

## **Honors College Course Descriptions Fall 2024**

### **Honors 176: Inquiries in the Physical Sciences (section 1, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** Tuesday 3:30-6pm

**Instructor:** David Largent

**Course Title:** **Computer Science and Algorithms to Live By**

**Course CRN:** 35666

**Course Description:** The major purposes of this course are to help you understand what algorithms are, how they work, and that they exist in your life. What you learn here can apply to virtually any activity you participate in, whether that be in your professional or private life. This course provides a broad survey of computer science including its history, applications, programming languages, and computer architecture. A strong emphasis will be placed on algorithms and the relationships of computer science to human concerns and society, including the social and ethical consequences raised by the application of technology in contemporary society. Class time will be split between small and large group discussions and small group activities that reinforce the course topics. *This course will be of particular interest to anyone curious about how algorithms exist in their life. No prior knowledge of algorithms or computer science is needed or expected.*

### **Honors 178: Inquiries in the Life Sciences (section 1, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** T/Th 9:30-10:45

**Instructor:** Bridget Lester

**Course Title:** **Movement for Health and Wellness**

**Course CRN:** 35669

**Course Description:** While it is commonly recognized that regular physical activity and exercise promotes optimal health and wellness, most people of industrialized societies do not get the recommended amount of daily activity. This course will examine the science behind the extensive health benefits to a physically active lifestyle. Furthermore, we will explore the obstacles that modern day people face causing these daily physical activity recommendations to be difficult to meet. We will approach the topic of movement for health and wellness in light of evolution. For humans to thrive as a species, physical activity was essential. We will compare hunter-gatherer societies to industrialized societies to gain an understanding of how modern-day living has changed our needs to be physically active. We will discuss misconceptions about physical activity prevalent in the media. Our mission is to compassionately approach strategies to promote a physically active lifestyle. The focus is on seeking joy and meaning in this lifestyle.

### **Honors 179: Inquiries in Science and Society (section 1, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** T/Th 11-12:15

**Instructor:** Bridget Lester

**Course Title:** **The Impact of Scientific Innovation on Human Health and Longevity**

**Course CRN:** 35671

**Course Description:** Over the last 120 years, scientific innovations have allowed human lifespan to dramatically increase. This course will explore the ways that science and society converged to increase human longevity, including challenges people faced to establish new ways

of living and ethical tragedies that shaped how human research is performed. Furthermore, the course will also discuss emerging scientific innovations, such as advancements in biotechnology and artificial intelligence, that will strongly impact human health in the years to come. Finally, the impact of modern science on society will be related to the major themes of the classic novel, *Frankenstein*. *This course will be of particular interest to students who enjoy the intersection of Science and Humanities.*

**Honors 189: Inquiries in Global Studies: (sections 2 and 3, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** Tuesday/Thursday, 8-9:15 (section 2) and Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-10:45 (section 3)

**Instructor:** Galit Gertsenzon

**Course Title:** **The Intertwined Relationships Between Music & Politics Around the World**

**Course CRN:** 26963 (section 2), 25544 (section 3)

**Course Description:** Throughout history and across the globe, the human impulse toward music-making has engendered continuing controversies over its use in times of peace and conflict. From Beethoven to Beyoncé, music is an expression of power, persuasion, resistance, and revolt. This course examines the role that music plays in our individual and collective experiences and considers the intersectional relationship between music and politics. We look at national anthems and identity, protest music, propaganda, and war (past and present). With particular emphasis on regions outside of North America and Western Europe, we aim to broaden the scope of global inquiry beyond the familiar: presenting cultural and socio-political landscapes in China, North and South Korea, the Middle East (Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran), Russia, and Ukraine.

