

# Spring 2023 Honors Seminars

## Draft 3 - 10/21/2022

**Please Note: This is a draft. More courses will be added in the weeks to come.  
Please check for updated documents as Enrollment approaches.**

**Adolescent Development: Honors (S) HDFS 3423 CRN 28809  
Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [S] Credit Hours [3]  
Instructor TBA, Time - TR 0900 - 1015 Type of Class - In Person**

**Biology, Race, and Gender: Honors (DH) HONR 3053 CRN 21116  
Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [DH] Credit Hours [3]  
Instructor - Recker, Time - MWF 1330 - 1420 Type of Class - In Person**

Critical interdisciplinary investigation of relationships between biological theory (especially Darwinism) and social and ethical issues. Attention to views of alleged biological aspects of perceived racial and gender differences and attempts to implement these views socially, legally, and medically in the United States and elsewhere. This class is designed for upper class students and restricted to those with Junior standing or above - you should be in your third or fourth year in Honors to take it.

**Blockchain Programming & Development (Honors) EEE 4010 CRN 28907  
Honors Area: STEM Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1]  
Instructor - Trost, Time - F 1330 - 1420 Type of Class - In Person**

Prerequisite CS 1113, Suitable for students in MIS, CS and Engineering current or previous enrollment in, ENGR1412 (Introductory Engineering Computer Programming), ECEN3213 (Computer Based Systems in Engineering), CS2133 (Computer Science II), CS2433 (C/C++ Programming, CS3353 (Data Structures and Algorithms), or CS3653 (Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science) helpful.

This course will challenge students to apply their programming skills to implement a blockchain-based project on the Hive blockchain (see <https://developers.hive.io/> and <https://hiveprojects.io/>). Strong working knowledge of Javascript, Typescript, Python, and/or Ruby is a prerequisite. Students will learn the underlying basics of blockchains, cryptocurrencies, and decentralized social media, complete a series of self-paced tutorials, then create and implement their own decentralized project on the Hive blockchain, with continuous mentorship guidance by the instructor.

**Business Model Discovery: Honors EEE 3673 CRN 29006**

**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3]**

**Instructor - Gajan, Time - MW 1600 - 1715 Type of Class - In Person**

Course teaches the fundamentals of testing the feasibility of a business idea and building an effective business model around a business concept. May not be used for degree credit with EEE 3023

**Contemporary Cultures of the Western World: Honors in Berlin, Germany (HI)**

**HONR 3023 CRN 31496**

**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [HI] Credit Hours [3]**

**Instructor - Frohock, Time - F 1230 - 1320 Type of Class - In Person**

In this honors seminar, we will explore the rich culture of Berlin, Germany, through reading, discussion, and international travel. This class will use a Place-as-Text curriculum, which means the city of Berlin will be our object of study. Together we will explore contemporary life in Berlin, the capital city that was profoundly shaped by World War II and has a fascinating cold-war history. Today, Berlin is renowned for its arts culture (filmmaking, music, and the visual arts), its diverse neighborhoods, and its start-up-friendly business environment. Our time in Berlin will feature numerous excursions and activities aimed at developing interdisciplinary understanding of the city. Students can visit sites such as the Brandenburg Gate and Museum Island, take a stroll through the shopping district of Kurfürstendamm and the arts district, or travel to the picturesque neighboring town of Potsdam. There are no prerequisites for this travel course, and the class is open to all majors. Enrollment by permit (contact [Richard.frohock@okstate.edu](mailto:Richard.frohock@okstate.edu) for more details!)

**Contemporary Cultures of the Western World: Honors in Central Mexico (HI)**

**HONR 3023 CRN 31214**

**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [HI] Credit Hours [3]**

**Instructor - Andrews, Time - W 1230 - 1320 Type of Class - In Person**

In this three-credit hour course (Led by Dr. John Andrews And Cara Eubanks) we will explore the rich culture of Central Mexico through reading, discussion, and international travel. This class will use a City-As-Text Curriculum, which means the contemporary culture of Central Mexico (specifically Puebla, Mexico City, and La Preciosita) will be our object of study and will emphasize experiential learning and reflective writing. We will explore contemporary life in Central Mexico through reading, discussion of topics including modernization and cultural identity formation, and numerous excursions and activities aimed at developing interdisciplinary understanding. There are no prerequisites, and the class is open to all majors.

