two? A combination of lectures and seminar format will ensure active participation of students and satisfy their intellectual curiosity while they study the developments in the world today.

*First-year seminar (only open to incoming first-year students)

Meets: TR 3:30-4:45pm
Professor: Vladimir Matic
Credits: 3
CRN: 82197
HON 1940: Bioinspired Arthropods

The course theme will be how nature provides inspiration for human-made products. Nature has had a long time to experiment with designs, whereas humans are relative newcomers. The focus will be insects and their kin and what useful ideas we can get from them. Case studies will be interwoven with discussions of how imitating nature has affected society. Student lead discussions will be an integral part.

*First-year seminar (only open to incoming first-year students)

Meets: TR 8:00-9:15am

Professor: Charles Beard

Credits: 3

CRN: 80113
HON 1940: The Sustainable City

As part of a larger Honors College curricula on sustainability, we will consider factors large and small that make up the sustainable city. Every major or discipline has a role to play in such a course, for the factors that make up a successful city are a combination of economic, political, geographic, technological, and cultural.

*First-year thematic seminar (only open to incoming first-year students)

Meets: TR 2:00-3:15pm

Professor: Alex Billinis

Credits: 3

CRN: 91198
HON 2020: 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. During the course of the semester, we will examine marketing practices, founded in psychological and economic theories, to better understand consumer behavior and its relationship to marketing strategy.

Meets: MW 2:30-3:45pm
Professor: Amanda Fine
Credits: 3
CRN: 80008
HON 2020: Positively Human

This course will examine how our growing knowledge of the brain helps us better understand human nature. Part of our class will discuss human evolution and its impact on our behaviors and choices. Students will read, reflect on, and discuss different reading materials and other course assignments.

Meets: TR 11:00am-12:15pm

Professor: June Pilcher

Credits: 3

CRN: 90529
HON 2030: Putin's World

Vladimir Putin and the Russia he helped forge have confounded the world and defied attempts at understanding. In 2013, the Forbes magazine named Putin the most powerful man in the world, but contemporary historians agree that the façade of power rhetoric camouflages weakness and insecurity. While looking at Putin's rise to power, we will go beneath politics to explore the ways in which real people in today's Russia experience his State. We will sample short fiction and non-fiction works by several authors, including the Nobel Prize winner Svetlana Alexievich, watch contemporary Russian films, take visual tours of museums, listen to music, and watch TV. Beginning with individual texts, we will explore larger social and cultural trends that underlie them. This approach will help us develop the vocabulary to analyze and comprehend today's Russia, the country that exerts fascination all over the world through its unorthodox domestic and global politics.

Meets: TR 2:00-3:15pm

Professor: Olga Volkova

Credits: 3

CRN: 83964
HON 2030: Religion, Cults, & Secret Society

Interested in the moon landing; Knights Templar; New World Order; Manson Family; what happened at Jonestown; truth behind assassinations of John and Bobby Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr.; occult roots of the Nazis; deaths of Marilyn Monroe, The Black Dahlia; Princess Di or Harry Houdini; what happened at Roswell, NM? This course is for you!

Meets: TR 9:30-10:45am

Professor: Peter Cohen

Credits: 3

CRN: 84251
HON 2030: World of Hamilton & Jefferson

“How does a bastard, orphan, son of a whore and a Scotsman, dropped in the middle of a forgotten Spot in the Caribbean by providence, impoverished, in squalor Grow up to be a hero and a scholar?” Set to a rousing hip-hop score, the question that opens Lin Manuel Miranda’s smash Broadway hit, Hamilton, is serious one. Indeed, Miranda invites audiences to shed their preconceived notions about early America, and instead to view the political, cultural, and social world of the eighteenth century from the perspective of those who shaped it. Framed around the lives of Alexander Hamilton and his archrival, Thomas Jefferson, this course presents students with a similar challenge, asking them to reckon with early America on its own terms. Along the way, students will also have an opportunity to peer into parlors, examining the evolution of domestic relations, sexuality, and marriage in the nation’s formative decades. Finally, they’ll recover the lives of the enslaved people who generated early America’s wealth, and follow the rise of antislavery movements that began to question the morality of property rights in people. By the end of the semester, students will have acquired a more nuanced view of Hamilton and Jefferson’s world, a fragmented and often-contradictory place where liberty and slavery flourished, a place of unparalleled opportunity and unmitigated cruelty, a place that continues to influence the world we live in today.