*This course will be of particular interest to College of Fine Arts students and any students with an interest in music and performance.*

**Honors 189: Inquiries in Global Studies (section 4, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** T/Th 12:30-1:45

**Instructor:** Jane Anyango and Kalyn Renbarger

**Course Title:** **Rural Healthcare in Uganda and Implications on Community Health**

**Course CRN:** 26639

**Course Description:** This course provides an interprofessional overview of major aspects of rural healthcare in Uganda. In this course, we will explore the systems in place to address rural health care in Uganda with a focus on community health. We will explore the rural healthcare needs of the people of Bwindi, how those healthcare needs are being addressed, and what needs to be further addressed. Based on scholarly research, primary texts, guest speakers, and media from Uganda, this course examines the Bwindi School of Nursing & Bwindi Community Hospital's historical background, language, religious beliefs, customs, medical practices, health care provider training programs, and social practices. This course explores the different aspects (i.e., social, geographical, economic, and political settings) that contributed to the development of the Bwindi School of Nursing & Bwindi Community Hospital. We aim to expand global inquiries to investigate rural healthcare in a non-Western culture. *Students in the College of Health who complete this course may be eligible to apply for a Study Abroad experience in Bwindi, Uganda. Students in Nursing, Pre-Med, African American Studies, Anthropology, and any student with global and community health interests.*

**Honors 189: Inquiries in Global Studies (section 6, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** MWF 12-12:50

**Instructor:** Molly Ferguson

**Course Title:** **Folklore and the Power of Stories**

**Course CRN:** 22239

**Course Description:** Folklore and the power of stories: This course will take an interdisciplinary approach to folklore and the ways in which cultures make meaning through storytelling. We will explore how folktales and urban legends are adapted to express contemporary anxieties and build community values. Beginning with Irish folklore traditions such as the banshee, the selkie, and the changeling, this course will move on to student projects that research folklore in other cultures, such as African, Scandinavian, and Caribbean folktales. We will read literature adapting folktales for today, watch films, and reach out to elders to record tales from our own communities. Students will do archival research in the Irish Folklore Collection online (on [duchas.ie](http://duchas.ie)), and we will visit the [IU Folklore Collection](#). By the end of the course, each student will be able to synthesize research on a folktale as emergent from a specific cultural context, and to interpret why it persists in that culture. *This course will be a good fit for students interested in world cultures, history, anthropology, gender studies, and literature.*

**Honors 199: Inquiries in Contemporary American Civilization (section 1A, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** T/Th 9:30-10:45

**Instructor:** Gabriel Tait

**Course Title:** **Introduction to African American Studies**

**Course CRN:** 22243

**Course Description:** In Lerone Bennett Jr.'s *Before the Mayflower* he observes, "Historians and history books are historical. They are products of history. They are born at a certain time." This Honors 199/African American Studies 100 takes an interdisciplinary approach to guide students as we examine and discuss this complex history and those who have made significant contributions to *Black Culture in America*. In this introductory course, students will explore the Black Cultural contributions to history, literature, music, art, and a myriad of other significant areas while gaining a foundation to appreciate the importance of Black Culture and its contributions to America. *For students pursuing the African American Studies minor, this course counts as AFAM 100: Introduction to African American Studies and HONR 199. This course is also open to students; no prior knowledge is necessary.*

**Honors 199: Inquiries in Contemporary American Civilization (section 2, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** MWF 9-9:50

**Instructor:** Bruce Geelhoed

**Course Title:** **From the Ball Family to the Kennedys: American Families in the Modern Age**

**Course CRN:** 22244

**Course Description:** For this semester, the course will revolve around a theme of family and history where we will try to reach an understanding of how the family has influenced American social, political, and economic life. In that respect, we will discover how the actions of several prominent families, including the Ball family, the family of Audrey Hepburn, and the Kennedys, as well as the families of Dorothy Vaughn, Katherine Goble Johnson, and Mary Jackson from

Margot Shetterly's book *Hidden Figures* have played major roles in the unfolding of recent American history. We will focus on the importance of brothers and sisters in each family and how their interactions influenced the wider society. Finally, we will also discover a more important fact: that the family, our culture's most basic social unit, is also a vehicle for the transmission of power throughout the various institutions of modern society. *This course will be of particular interest to History majors and minors.*

