

COLLEGE HONORS PROGRAM - HON

HON 101 Honors English 3 Credits

Various literary genres. Works by writers representing a wide variety of places, times, nationalities, and philosophies. Student's writing refined through these readings and composition assignments.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: fall.

HON 105 Disease, Health, and Medicine in America 3 Credits

This interdisciplinary course traces the history of disease, health, and medicine from Columbus' deadly times to the current threats of a Zika epidemic, lead poisoning from contaminated water, and Buffalo's heroin crisis. Students will learn about modern medical miracles and horrifying medical experiments, visit the Museum of disABILITY History, conduct research on an area of personal interest, and hear from an addiction expert.

The theory behind this course is the way that we define and treat disease reflects contemporary historical events and our social and cultural values, as well as existing science, education, economics, and technology. Fulfills either the History, Science/Math/Tech, or Social Science requirement in Honors. It also fulfills the American Experience requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: summer.

HON 108 The Rise, Fall, & Rebirth of Buffalo 3 Credits

This interdisciplinary course focuses on the rich history, architecture, and culture of Buffalo, New York, known as the Queen City of the Lakes and the City of No Illusions. Through a Place as Text approach, we will visit architectural gems by Sullivan, Richardson, Wright, and Green; Millionaires' Row on Delaware Ave.; organized crime sites; the Colored Musicians' Club; and Buffalo's revived waterfront. Fulfills either the History or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: summer.

HON 110 Western Tradition I 3 Credits

Introduces students to significant intellectual and material elements of Western Civilization from the Ancient World through the Middle Ages. Through an interdisciplinary approach, this course investigates the presumptions, motivations, and expectations of westerners in order to ascertain what is peculiarly 'western' about the world in which we live and think.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: fall.

HON 111 Western Tradition II 3 Credits

Introduces students to significant intellectual and material elements of Western Civilization since the Renaissance. Through an interdisciplinary approach, this course investigates the presumptions, motivations, and expectations of westerners in order to ascertain what is peculiarly 'western' about the world in which we live and think. HON 110 is not a prerequisite.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: spring only.

HON 211 Masters of the Modern Mind: Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud 3 Credits
Careful study of major works by these seminal thinkers and an analysis of their influence on modern thought. Fulfills the Philosophy requirement in Honors.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 212 Beauty Matters: Philosophical Considerations of Beauty from Ancient Times to the Present Day 3 Credits

An examination of the nature and importance of beauty as an aesthetic principle and as a source of value for our lives. The course covers issues of beauty and the sublime in ancient and early modern times, but focuses on philosophical literature on beauty from the last few decades, often focusing on issues related to gender and race. Fulfills the Philosophy requirement in Honors.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 214 Sights & Sounds: Philosophy, Music, Film 3 Credits

An introduction to the philosophy of music and to the philosophy of film. Students need have no special knowledge of music or film, but should have an interest in listening to music and watching film. The first half of the course will explore philosophical readings that focus on different aesthetic characterizations of music and various debates that have followed philosophical theories in formalism and expression accounts. While the debates often originated in eras before the popular music of the 20th century, students are encouraged to apply these views to the wide range of their personal listening habits and to share them with the group. The second half will explore philosophical readings on film and delve into common debates in which philosophers have engaged regarding contemporary film, including questions about its nature, whether films have authors, how film engages our emotions, and what relationship film has to ethics, criticism, and knowledge. Fulfills either the Philosophy or Fine Arts requirement in Honors.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 215 Death and Dying 3 Credits

This course offers an opportunity for reflective examination on death and dying. We all are going to die, but many of us prefer not to think about it. This course tries to rectify that circumstance by considering the following questions: what is death? What does it mean to die well or to obtain a good death? Is death bad for the person who dies? Is it possible and/or desirable to defeat death? Is an immortal life a good human life? How should human beings view death? How can we best honor and remember the dead? What makes killing "wrong" in cases such as abortion, euthanasia, or suicide? This course will lean heavily on philosophy, but will be fundamentally interdisciplinary, drawing on sociology, psychology, theology, and the natural sciences.

