

**2015 SPRING SEMESTER DESCRIPTIONS OF HONORS SEMINARS, INTERDISCIPLINARY HONORS COURSES,
AND HONORS ADD-ON COURSES**

WITH THE PERMISSION OF YOUR COLLEGE'S HONORS DIRECTOR, UPPER-DIVISION HONORS SEMINARS MAY BE USED TOWARD DEPARTMENTAL OR COLLEGE HONORS AWARD REQUIREMENTS IF THE CREDIT HOURS COUNT TOWARD THE ACADEMIC MAJOR (UPPER RIGHT-HAND BOX ON THE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS SHEET). CHECK WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR AND YOUR UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE'S HONORS DIRECTOR.

HONR 1000.701 – [6] *Expand Your Horizons: What Study Abroad is Really About – This seminar will explore the benefits of international competency and knowledge. The opportunities and challenges for OSU students to gain international competency through study abroad will be investigated. — Hallgren – T 9:00-9:50 (1 credit hour)

HONR 1000.702 — [6] *Windows on the World — This seminar is designed for top students to evaluate their opportunities for success in a variety of prestigious scholarship competitions and participation in other activities. Students benefit through preparation for graduate school and employment applications and interviews. Students will be responsible for a class discussion of important topics in the news, including a Q&A interview session with fellow students. At the end of the course, students will submit a short essay (personal statement or research/policy proposal) based on the format of a major scholarship competition. Guest speakers on special topics to be announced. – Ward – T 3:30-4:20 (1 credit hour) [Instructor permission is required.]

HONR 1000.703 – [6] *Autobiography by Women — This seminar concentrates on selected autobiographical texts from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries that show the multiplicity of women's lives and voices from different parts of the world, as well as the revised discourses they fashion to express the realities of their lives. – Tenorio – T 10:30-11:20 (1 credit hour)

HONR 1000.704 - [6] *Works of Jane Austen – This seminar will examine the tensions between personal fulfillment and family responsibility as seen in four novels of Jane Austen (Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Mansfield Park, and Persuasion) and show how a deeper view of marriage emerges from this collision. — Epstein – MWF 10:30-11:20 (3 credit hours)

HONR 1000.705 - [6] *Magic Ring Allegories - 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. — Weimer — TR 10:30-11:45 (3 credit hours)

HONR 1000.706 - [6] Perceptions of Beauty - This course is based on the idea that perceptions of beauty are related to culture more than fixed definitions. Students will sharpen their analytical skills and apply what they learn about philosophers Kant, Hume, and Nietzsche to major Modern works of literature, art, and music. In addition to utilizing a secondary textbook, students will examine work by Oscar Wilde, Angela Carter, Walt Whitman, Edgar Allen Poe, Pablo Picasso, Edvard Munch, Piet Mondrian, Charles Sheeler, Aaron Copland, Samuel Barber, Billie Holiday, and John Cage. - Bruner – TR 12:30-1:45 (3 credit hours)

HONR 1000.707 - [6] Contemporary Geopolitics in the Heart of Asia - The demise of geopolitics and its associated spatial agent, the nation-state, has been greatly exaggerated. Geopolitics, defined by some as "the study of international relations from a geographical perspective," continues to inform and shape the major issues in foreign affairs in the contemporary world. This seminar will examine the roots of contemporary geopolitical thought, and analyze contemporary conflicts in Eurasia's southern central region through the framework of the influence and interests of China, Russia, the USA, and other regional actors. - Hanks - MWF 11:30 (3 credit hours)

HONR 1000.708 – [6] Confronting Pseudoscience – This course will use an examination of a wide range of pseudoscientific ideas and beliefs as a way of understanding what the difference is between true scientific endeavor and non-scientific belief systems (and hopefully have a certain amount of fun in the process). The course takes as its basic premise that there is a real difference in the type of knowledge associated with a true scientific endeavor and those associated with pseudoscientific belief systems. We will investigate how pseudoscientific beliefs systems try to utilize that vocabulary and some of the methodology of the sciences in an attempt to validate their beliefs systems. Pseudoscientific topics covered will include (but are by no means limited to) Homeopathic medicine, Bermuda triangle, vaccination denial, moon landing denial, and Creationism. – Garbutt – M 6:45-9:30 (3 credit hours)

HONR 1023.701, 702, 703, 704 - [2] Middle Ages and Renaissance [H] – What social, economic, intellectual and religious factors enabled: (i) virtually all of Europe to be united under one Church; (ii) the creation of astounding cathedrals and all-encompassing philosophical *Summae*; (iii) plays and poems depicting the drama of sin and damnation; (iv) the development of the chivalric ideal of heroism and courtly love; and (v) some of the greatest art and literature of all time? HONR 1023 investigates European culture from the collapse of Rome to the early Renaissance and Reformation, and provides samples of European painting, sculpture, and architecture as well as readings from the literature, philosophy, and science of this period. The course is team-taught by faculty from a variety of disciplines who focus upon the interdisciplinary nature of the material. — Recker, Gethner, Schwarz, Jones - MWF 10:30-11:20