**Honors 199: Inquiries in Contemporary American Civilization (section 4, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** T/Th 2-3:15

**Instructor:** Robin Blom

**Course Title:** **The Honors of the Nobel Peace Prize**

**Course CRN:** 22246

**Course Description:** Martin Luther King Jr., Jane Addams, Barack Obama, and Jimmy Carter all have in common that they were awardees of the Nobel Peace Prize, one of the world's most prestigious honors. It is awarded annually "to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses." The Norwegian Nobel Committee receives hundreds of nominations each year. Students in this class will decide who they will nominate for the next Nobel Peace Prize. The course will first examine the history of the Nobel Peace Prize, including all American recipients of the Prize, as well as some of the committee's most controversial decisions. Afterward, students develop criteria to assess the prospects of potential nominees from the United States and abroad. On December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death, after the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize recipient(s) is (are) announced earlier that day, the class will decide upon its nominee for next year's honors.

**Honors 199: Inquiries in Contemporary American Civilization (section 5, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** T/Th 9:30-10:45

**Instructor:** Brandon Waite

**Course Title:** **1968**

**Course CRN:** 22247

**Course Description:** The year 1968 is widely considered to be one of the most turbulent and traumatic years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was marked by historic achievements, shocking assassinations, a devastating war, and a spirit of rebellion that swept the world. In this course we explore the issues, people, organizations, events, and cultural artifacts of 1968. Our purpose is not only to better understand the events that took place during that tumultuous year, but also to reflect on how the motifs that defined 1968 – liberation, egalitarian inclusiveness, and participatory openness – continue to affect our current political climate and cultural zeitgeist.

**Honors 199: Inquiries in Contemporary American Civilization (section 7, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** MWF 8-8:50

**Instructor:** Jason Powell

**Course Title:** **American Consumerism**

**Course CRN:** 26966

**Course Description:** Much of American society is defined by consumerism. We consume money, things, relationships, status, ideas, performance, busyness, worldviews, etc. But is consuming the best way to live? What are the perils to unbridled consumerism that we face as a country? As individuals? This course looks at the historical, economic, and cultural structure of American consumerism and also seeks to offer alternative ways to understanding what it means to be an authentic individual in a consumer-based society.

**Honors 201: Inquiries in Earliest Cultures to ca. 500 CE (section 1, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** MWF 9-9:50

**Instructor:** Jason Powell

**Course Title:** **Ancient Selves and Societies**

**Course CRN:** 22248

**Course Description:** Please join us in this course as we explore some of the foundational personal, social, religious, and cultural ideas of the ancient world. We will traverse beauty, honor, and family in *The Ramayana*, look at the problem of suffering and enlightenment with The Buddha, examine the richness of the moral life in the ancient Hebrew Bible, and pay attention to the Greeks and Romans regarding what it means to live well, indeed, what it means to live tragically and beautifully. All of these ideas are still with us today, and the goal of this course is to weave these separate threads together into a rich tapestry of what it means to be a human being, then and now.

**Honors 201: Inquiries in Earliest Cultures to ca. 500 CE (section 2, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** T/Th 9:30-10:45

**Instructor:** Alex Kaufman

**Course Title:** **Food and Feast**

**Course CRN:** 22250

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the literature, culture, religion, and art of the ancient world. Two key elements of the human experience then and today are the food and feasting. What we eat and how we eat it says much about ourselves and our place in the world. For this section of HONR 201, we will examine the ways in which food and feasting play a significant role in the cultures that the texts, authors, and subjects inhabit. Over the course of this class, we will explore food and feasts as symbolic entities, ritualistic objects and events, instruments of ideology and power, markers of class and etiquette, and as examples of material culture. *This course will be of particular interest to students who enjoy global literature, art, philosophy, religions, and food cultures.*

**Honors 201: Inquiries in Earliest Cultures to ca. 500 CE (section 3, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** T/Th 9:30-10:45