**Disney and Culture: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 31520**  
**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3]**  
**Instructor - Sperb, Time - MW 0800 - 0915 Type of Class - In Person**

This course will take a largely historical approach to the cultural and industrial significance of the Walt Disney Company. We will focus extensively on the history of the original Disney Studios during the classical (pre-1950s) Hollywood era, as well as on its rebranding in the second half of the 20th Century as a major presence in a postwar, multimedia leisure culture that involved television, theme parks and music. We will also spend considerable time on its emergence since the 1990s as the modern media conglomerate it's known as today. Attention will be paid to other related brands, such as Pixar, LucasFilm, and Marvel, as well as the cultural and ideological questions surrounding its prominent, perhaps singular, role within today's entertainment industries. Students should be aware that they will be expected to assume the role of discussion leader for at least one session throughout the semester (based on a particular topic and/or reading). Grades will be based on written work, participation, and presentations.

**Eloquent Persuasion for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 31789**  
**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [2]**  
**Instructor - Holmes, Time - TR 1200 - 1250 Type of Class - In Person**

This course is designed to teach students of the Post-Internet Age how to communicate through oral presentation and speeches, to counter what is becoming the lost art of verbal communication. From the most informal and commonplace situations, to the most formal platforms on the national and international scale, this will give them a familiarity with the world's most significant speeches which shaped modern civilization. Reading those words will also bring historical figures to life. Building on that foundation, they will then prepare, write, and practice speaking in class. This will give them the confidence that only experience and detailed critiques will provide. It will show the power of precise writing, as Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, for example, demonstrated in only 272 words. All students will eventually give a prepared speech at some time in their lives, making this an invaluable tool.

**Entrepreneurial Value Creation in Society: Honors EEE 3031 CRN 28689 –**  
**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1]**  
**Instructor - Bylund, Time - F 0930 - 1020 Type of Class - In Person**

This 1-hour honors seminar presents an intellectual framework for understanding the economic and ethical implications of the forces that promote or hinder the creation of value in society. In particular, students will engage in readings, discussions, and periodic interactions with guest lecturers, related to topics such as: individual liberty and responsibility, economic freedom, fairness and equality, scarcity and property rights,

intellectual property, competition and anti- competition, cronyism and despotism, and globalization and free trade. The aforementioned topics will be examined and discussed within the context of governments, institutions, business entities, and consumers, and their collective impact on innovation, entrepreneurship, and advances in societal well-being. This seminar should be of interest to students from diverse majors and backgrounds. There are no prerequisites.

**Entrepreneurial Value Creation in Society: Honors EEE 3031 CRN 28690 –  
Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1]  
Instructor - Bylund, Time - F 1030 - 1120 Type of Class - In Person**

This 1-hour honors seminar presents an intellectual framework for understanding the economic and ethical implications of the forces that promote or hinder the creation of value in society. In particular, students will engage in readings, discussions, and periodic interactions with guest lecturers, related to topics such as: individual liberty and responsibility, economic freedom, fairness and equality, scarcity and property rights, intellectual property, competition and anti- competition, cronyism and despotism, and globalization and free trade. The aforementioned topics will be examined and discussed within the context of governments, institutions, business entities, and consumers, and their collective impact on innovation, entrepreneurship, and advances in societal well-being. This seminar should be of interest to students from diverse majors and backgrounds. There are no prerequisites.

**Exploring the Medical Profession through an Osteopathic Perspective (Honors)  
HONR 1000 CRN 24011  
Honors Area: STEM Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1]  
Instructor - Wells, Time - M 1230 - 1320 Type of Class - In Person**

This seminar will provide an overview of specialties within the practice of medicine presented by clinical faculty from OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. The seminar will broaden students' understanding of the medical profession, explain how osteopathic medicine is used to treat patients, and share how OSU Center for Health Sciences is creating pathways for students to practice medicine in rural and underserved communities. This class is suitable for any student interested in pursuing a career in medicine. This course requires a permit in order to enroll. Email Ebonie Hill at [ebonie.hill@okstate.edu](mailto:ebonie.hill@okstate.edu) in order to request a permit. You must intending to pursue medical school in order to receive a permit.

**Global Warming and Human Use of Earth: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 25259**  
**Honors Area: STEM Gen Ed Code - if any [N?] Credit Hours [3]**  
**Instructor - Hallgren, Time - MWF 0930 - 1020 Type of Class - In Person**

The course uses scientific analysis to focus on recent phenomena that suggest accelerated global warming is caused by human intervention in natural processes and mechanisms. Thorough discussion of the scientific method prepares the student to critically analyze new knowledge about global warming presented throughout the course. Students learn to use the language, concepts, methodologies and models of science to critically analyze the physical and biological components of the Earth system and how they have interacted since its origin until present to create the Earth that is ours. Students learn the mechanisms and consequences for human caused changes in the atmosphere, biological diversity and terrestrial vegetation that can lead to global warming. This information informs students about human impacts on the natural environment, predictions of future global change, the scientific bases for global change assessments, and policy measures.