Meets: TR 12:30-1:45pm

Professor: Lee Wilson

Credits: 3

CRN: 87803
HON 2050: University-Industry Connection

Dr. Yuri Freeman, Fellow and VP of KEMET Electronics, global electronic company, will introduce students to industrial environment, which is different of Academia, and how to make transition and progress in that environment.

Meets: W 11:15am-12:05pm
Professor: Yuri Freeman
Credits: 1
CRN: 86207
HON 2050: Entrepreneurship

In this course we will teach students the foundational principals 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 6:00-7:00pm

Professor: John Hannon

Credits: 1

CRN: 86680
HON 2060: COVID in Context

What can we learn from past pandemics to better understand the COVID pandemic? What can we learn from different perspectives on COVID and how it is playing out for different countries and for different groups in our own country about how culture shapes health care issues?

Meets: MWF 11:15am-12:05pm
Professor: Pamela Mack
Credits: 3
CRN: 80115
HON 2060: Integrity in Engineering

The course will explore timely and important questions about ethics and integrity in engineering. For example, what, if anything, do recent scandals in the aviation or automotive industries (e.g., at Boeing, Volkswagen), or in tech start-ups, tell us about ethics in engineering? Is this a good place to start if we want to get clear about the responsibilities of engineers? What might be a better place to start the inquiry? Are professionals held to a higher standard than non-professionals? Do engineers have more or fewer responsibilities than other professionals? So far as ethics and integrity are concerned, does it matter if, as some claim, engineers see things differently than non-engineers?

Meets: T 4:00-6:45pm

Professor: Daniel Wueste

Credits: 3

CRN: 90551
HON 2060: Butterfly Biodiversity

Study the beautiful butterflies and moths (order Lepidoptera), including basic and STS applied topics of classification, morphology, ecology, biodiversity, conservation, and nature-inspired designs, through direct instruction, collaborative activities, projects, and written assignments.

Meets: TR 9:30-10:45am

Professor: Suellen Pometto

Credits: 3

CRN: 91091
HON 2070: The World of Color

Color is all around us. It helps us find our car, discern whether a piece of fruit is ripe, and (through clothes choices) can help us find a job, and ultimately, a mate. Whole industries, such as printing, cosmetics, paint, and textiles rely heavily on color. Yet despite its ubiquity, color is not well understood. Much of what we are taught is either wrong or not backed by real evidence. In this course, you will: learn how color can be organized, measured, and communicated, learn how the eye and brain turn light into our perception of color, investigate the ambiguity of color names, and the history of color naming, differentiate between pop psychology and real research into the emotional effects of color, understand the real psychology of color harmony.

Meets: TR 2:00-3:15pm

Professor: John Seymour

Credits: 3

CRN: 89120
HON 2090: French Conversation

Open to Honors students in FREN 2020 and above. We will explore and discuss a range of subjects to enrich your understanding of France and the Francophone world. Class will consist primarily of group discussion (in French), giving you extra speaking practice. Short supplemental readings will also help you to improve your vocabulary and reading skills.

Meets: M 12:20-1:10pm
Professor: Kenneth Widgren
Credits: 1
CRN: 84297
HON 2090: Spanish Conversation

HON 2090 is a one-hour course open exclusively to Honors students in SPAN 2010 and above. This course will take the place of an honors contract you would otherwise have in your Spanish class. We will analyze short stories, articles, short films and other authentic texts from the Spanish-speaking world. Additionally, we will apply the knowledge of Spanish language and culture along with problem-solving techniques to create and solve our own Spanish language Escape Rooms. Class will consist of group discussions and teamwork allowing you to practice your Spanish conversation skills, think critically, expand your cultural knowledge, and explore your interests.