HON 216 Honors Philosophy 3 Credits

Selected topics in philosophical inquiry, such as rationalism, empiricism, epistemology or metaphysics. Fulfills the Philosophy requirement in Honors.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 217 Cities, Suburbs, and Spaces**3 Credits**

This course examines the 'built' environment of human beings, such as parks, bedrooms, churches, sidewalks, streets, and transportation systems, in order to determine what kinds of cities, suburbs, and spaces can best contribute to human flourishing. Fulfills the Philosophy or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 218 Intellectual History of the West**3 Credits**

This course takes a historical approach to introduce the main ideas of the principal philosophers and thinkers of Western civilization from the beginnings in ancient Greece to the 20th century. Fulfills either the History or Philosophy requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 219 Revolutions of the West**3 Credits**

This new interdisciplinary course treats the political philosophy and patterns of the four main revolutions in the West, namely, the French Revolution (1789-1799) and its legacy, the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), the Russian Revolution (1917), and the Cuban Revolution (1953-1959). We will also examine the views of seminal thinkers whose writings inspired these revolutions, including John Locke, Jean Jacques Rousseau, Karl Marx, and Vladimir Lenin. The nature of revolutions and the profound social and cultural changes wrought by these pivotal upheavals will also be considered. Fulfills either the History, Philosophy, or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness attribute. Offered: Occasional.

HON 222 History & Literature of the American Civil War**3 Credits**

This course will study the various historical reasons for the Civil War, including the social, cultural, and political contexts of 19th-century America, and the literature it produced. We will compare celebrated works, such as Uncle Tom's Cabin, with lesser-known authors, and question if the 'real war' is indeed in these books. Fulfills either the History or Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 223 Religion, Politics, & the Presidency**3 Credits**

This course will begin with the Puritan notion of American exceptionalism, and then turn to the religious thinking of the Founding Fathers who drafted the First Amendment. Among other topics, the course will look at several presidential elections, the adoption of religious mottos, the rise of conservative religious groups that promoted political action, and the debate over hot-button issues, such as immigration, school prayer, abortion, and same-sex marriage. Anticipated class activities include an election night party. Fulfills either the History, Religious Studies, or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 224 Disease, Health, and Medicine in America**3 Credits**

Treats life and death issues--literally--from the deadly smallpox brought by Columbus to the bio-terrorism of today. The theory of this course is that the way Americans define and treat disease reflects contemporary historical events and our social and cultural values, as well as the existing science, education and technology. Fulfills either the History, Science/Math/Tech, or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: once a year.

HON 226 African-American Lives & Culture**3 Credits**

This interdisciplinary course will focus on the lives of representative African Americans; consider several aspects of African-American culture, including history, literature, religion and music; and provide co-curricular opportunities. The course will conclude with a consideration of the claim that America has become a post-racial society. Fulfills either the History, Religious Studies, Literature, or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience or Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 227 Vices and Addictions in American Society**3 Credits**

Explains and analyzes the impact of vices and addictions on American daily life and leisure, disease and treatment, the economy, government policies, and reform crusades. Some of the bad habits and addictions to be considered include tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and cocaine, prescribed drugs, coffee, chocolate, and sports betting. Fulfills either the History, Science/Math/Tech, or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: once a year.

HON 228 All-College Honors Program**3 Credits**

This course will begin with the 1948 United Nations declaration on genocide and, based on that document, will examine the many ways in which genocide was inflicted upon the indigenous peoples of the Americas, especially the Indians of North America. It will examine the nature and scope of the atrocities that were employed to carry out that genocide. It will also explore how race, religion, and sex contribute to genocide. Finally, it will examine the continuation of genocidal policies by the U.S. government and the long-lasting effects of those policies across generations to the present. Fulfills the History requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience or Diversity/Global Awareness attribute.

Offered: Occasionally.