HONR 3023.701 & 702 - [2] Contemporary Cultures of the Western World [H,I] – Interdisciplinary examination of selected cultures of Europe and the western hemisphere. Emphasis will be on identification of main characteristics of "Western" culture and their manifestations in a variety of modern societies on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Key values, institutions, and practices will be examined to illustrate the twin themes of commonalities and cultural diversity. The course is team-taught by faculty from appropriate disciplines in a lecture and discussion format. – Jenswold and Tenorio – TR 2:00-3:15 (3 credit hours) **[PREREQUISITE NOTE: Must have completed 45 credit hours by beginning of spring semester.]**

HONR 3033.701 & 702 – [5] Contemporary Cultures of the Non-Western World [L,S] — Interdisciplinary study of contemporary cultures of non-western world including lifestyle, housing and food. Team-taught by faculty from appropriate disciplines in a lecture and discussion format. — Hallemeier and Moder – TR 10:30-11:45 (This seminar meets the Arts & Sciences requirement for a non-western studies course for the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees.) **[PREREQUISITE NOTE: Must have completed 45 credit hours by beginning of spring semester.]**

HONR 3053.701 - [6] Biology, Race, and Gender [D] — 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. — Recker — MWF 1:30-2:20 (3 credit hours) **[PREREQUISITE NOTE: Must have completed 45 credit hours by beginning of fall semester.]**

UNIV 3110 - [6] OSLEP Seminars – Any of the Oklahoma Scholar Leadership Development Program (OSLEP) seminars may be used for 3 hours of honors seminar credit. See the OSLEP web page (<http://www.oslep.org>) for seminar details. OSU students selected for an OSLEP seminar will enroll in a section of UNIV 3110 at OSU. (The five-day OSLEP seminars are graded pass-fail, so it is a good idea to check with your regular academic advisor to determine how they will count toward your overall degree requirements.) [OSLEP Office permission required.]

* No more than six hours of HONR 1000 and 6 hours of HONR 3000 may be counted toward degree requirements.

2015 SPRING SEMESTER DESCRIPTIONS OF HONORS ADD-ONS

***Note: Honors Add-On Courses have co-requisite courses and do not fulfill honors seminar requirements.**

BOT 4400.701 – [6] **Ecology in the New Millennium** – The principles taught in General Ecology have largely been developed over the past half century. However, the early 21st Century has witnessed new theoretical and empirical advances that have not yet been incorporated into an introductory curriculum. In addition, an ecological perspective can shed light on current issues, both social and environmental. The purpose of this seminar course is to discuss current primary literature in ecology, as well as focus on the role ecologists play in the public arena. Towards the end of the semester, students will be expected to present a talk to the rest of the class on an issue or a theory that is currently a ‘hot topic’ in ecology. – Palmer – T 12:30 – 1:30 (1 credit hour) [**CO-REQUISITE NOTE: Must be an honors student enrolled in BIOL 3034 for the Spring 2015 semester.**]

HONR 1000.709 - [6] **The Black Death: Catastrophe and its Effects** — Honors students will meet regularly to discuss a selection of readings of short historical documents from John Aberth, *The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350. A brief history with documents.* (Bedford St Martin’s, 2005) Each meeting will ask students to discuss readings on a particular theme, building a complex understanding of the event’s causes and historical context, diverse reactions and long-term effects. These will include medical causes and the struggle to treat the plague, religious explanations and resulting apocalyptic movements, economic impact of the plague and measures such as quarantine, and the scapegoating of minority groups. Students will also be encouraged to engage in limited comparative analysis, including modern outbreaks of the bubonic plague, and monitoring the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa.— Graham — M 2:30-3:20 (1 credit hour) [**CO-REQUISITE NOTE: Must be an honors student enrolled in HIST 1613 or HIST 3233 for the Spring 2015 semester.**]

HONR 1000.710 – [6] **Ecology and Evolution of Plant Interactions** – Plants are involved in a myriad of interactions with other organisms. We will examine the mutualisms and antagonisms between plants and their animal, fungal, and microbial partners and explore the evolutionary adaptations of plants to these interactions. Through weekly class discussions of scientific papers and popular news items, students will summarize key scientific findings, evaluate the science represented in the news, interpret data, and synthesize scientific information on the evolutionary ecology of species interactions. We will also explore how ongoing global change is effecting plant ecological interactions, such as decline of pollinating insects and introductions of pest species in croplands, and how these changes may influence humanity. – Steets – M 3:30 - 4:20 (1 credit hour) [**CO-REQUISITE NOTE: Must be an honors student enrolled in BOT 1404 for the Spring 2015 semester.**]