

## Fall 2017 Honors Courses

### Honors 201, Perennial Questions (3 Hours Credit)

**HON 201 HA                      God & Evolution                      TH 2:00 – 3:15                      Dr. Matthew Lee**

Course meets these requirements:

- Counts as 1 of 2 required Honors core courses OR 3 of 9 required elective hours AND
- Counts as one of three Foundations F4a course requirements

Course description: This course addresses the perennial question "Where did we come from?" A common religious answer, from ancient times to the present, is "God created us." A contemporary scientific answer is "We are a product of biological evolution." Three main options present themselves: (a) maintain belief in God and reject biological evolution, (b) maintain belief in evolution and reject the existence of God, or (c) synthesize belief in God with the modern theory of biological evolution. In this course we explore perspectives from which one might find resources to choose between these options.

**HON 201 HB                      The Good Life                      MWF 11:00 – 11:50                      Dr. Coleman Fannin**

Course meets these requirements:

- Counts as 1 of 2 required Honors core courses OR 3 of 9 required elective hours AND
- Counts as one of three Foundations F4a course requirements

Course description: Aristotle famously argued that most people agree that the highest good is happiness or "the good life" but disagree about the nature of happiness. Rather than despair at this situation, he also argued that people can know the good to some extent by acquiring virtue, both moral and intellectual. In spite of differences with respect to the particulars, Western thought generally accepted these arguments until the modern period, when they came under increasing scrutiny. In this course we will critically examine this history and the question of the good life itself by reading and discussing texts in which influential thinkers address this question as well as a host of related philosophical and theological questions.

### Honors 203, Institutions, Society & the Self (3 Hours Credit)

**HON 203 HA    Democracy & Its Friendly Critics    TH 12:30 – 1:45    Dr. Michael Bailey**

Course meets these requirements:

- Counts as 1 of 2 required Honors core courses OR 3 of 9 required elective hours AND
- Counts as one of three Foundations F4c course requirements

Course description:  
America's leading statesmen such as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson,

Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt understood that popular government is extremely difficult to sustain. They understood what we largely have forgotten: Democracy, like all forms of government, comes with its own set of challenges and pathologies. These lessons about democracy are best expressed by Alexis de Tocqueville, a critic, albeit a friendly one, of American democracy who thoughtfully and forcefully articulated the dangers facing the emerging democratic world. This course will use Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* to illustrate the perpetual issues and problems of democracy—many of which are still very real despite our being blind to them—and we will also draw on works of literature, philosophy, film, and theology to give concrete meaning to these problems as they are manifested in American political and social life.

## **Honors 205, Scientific Approach to Contemporary Challenges (4 hours credit)**

**HON 205 HA**

**Are We Alone? TH 9:30 – 10:45, Lab M 1-3 PM  
Dr. Todd Timberlake**

Course meets these requirements:

- Counts as 1 of 2 required Honors core courses OR 4 of 9 required elective hours AND
- Counts as one of two Foundations F4d course requirements

Course description: The question of the existence of extraterrestrials, and particularly intelligent extraterrestrials, is a perennial one. It is not a product of the twentieth century, as many believe. Rather, this question has a history in Western culture that stretches back at least to Ancient Greece. In this course we will explore the history of the debate over extraterrestrial life, from its earliest manifestations to its emergence in the twentieth century as one of the central questions of our time, and a question that might at last lie within our reach. We will examine the current scientific evidence and arguments for and against the existence of intelligent extraterrestrial life, as well as the practical difficulties of establishing contact with aliens (much less meeting them!). Finally, we will see that whether intelligent extraterrestrials exist or not, they are already firmly established among us in our religion, literature, film, and other aspects of human culture.

## **RHW 102, The Rhetoric of Analysis & Argumentation, Honors (4 Hours Credit)**

**RHW 102 H section A**      **First Yr. Seminar in Writing**      **TH 8:00 – 9:15, M 8-8:50**  
**Dr. Tina Bucher**

**RHW 102 H section B**      **First Yr. Seminar in Writing**      **TH 9:30–10:45, M 9-9:50**  
**Dr. Tina Bucher**

Course meets these requirements:

- Counts as 4 of 9 required Honors elective hours AND
- Counts as one of two Foundations F1 course requirements

Course description: Honors RHW102 will focus on intensive practice in effective argumentation, audience awareness and rhetorical techniques, and assessment and use of credible sources in one's own writing. After a series of common assignments, students will choose an independent research project for the term that is tailored to their own academic interests. This is not a lecture course, for no effective writing course can be. It will be grounded in the process of writing with significant emphasis on revision. Discussion, daily

writing practice, workshopping, peer review, and individual and group conferences with the instructor are the means by which we'll work on your development as a writer.

## **ECO 150, Wealth & Poverty of Nations, Honors (3 Hours Credit)**

**ECO 150 H Section A    Wealth & Poverty of Nations    MWF 11:00-11:50**  
**Dr. Lauren Heller**

Course meets these requirements:

- Counts as 3 of 9 required Honors elective hours AND
- Counts as one of three Foundations F4c course requirements
- May count toward any major in the Business school when paired with ECO 202

Course description: This course will introduce students to the “big questions” surrounding wealth and poverty both internationally and domestically. In doing so, the course will critically examine market and government mechanisms for the production and distribution of resources. This examination will also include a variety of topics that are key components of the discussion of wealth and poverty, including economic growth, unemployment, inequality and income mobility, immigration, international trade, and sustainable development. As an honors course, this course will also include an emphasis on discussion of contrasting viewpoints, readings from sources other than a traditional textbook, and responses to course content through a variety of writing assignments.