HON 231 War & Peace since 9/11**3 Credits**

In exploring the nature of world politics and American foreign policy since 9/11, this course focuses on what the United States must do to maintain its traditional reserves of 'hard' and 'soft' power in an age of globalization and terrorism. Fulfills the Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

- HON 232 American Government: The User Guide** 3 Credits
Politics matters. It will significantly impact everyone, regardless of career path. This course will provide the basic tools that students will need to comprehend and effectively participate in American government. Topics will include the three branches of government, American federalism, elections, civil rights, civil liberties, taxes, and budgets. Fulfills the Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 238 The American Presidency** 3 Credits
Fulfills the Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 241 History of Judaism** 3 Credits
An introduction to the history, religion, and literature of Judaism from the ancient world to the present. Fulfills either the Religious Studies or History requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 242 Cultural Constructions of Jesus** 3 Credits
We will examine the various presentations of Jesus that have occurred in different historical and cultural contexts, beginning with the canonical Gospels. The course concludes with a survey of modern interpretations of Jesus: the American Jesus; the Jesus of Latin America, Asia, and Africa; and Jesus in modern literature and film. Fulfills the Religious Studies requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 245 Homeric Epic** 3 Credits
This course seeks to examine a series of questions prompted by Homer's Iliad and Odyssey and look at the broader consequences of those responses from antiquity to the present. It will also introduce the history and language of ancient Greece. No prior knowledge of Greek is required. Fulfills either the History or Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement. In addition, this course counts as one of the two required courses in foreign language.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 246 American Religions** 3 Credits
This course considers the history of American religions from pre-contact times to the present, It focuses on the evolution of religious faiths and religious ideologies as varying groups came into contact with one another, splintered off into new faith communities, and founded completely original systems of religious belief. Fulfills either the History or Religious Studies requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience or Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 247 Islam: Religion, History, and Culture** 3 Credits
A study of Islamic scriptures, Muslim cultures, social institutions, religious practices, and Muslim and Western writings to better understand Islam and Muslims in the U.S. and throughout the world. Fulfills either the Religious Studies, History, or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 248 Religions of the East** 3 Credits
In this class, we will survey some of the major religious traditions of East and South Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism. Particular attention is placed on historical and contemporary beliefs, practices, texts, and cultures, as well as their changes over time. Fulfills either the Religious Studies or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 249 Magic, Science, and Religion** 3 Credits
This course will consider diverse ways in which world cultures conceive, make use of, and tap into the realms of the extra- human. We will focus not only on 'exotic' societies and peoples, but also explore the meanings of magic, science and religion in more familiar contemporary North America. Fulfills either the Religious Studies or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 250 Caesar & Christ** 3 Credits
This course studies the early days of biography as a genre of Greek & Latin literature and its association with imperial and religious power. The course seeks to examine the characteristics of classical lives and Christian hagiography and to consider their influence on modern biography. Since biography generally places the character sketch within a chronological narrative, the course will examine the history of the Roman Empire, early Christendom, and the earliest days of the Holy Roman Empire, with particular focus on the developing struggle between secular and religious authority. The course will also introduce students to the Latin language. Fulfills either the History or Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement. In addition, this course counts as one of the two required courses in a foreign language.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 255 The Buffalo Experience** 3 Credits
This interdisciplinary course will focus on the history, architecture, and culture of Buffalo, New York, known variously as the 'Queen City of the Lakes' and the 'City of No Illusions.' There will be walking tours and cultural experiences to supplement classwork. Fulfills either the History, Social Science, or Religious Studies requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.