**Instructor:** Beth Dalton

**Course Title:** **Golden Ages**

**Course CRN:** 22252

**Course Description:** In this class, we will read literature and discuss art from the earliest flowerings of civilization in Sumeria, Greece, Rome, India, and China. Each of these ancient

civilizations experienced a golden age of cultural and technological excellence that reverberates through our lives even today. We will read, discuss and write about a selection of epics, lyric poetry, and drama. In addition, we will explore the visual arts produced by each of these civilizations. As we do so, we will continue to ask those Enduring Questions: What is the purpose of art and literature? Who is it for? What does it reflect about the original culture, and what does it mean for us today? *This course will be of particular interest to students who love stories and storytelling, creative writing, history, classics, and the visual arts*

**Honors 201: Inquiries in Earliest Cultures to ca. 500 CE (section 4 and 5, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** T/Th 11-12:15 (section 4); 12:30-1:45 (section 5)

**Instructor:** Bart Huelsenbeck

**Course Title:** **Wisdom and her daughters**

**Course CRN:** 22254 (section 4); 22255 (section 5)

**Course Description:** “It is bad when one thing becomes two.” The focus of these sections of HONR 201 is wisdom. Ancient stories often communicate hard-won lessons. They aim to teach. They pass down knowledge for the ages. In early antiquity, this kind of wisdom is all-embracing—touching on subjects as diverse as philosophy, science, religion, and the arts. Over time, the pursuit of wisdom becomes more systematic and specialized. A wisdom that was once one thing becomes many. In this course, we will explore the evolution of wisdom as expressed in stories, religious and philosophical texts, and other media. Some of our themes and questions: What are the results, both positive and negative, of wisdom’s evolution? How do we define knowledge? How should it be used and communicated? *This course will be of particular interest to students who love stories and storytelling, poetry, philosophy, creative writing, language, history, anthropology, classics.*

**Honors 201: Inquiries in Earliest Cultures to ca. 500 CE (section 6, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** MWF 9-9:50

**Instructor:** Beth Dalton

**Course Title:** **Golden Ages**

**Course CRN:** 26503

**Course Description:** : In this class, we will read literature and discuss art from the earliest flowerings of civilization in Sumeria, Greece, Rome, India, and China. Each of these ancient civilizations experienced a golden age of cultural and technological excellence that reverberates through our lives even today. We will read, discuss and write about a selection of epics, lyric poetry, and drama. In addition, we will explore the visual arts produced by each of these civilizations. As we do so, we will continue to ask those Enduring Questions: What is the purpose of art and literature? Who is it for? What does it reflect about the original culture, and what does it mean for us today? *This course will be of particular interest to students who love stories and storytelling, creative writing, history, classics, and the visual arts.*

**Honors 202: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 500 to ca. 1800 CE (section 1, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** T/Th 3:30-4:45

**Instructor:** Brent Blackwell

**Course Title: “Conquerors and the Conquered: ‘Could it ever have been different?’”**

**Course CRN:** 22260

**Course Description:** This section of 202 will explore the evolution of the western Enlightenment—the multicultural, multi-century spanning ideology that championed individual liberty and religious tolerance. While certainly a noble goal, the mixed effects of the Western Enlightenment ultimately created systems of conquest, oppression, and intolerance as well. This course will explore this *grand récit*, as Jean-François Lyotard calls it, in art, architecture, music, literature, philosophy, astronomy, religion, economics, criminal justice, and even mathematics and from its closeted origins in medieval monasteries to its eventual rebirth in the Renaissance to its triumph in the Baroque idea of *quadratura*. But we will also explore the margins and footnotes of this “major” narrative to uncover the many “minor” narratives that became lost and buried under the weight of the former, including the work of marginalized groups like women, Jews, homosexuals, indigenous peoples, and heretics—groups one and all who were sacrificed in some significant way in this crucible of reason. *The course will be of particular interest to students interested in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), especially with regards to race, sex, and/or sexual orientation. Also, this course will be of particular interest to students who feel an affinity for many different disciplines at once, from art to science and from music to mathematics.*