**Honors Active Aging for L.I.F.E. (DS) HONR 1113 CRN 25255**  
**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [DS] Credit Hours [3]**  
**Instructor - Roberts, Time - MW 1600 - 1715 Type of Class - In Person**

Demographic factors tell us that the number of adults age 65 and older will nearly double by 2030. A holistic and proactive approach to providing positive outcomes in aging requires integrated strategies focusing on providing environments and organizational structures to support this demographic shift. Active aging is a framework first developed by the World Health Organization in order to optimize opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. Active aging allows people to realize their potential for physical, social and mental well-being throughout the life course. In this honors seminar you will acquire a great deal of information on a wide range of topics in order to build your personal understanding of the relationships between Longevity, Independence, Fitness and Engagement for active aging. This will require the overlapping of several domains such as environmental psychology, cognitive science, sociology, physiology, architectural and interior design, human geography, assistive technology, nutrition and physical and cognitive fitness. This course will include selected readings for each module topic; web-based tools and resources that can be used beyond the course; short experiential learning activities; group discussions via message boards, a short reflective writing assignments and a final team project.

**Honors Executive Book Club: The Slummer: Quarters Till Death**

**HONR 1000 CRN 29190**

**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1]**

**Instructor - Murphy, Time - M 1130 - 1220 Type of Class - In Person**

The Executive Book Club is a one-hour Honors seminar. In the spirit of a book club, the idea is to select a title and read it together for the first time to learn about and respond to the ideas it presents. The book this semester has been chosen by OSU's Provost Jeanette Mendez. The book is Geoffrey Simpson's *The Slummer: Quarters Till Death* (2020). It speaks to her love of running and also has a political science aspect, covering revolution, social movements, and elitism, among other issues. Dr. Mendez will meet with the class at the beginning of the semester to talk about why she chose the book to read and explore. The class will meet weekly with Dr. Tim Murphy (Regents Professor, English Department), who has a scholarly background in science fiction and political theory, to discuss the book and to situate it several relevant contexts, including the history of science fiction, the current popularity of dystopian fiction, widespread concern about genetic engineering, and the reflection of these trends in cinema and television. At the end of the semester, the class will again meet with Provost Mendez to discuss what they learned and share their perspectives on the book club selection. Enrollment is limited to 10; to obtain a permit for this class please e-mail Ebonie Hill ([ebonie.hill@okstate.edu](mailto:ebonie.hill@okstate.edu)).

**Honors Jane Austen: Life, Art, and Influence (H) HONR 3063 CRN 31410**

**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H] Credit Hours [3]**

**Instructor - Jones, Time - MWF 1230 - 1320 Type of Class - In Person**

An author who continues to speak to generations of readers centuries after her death, Jane Austen wrote a half dozen novels that became classics within a few decades of their creation. This course examines the distinct features of the writing that accounts for her significant accomplishments - not just on the development of the novel but her influence on those novelists who followed her.

**Honors Magic Rings: Symbol and Allegory (H) HONR 2303 CRN 25254**

**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H] Credit Hours [3]**

**Instructor - Weimer, Time - TR 1030 - 1145 Type of Class - In Person**

This course will explore philosophical and moral allegories created by the presence of magic rings in two thousand years of Western art and thought. Works studied will include Plato's *Republic*, the medieval chivalric romance, the four operas comprising Richard Wagner's Ring Cycle, twentieth-century "high fantasy" (J.R.R. Tolkien, Stephen R. Donaldson), and the contemporary graphic novel.

**Inventing Your Future: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 26443**

**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1]**

**Instructor - Sullins, Time - T 1630 - 1720 Type of Class - In Person**

This one-hour seminar introduces students to scholarships, fellowships, research programs, international study, and other unique opportunities at OSU and beyond. Students receive guidance and develop skills needed to prepare competitive applications including writing personal statements, giving presentations/interviewing, and building relationships with academic and professional mentors. In addition to participating in lively class discussion, students will interact with former nominees and recipients of national awards as well as campus advisors for each program. This course presents students with exciting opportunities that prepare them for the future, whether they are applying for prestigious scholarships, seeking admission to top graduate schools, or pursuing highly competitive professional positions.