- HON 270 Psychobiography** 3 Credits
This course will provide a forum to understand the life of an individual, a literary figure, or a historical period through the use of psychological science. At the same time, it facilitates the critical evaluation of psychological theory by examining where theory and research work in real-world contexts. Fulfills Social Science or Science/Math/Tech requirement in Honors.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 316 Famous Jesuits** 3 Credits
Students will study the lives and works of famous Jesuits, starting with Ignatius Loyola, who founded the religious order that bears his name (Society of Jesus). The course will also look at Matteo Ricci's efforts to adapt Christianity to Chinese culture and several contemporary Jesuits, including Francis I, the first Jesuit pope. Fulfills the Religious Studies requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience or Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 321 Critical Issues in the History of Photography** 3 Credits
This seminar proposes to examine the long-standing critical issues surrounding the many discursive spaces (e.g., the museum, family scrapbook, illustrated press, and court of law) that photography occupies in our common (that is, shared) culture. Fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in Honors.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 322 Orchestral Music** 3 Credits
The course covers orchestral music from the 18th through the 20th centuries. Students will develop an understanding of the history of orchestral music as well as how it is structured, its general characteristics, and its social context.
Offered: Fall.
- HON 323 Opera** 3 Credits
Introduces students to opera. Students will develop an understanding of the aesthetics of opera by studying its elements, aspects of the operatic voice, the genre's history and examples of the art form in live and recorded performance. No previous musical knowledge or experience is required. Fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: spring.
- HON 324 The Symphony** 3 Credits
Introduces students to the symphony. Students will develop an understanding of the symphonic form from the classical period to the present through a study of major composers and their works. No previous musical knowledge or experience is required. Fulfills the Fine Arts requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: fall.
- HON 325 Art, Advertising, & Utopia** 3 Credits
This interdisciplinary seminar explores the social function of art. It emphasizes contemporary art practices, the effect of technology on art, and first-hand art 'experiences' by visiting artist studios and galleries. Using art as a vehicle for social change, students will develop aesthetic critiques pertinent to this age of images. Fulfills either the Fine Arts or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 345 Explorations in the Development of Mathematics** 3 Credits
Explores famous problems in mathematics to consider the role of culture in changing motivation, concept, and technique of influential mathematicians. Fulfills the Science/Math/Tech requirement in Honors.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 347 Mathematics: Patterns, Problems, & Puzzles** 3 Credits
Mathematical problems and puzzles can often be solved by investigating underlying patterns. This course analyzes such patterns in the mathematical fields of number theory, geometry (2D & 3D), and logic. The history of the mathematics (and the mathematicians) involved with these patterns, problems and puzzles will also be explored. Fulfills the Science/Math/Tech requirement in Honors.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 350 The Theory of Almost Everything** 3 Credits
Will develop an understanding of the state of modern, fundamental physics so that students gain a conceptual idea about the unification of all physical laws, including gravity, electromagnetism, and nuclear forces. The course is set at a level of the general public, with the bulk of the readings being science popularization. Fulfills the Science/Math/Tech requirement in Honors.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 352 Water and Society** 3 Credits
From the ongoing drought in California to the toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie, the importance of clean freshwater is gripping the headlines. In this class, we will explore the science, history, and politics of water resources in the U.S. We will also explore the science behind the hydrology and environmental quality of freshwater systems, delve into the history and politics of Western water law, understand how past water distributions have complicated efforts to deal with the current drought, look at ongoing controversies involving water use in the Great Lakes, and explore how changes in technology and society may lead to the sustainable use of this most limiting resource. Fulfills either the Science/Math/Tech or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.