Meets: M 9:00-9:50am

Professor: Ellory Schmucker

Credits: 1

CRN: 91221
HON 2200: Tomboys, Jocks, and Drama Queens

Gender is one of the most salient aspects of our lives, and our society is currently grappling with gendered experiences and constructions that do not fit neatly into dichotomous categories of male and female. Schools have long been conduits for imposing social norms, values, and expectations upon young people, and gendered norms are hardly an exception. In this course, we will learn about a variety of views of gender and their origins, as well as the role of society, and specifically 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: TR 12:30-1:45pm

Professor: Stacy Megan Che

Credits: 3

CRN: 80116
HON 2210: Investigating Beauty

We describe paintings, sunsets, songs, and people as beautiful, but what do we mean by beauty? Why do we disagree about what should be considered beautiful and why is beauty sometimes seen as dangerous? In this seminar, we investigate human experiences with beauty. Readings in philosophy and literature from around the world will help us examine beauty’s relationship to topics including love, comedy, justice, gender, art, cognition, and place. To gain historical perspectives, we will discuss Plato’s Symposium and Ovid’s Metamorphoses as well as works by William Shakespeare and the Persian poet Hafez. We’ll also read more recent authors such as Emily Dickinson and Derek Walcott and end the semester with Claudia Rankine’s play The Provenance of Beauty: A South Bronx Travelogue. Taking a cue from Rankine’s observations of South Bronx, we will visit Clemson’s Experimental Forest to reflect on our own relationships with beauty.

Meets: TR 9:30-10:45am

Professor: Ingrid Pierce

Credits: 3

CRN: 80118
HON 2210: Imagination Rules

American grandmasters of science fiction and fantasy challenge our perceptions of the world by encouraging a sense of wonder (which social practices grounded in scientific empiricism often diminish). Drawing on varied religious visions, challenging readers with encounters with the alien or the magical, Norton, Bradbury, Le Guin, Asimov, Dick, Simak, McCaffrey, Beagle, Wolfe, Willis, Yolen, Butler, Card, Chiang, and others claim humanity excels only by imagination.

Meets: TR 11:00am-12:15pm

Professor: Brett Patterson

Credits: 3

CRN: 85634
HON 2210: The Cultural Works 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 web comics, and indie and alternative comics. In so doing, we’ll not only discuss the affordances and constraints of publishing in a sequential medium, but we 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: TR 5:00-6:15pm

Professor: April Pelt & Keri Crist-Wagner

Credits: 3

CRN: 86273
At the end is action; but in the beginning is the word. This course is about public speaking, but public speaking is about a lot more than standing up and speaking in front of people. Public speaking is also about how to make and evaluate arguments, how to find and assess evidence and support, how to organize your thoughts, how to analyze your audience, and how to craft a speech that responds to your context. This semester we will approach learning the fundamentals of public speaking through a focused study on ethical communication concepts. By considering the five ethical stances explored in our textbook and illustrated by various ethicists from diverse cultural, geographical, and historical backgrounds, we will learn how to apply these ethics—through oral communication—to the moral dilemmas, individual and corporate, facing people groups around the world today.
HON 2230: First-Year Intercultural Comm

Introduction to Cross-Cultural Communication is a course in which students will be introduced to “the process of communication between and among individuals from different cultures or subcultures. The course emphasizes the effect of cultural practices within various communication relational contexts such as interpersonal, small group, and organizational communication.”

*First-year thematic seminar (only open to incoming first-year students)

Meets: MW 4:00-5:15pm
Professor: Andrew Pyle
Credits: 3
CRN: 86453
CI team members will engage in collaborative research to inform their work planning, facilitating, and expanding the Youth Scholars Program (YSP). The YSP is an academic tutoring and mentorship program designed to address institutionalized inequality embedded in our education system and to connect Clemson’s resources to the local community. The mission of the YSP is to engage high achieving students from local Title I schools, excite these students about their potential collegiate prospects, and enhance their academic experiences by connecting them with educational resources at Clemson University. The YSP began in 2018 in collaboration with Pendleton Elementary School, and there are currently two cohorts of Youth Scholars. The Youth Scholars Program has three main administrative components—education, engagement, and communication—and the CI will be organized in these focus areas. Research topics include pedagogy, diverse youth engagement, culturally competent mentorship practices, and campus-community relations. If you would like more information, please fill out this [form].