**Judging U: A Practicum in Science Fairs: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 24651**

**Honors Area: STEM Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3]**

**Instructor - Angle, Time - T 1845 - 2130 Type of Class - In Person**

This unique service-oriented class prepares students to serve as event staff for three prestigious science competitions, the KS-NE-OK Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (Feb 24-25, 2023), the Oklahoma State Science and Engineering Fair (March 24-25, 2023), and Odyssey of the Mind (March 25, 2023). Students organize each event, select event items (i.e. t-shirts, trophies, etc.), and design videos. During each event, students take on event leadership roles, provide support for event judges, and prepare certificates and awards for each virtual awards ceremony. Join the Honors Judging U team to provide service to K-12 students during three STEM research competitions.

**Let's Get Creative: Odyssey of the Mind (Honors) HONR 1000 CRN 28820**

**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H?] Credit Hours [3]**

**Instructor - Andrews, Time - MW 1600 - 1715 Type of Class - In Person**

What is creative genius? Does it strike like lightning or build like a storm? Are creative geniuses blessed by the muses or are they simply working with the right materials, at the right time? This course interrogates the myth of creative genius by critically questioning the nature of invention while solving current Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) problems. By critically unpacking biographies, narratives and historical mythos that cloud the invention process, students will gain hands-on experience identifying, developing, and employing their own personal artistic and scientific processes for solving unconventional problems. Students will work as teams to solve a long-term Odyssey of the Mind problem and compete at the Oklahoma State Odyssey of the Mind

competition held on Saturday, March 25th @ OSU, with the possibility of competing at the world finals at the end of May.

**Let's Get Creative: Odyssey of the Mind (Honors) HONR 1000 CRN 31528**  
**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H?] Credit Hours [3]**  
**Instructor - Stroud, Time - MW 1600 - 1715 Type of Class - In Person**

What is creative genius? Does it strike like lightning or build like a storm? Are creative geniuses blessed by the muses or are they simply working with the right materials, at the right time? This course interrogates the myth of creative genius by critically questioning the nature of invention while solving current Odyssey of the Mind (OotM) problems. By critically unpacking biographies, narratives and historical myths that cloud the invention process, students will gain hands-on experience identifying, developing, and employing their own personal artistic and scientific processes for solving unconventional problems. Students will work as teams to solve a long-term Odyssey of the Mind problem and compete at the Oklahoma State Odyssey of the Mind competition held on Saturday, March 25th @ OSU, with the possibility of competing at the world finals at the end of May.

**Lifespan Development: Honors (S) HDFS 2113 CRN 28808**  
**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [S] Credit Hours [3]**  
**Instructor - Bailey, Time - TR 1030 - 1145 Type of Class - In Person**

**Parenting: Honors (S) HDFS 3123 CRN 28778**  
**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [S] Credit Hours [3]**  
**Instructor - Bailey, Time - TR 1200 - 1315 Type of Class - In Person**

**Policy-making In Times of Crisis (Honors) HONR 1000 CRN 29189**  
**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1]**  
**Instructor - Loughridge, Time - W 0830 - 0920 Type of Class - In Person**

In order to build a theoretical framework for policy analysis, we will use readings on three periods of extraordinary challenge: The Great Depression, the Cuban Missile Crisis and 9/11. The Great Depression since it provides an opportunity to familiarize students with the Dust Bowl and link it to our Oklahoma history; the Cuban Missile Crisis because of a) the availability of an extraordinary book covering policy in that period by Graham Allison, and b) the accessibility of the events as presented in the movie, "Thirteen Days"; and 9/11. The instructor will be able to bring some inside perspective, having worked in the White House and for the Secretary of Defense in the near aftermath of the crisis. Having built a framework for understanding policy-making during



the first half-dozen sessions, we will review of the ongoing COVID-19 policy response, using the Oklahoma experience as a case study. Given the instructors access to individuals central to Oklahoma's response - his own experience in leading a portion of the policy enterprise - we anticipate having multiple guest speakers with first-hand knowledge of the State's pandemic response.

**Power and Protest in US History: Honors HIST 3980 CRN 22743**  
**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3]**  
**Instructor - Karibo, Time - TR 1030 - 1145 Type of Class - In Person**

Today, the role of public protest in the United States is hotly debated. This course historicizes these debates, tracing the history of social movements from the late 19th century to the present. We will look at the origins of several key movements, and explore the rhetoric and tactics they employed to achieve their goals. In this course, we will also trace the responses to these movements by the general public, the media, and from those in power. Lectures, discussions, and readings will prepare students to address several key questions. Those include: How have types of public protest shifted over time? How has collective action shaped the social, cultural, and political history of the nation? Ultimately, to what extent is protest an American tradition?