- HON 354 Science in the 21st Century** 3 Credits
Topics include the technology gap, global warming, genetically modified foods, alternative fuels, global food security and environmental stewardship. The seminar will explore the scientific underpinnings of the scientific discussions of our time, focusing on science fact, societal needs (nutrition), environmental concerns, population density, and global moral responsibility. Students will read primary literature, watch media reports, and debate scientific topics. Fulfills either the Science/Math/Tech or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 356 Pope Francis: 21st-Century Thinker** 3 Credits
Pope Francis' recent visit to the U.S. revealed that he speaks to our times, as well as pointing us to the future. He embodies a new kind of religious life that is not locked into 20th-century Catholic issues like pre- and post-Vatican II. Likewise, he calls all people beyond the tired polarities of left vs. right wing, Western vs. non-Western, religious vs. spiritual, and so forth. To understand his theology and philosophy more deeply, we will consider Francis' two formal documents as pope, i.e., his 2013 apostolic letter *Evangelii Gaudium* and his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si*. We will also read his writings on spirituality and his fresh insights into the Ignatian way of life. Furthermore, we will see how his life story has shaped his message, via Austen Ivereigh's detailed and highly regarded biography. Finally, we will appreciate how the world of art and popular culture have responded to this compelling and inspiring leader. Fulfills either the Religious Studies or Philosophy requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 357 Global Pentecostalism** 3 Credits
Through the interdisciplinary lenses of history, theology, anthropology and sociology, this course examines the nature, history, and global manifestations of Pentecostalism--'The Third Force in Christianity.' Fulfills the Religious Studies or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 358 Women and Religion** 3 Credits
This course will analyze religion as it has affected the roles and status of women. We will examine four major religious traditions--Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism--as well as the modern Goddess movement. Each unit will consider gender within the historical development of the religion, as well as its effect on modern practices. Fulfills either the Religious Studies or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 359 Spiritual Autobiography** 3 Credits
Considers the characteristics and patterns of spiritual autobiographies, analyzes these texts within the historical, cultural and religious developments of each author's time period, and evaluates modern spiritual autobiographies for their connections to the students' own experiences. Sample autobiographies include those of Augustine of Hippo, Vera Brittain, John Bunyan, Edward Gosse, and Ignatius of Loyola. Fulfills either the Religious Studies or Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 360 Topics in Modern Christianity** 3 Credits
After a brief historical survey of the Christian tradition, we will explore issues in modern Catholicism. These include Vatican II, Liberation Theology, the priest sex scandal, the decline in Catholic allegiance in Latin America, the Charismatic movement, and the Francis Effect. Fulfills either the Religious Studies or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 363 The Bible & Popular Culture** 3 Credits
This class will examine pop culture references to the Bible, including those found in art, music, literature, television, film, and social media. We will critique these uses of the Bible and attempt to sort out their implications. Fulfills either the Religious Studies or Social Science requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 364 Living Religions in Buffalo** 3 Credits
Religious beliefs and practices play a significant role in the lives of many people around the world. Religious differences have also led to conflicts and problems. In this class, we will explore world religions through encounters with members of religious communities present in Buffalo.
- HON 370 Life-Writing: The Art of Biography** 3 Credits
This course will introduce students to classics in the genre of biography from the ancient world to the present, and explore the fundamental theoretical issues underlying the writing and reading of lives. Students will write both as critics and as biography. Fulfills the Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.
- HON 373 Living Writers** 3 Credits
An examination of contemporary literature written by published authors who will visit our class. We will pay special attention to how assigned books reflect and respond to particular contemporary realities, such as the trauma of war, cultural upheaval, spiritual crisis, racial tension, and the challenge of achieving intimacy in a technological world. Fulfills the Literature requirement in Honors.
Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.
Offered: occasionally.

HON 374 A Novel Nation: American Literature & Philosophy in the 19th Century 3 Credits

This team-taught course will explore major 19th-century American literary and philosophical movements, including romanticism, transcendentalism, sentimentalism, pragmatism, and realism. We will read a range of different genres, from essays, poems, novels, short stories, slave narratives, and memoirs, and see how literature and philosophy complement each other as disciplines and how they differ. Fulfills either the Literature or Philosophy requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 379 Remodeling Old Texts 3 Credits

This course will explore the phenomenon of adapting classic literary narratives to modern sensibilities in order to consider contemporary issues. More than simply 'updating' classic texts, these remodelings of texts attempt to elicit deeper understandings to give voice to marginalized characters, or to highlight truths embedded within the texts. Fulfills the Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 380 Modern American Novel 3 Credits

A general introduction to major American writers from 1920 to the present. Unlike traditional survey courses, this course will not be structured chronologically. Rather, we will explore authors in tandem, examining how different generations, genders, and ethnicities approach a similar topic.