**Honors 202: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 500 to ca. 1800 CE (section 3, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** MWF 9-9:50 [pending English schedule]

**Instructor:** Matt Hartman

**Course Title: *Journeys and the Meaning of Life***

**Course CRN:** 28928

**Course Description:** I've organized this course around the theme of journeys, both actual and imagined. Journeys not only provide occasions for self-discovery and encounters with others, they can serve as metaphors for life itself. Throughout the course, we will compare texts from different cultural traditions and time periods. For instance, we will compare the spiritual journeys recounted in *The Conference of the Birds* by the Sufi poet Farid ud-Din Attara (Persia) and *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, by the Japanese poet Basho. We will also compare the heroic journeys recounted in the Germanic epic *Beowulf* (England) and the West African epic of *Sunjata* (Mali Empire). Our academic journey will extend beyond literature to include a musical sojourn through the classical symphonies of Mozart and Beethoven, as well as a virtual journey into the past through a role-playing game about art, architecture, and humanism in Renaissance Italy.

**Honors 203: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 1800 CE to the Present (section 1, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** MWF 12-12:50

**Instructor:** Amy Bosworth

**Course Title: *You're Reading What?***

**Course CRN:** 22265

**Course Description:** What makes a particular work of fiction “great art,” a story worth celebrating with accolades and awards? Why do critics and society often ignore “popular” books and movies, relegating them to mindless entertainment with no cultural value? This semester we will explore several often-maligned literary genres - science fiction, horror, and romance. The

course will start with two 19th-century classics, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, and then explore a variety of contemporary works (written and visual) that consider themes such as identity, humanity, love, friendship, and family but through the lens of non-prestige media. (Think "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" rather than BBC's 6-episode miniseries "Pride and Prejudice.") Can we grapple with issues of gender and class while also fighting the undead? Is it possible to find your true self while also fighting malicious AI in the farthest reaches of space? ***This course will be of interest to those students with an interest in popular literature and/or film, majors in the humanities, and Women's and Gender Studies, and anyone who loves to read and/or watch movies.***

**Honors 203: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 1800 CE to the Present (section 2 and 3, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** MWF 9-9:50 (section 2); MWF 10-10:50 (section 3)

**Instructor:** Timothy Berg

**Course Title:** **Creative Acts/Creative Lives**

**Course CRN:** 35728 (section 2); 22267 (section 3)

**Course Description:** This course examines a range of creative acts by creative people who were, for various reasons, at odds with their cultures or who felt out of step with their times. Whether creating as a means of self-understanding, social commentary, resistance, or for obscure personal reasons, their creations – in visual art, literature, music, and other arenas – offer insights into how to be truly human. Both provocative and inspiring, the artists we'll explore challenge our notions of how the world is, what it should be, and how we should be in it. These artists, inhabiting a wide variety of social identities and positions (race, gender, sexual-orientation, class, nationalities, etc.), offer us examples of creative survival in good times and bad, with lessons for us all about what matters and why and how we should live. We will utilize a variety of approaches – close looking, creative writing, and intense discussion, along with space to explore our own personal interests and connections in order to help us build our own strategies for creative work and life. ***This course is especially suited for students with interests in art and design, literature, exploring frequently marginalized voices, and in nurturing their own creativity.***

**Honors 203: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 1800 CE to the Present (section 5, 3 credits)**

**Course Day/Time:** MWF 10-10:50

**Instructor:** Pete Davis

**Course Title:** **Death Match: Science vs. The World!!!**

**Course CRN:** 22269

**Course Description:** As we move into, and through, the 20th century, the sociological and philosophical conflicts that are created by the continued advancement of the scientific method only intensify. In addition to reading some of the major works of this era, we will have a particular focus on horror movies from the middle of the 20th century and explore the ethical concerns and fears that are illuminated by the struggle created between science and a world previously dominated by less rigorous systems of thought. ***This course will be of particular interest to students interested in the ways scientific thought is represented through the humanities, as well as students interested in early horror films and the philosophical implications of fictional monsters.***