**Principled Negotiation for Everyone: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 26899**  
**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [2]**  
**Instructor - Holmes, Time - TR 0900 - 0950 Type of Class - In Person**

The goal of this course is to learn how to negotiate. This is intended for students of all backgrounds and career fields The textbook will be "Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In", Second Edition, 163 pages, written by Roger Fisher, William Ury, and Bruce Patton, all at the Harvard Negotiation Project. It teaches principled negotiation methods universally applicable to personal and professional disputes, whether involving: "...parents and children, neighbors, bosses and employees, customers or corporations, tenants or diplomats". The course will include lectures with discussion and short papers on the book, and then move to actual negotiations in class by the students based on common situations.

**Publishing Creative Content via Blockchain: Honors EEE 4010 CRN 29467**  
**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [1]**  
**Instructor - Trost, Time - F 1230 - 1320 Type of Class - In Person**

Ever wondered about how bitcoin works, what a 'blockchain' is, and why all the fuss about cryptocurrencies and non-fungible tokens (NFTs)? In this course, you will learn the underlying basics of blockchains, cryptocurrencies, and decentralized social media.

Then, on a weekly basis, you will create and post original written and/or artistic content via the Hive blockchain (see <https://peakd.com/> and <https://nftshowroom.com/>) (and earn cryptocurrency rewards in the process). Insatiable curiosity and a penchant for creativity are the only prerequisites for this course.

**The Middle Ages and Renaissance (H): Honors HONR 2423 CRN 31401**  
**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H] Credit Hours [3]**  
**Instructor - Recker, Time - MWF 1130 - 1220 Type of Class - In Person**

Interdisciplinary study of art, history, philosophy and literature from the Middle Ages to the early Renaissance. Team-taught by faculty from appropriate disciplines in a lecture and discussion format. May not be used for degree credit with HONR 2113.

**The Middle Ages and Renaissance (H): Honors HONR 2423 CRN 31403**  
**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H] Credit Hours [3]**  
**Instructor - Gethner, Time - MWF 1130 - 1220 Type of Class - In Person**

Interdisciplinary study of art, history, philosophy and literature from the Middle Ages to the early Renaissance. Team-taught by faculty from appropriate disciplines in a lecture and discussion format. May not be used for degree credit with HONR 2113.

**The Story of Lizzie Borden: Axe Murder in American Culture (Honors) (DH)**  
**HONR 2073 CRN 25257**  
**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [DH] Credit Hours [3]**  
**Instructor - Miller, Time - TR 1030 - 1145 Type of Class - In Person**

In 1892, Lizzie Borden was accused of killing her father and stepmother with an axe. She was eventually acquitted, but her story had captured the American cultural imagination. This course will take a chronological approach to the history of the Lizzie Borden story as it evolves from news reports contemporaneous to the case through broadsides and early true-crime takes to fictionalized versions in the form of short stories, poems, novels, plays, a ballet, an opera, and multiple film versions. Specifically, we will consider how changing concepts of gender shape the way in which the story gets told in different media and in different moments in American history. Ultimately, we will ask what it says about American culture that - for better or for worse - we simply cannot let Lizzie go!

**They Wouldn't Put It on the Internet if It's Not True: Information Literacy in Post-Truth Era: Honor HONR 1000 CRN 25433**

**Honors Area: Social Sciences Gen Ed Code - if any [] Credit Hours [3]**

**Instructor - Reiter, Time - TR 1500 - 1615 Type of Class - In Person**

This course provides an overview of essential concepts and skills needed for success in navigating an increasingly uncertain and perilous information landscape. Awareness of, access to, and quality of information have demonstrable impacts on social, economic, academic, and political well-being. This course will address issues of access, use, creation, and dissemination of information and how it affects particular populations of people, with an emphasis on historically marginalized and underrepresented groups. Students will learn to locate, access, use, evaluate, organize, create, and present information effectively for personal and academic research needs. Students will examine biases within each of those paying particular attention to issues of race, gender, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and other personal, political, and socioeconomic factors. Students will also improve their understanding of authority and trust, value of information, the nature of scholarly conversation, and the nature of inquiry and exploration.

**Tornadoes in American Culture: Honors HONR 1000 CRN 31398**

**Honors Area: Humanities Gen Ed Code - if any [H?] Credit Hours [3]**

**Instructor - Miller, Time - TR 1200 - 1315 Type of Class - In Person**

This honors seminar will offer the opportunity to analyze ideas about tornadoes in relation to historical and contemporary American cultures. We will look at how tornadoes shape regional identities, produce diverse narratives, and influence art, literature, and film.