We will, of course, deal with the historical, chronological inheritances inherent in the texts, but they will not be read in order. Fulfills the Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 381 Contemporary Literary Movements 3 Credits

We will examine four major literary movements of the last half of the 20th century, i.e., the Beat Generation, the Latin American Boom, Ethnic Minority literature, and Gay & Lesbian writing, focusing on two major writers from each movement. Fulfills the Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience or Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 382 Detective Fiction 3 Credits

Explores how detective fiction has evolved in various social, political, cultural, historical, and linguistic contexts from its American and British origins to a more global context. The course examines how the genre functions as social commentary in these contexts. Students will address various topics, especially the relationship that different cultures, societies, ethnicities, and other groups have toward the law and justice, which is distinctly different from Anglo-American jurisprudence. They will also explore how the social, cultural, and political realities of the American South and Southwest, Italy, Spain, the Caribbean, and Latin America, and their often repressive and violent histories, make detective fiction in these locales somewhat different than that experienced in mainstream markets in the U.S. and the UK. By studying theoretical perspectives, students will enhance their skills in literary analysis. Fulfills the Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience or Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 383 Rock & Roll and Literature 3 Credits

In this seminar, we will look at the literature of Rock & roll--fiction, poetry, memoir, and journalism--that addresses one of America's most loved musical forms. While our study will not be limited to American writing, we will explore the ways that Rock & Roll is particularly American. What exactly does Rock & roll bring to the listener, and is that more than just music?

We will consider the ways in which Rock & roll acts as a destructive and redemptive force, and the ways it interacts with gender and cultural identity. We will look at the "revolutionary spirit of rock and roll," as Patti Smith called it, and how it has been both a catalyst of change and a sign of it. We will be listening, too. Each work will have a soundtrack, so we will read the books in the context of their songs. As for writing assignments, students will produce analytical essays and other styles of writing about music. Fulfills the Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience attribute.

Offered: Occasional.

HON 384 American Immigrant Voices 3 Credits

In this literature course, we will explore contemporary American immigrant voices in fiction and poetry. We will look to answer several questions: What are the themes and preoccupations of contemporary American literature by and about immigrants? What similarities and differences might we see in the stories from writers who come from different countries? How is literature written by immigrants in America changing? What role do immigrant voices play in American literature as a whole? Selections from Junot Diaz, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, NoViolet Bulawayo, and Cohn Toibin. Fulfills the Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience or Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 385 Modern Myths and Fairy Tales 3 Credits

Students will explore the continuing influence of fairy tales and Greek and Roman myths on contemporary literature. In addition, we will consider the cultural contexts of the initial versions of the stories and their more recent retellings, and we will analyze the works from several critical standpoints, including historical and feminist. Fulfills the Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the Diversity/Global Awareness requirement.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 386 Rise of the American Novel 3 Credits

A study of the phenomenon of the American novel and its many characteristics and we will question the construction of a linear narrative of the novel's rise. Since the first American novel appeared in the same month as the nation's Constitution, we will look closely at the complex relationship between the novel and the nation. We will approach the novel as the place where American authors worked out and displayed their hopes and fears for the young republic. Thus, we will examine how authors use their novels to construct a national identity; to negotiate anxieties regarding who should and should not rule; to comment on the incorporation or exclusion of the non-English "other"; and to create proper gender, racial, and class rules for its new citizens. Restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 388 Major American Writers 3 Credits

This new course will serve as a general introduction to major American writers from colonial times to the present. As such, this course will be loosely organized around the theme of freedom, the quintessential myth of American identity. We will explore creative responses to the personal experience of oppression and resistance, particularly in relation to inequalities experienced because of race and gender. We will also examine the American experience in terms of religious and sexual freedom. The course will be particularly focused on what authors have to say about the nature of freedom, or its absence, and how to achieve it on an individual level. Fulfills the Literature requirement in Honors, as well as the American Experience attribute.

Offered: Occasional.

HON 393 Buffalo, a Literary City 3 Credits

Buffalo and its surrounding communities comprise one of the country's richest literary environments. Historically it shaped the lives and careers of Mark Twain and F. Scott Fitzgerald; over the last century, it gave a home to poets like Pulitzer Prize winner Carl Dennis, two-time Pulitzer nominee, National Book Award and Emmy Award winner Lucille Clifton, and influential modernists Robert Creeley and Charles Olson. Its outstanding prose writers include Joyce Carol Oates—long rumored to be a future Nobel Prize winner—historical fiction writer Lauren Belfer, young-adult author Connie Porter, Edgar Award winning mystery writer Gary Earl Ross, and journalist and memoirist Tim Russert. Join us for an examination of the work of the previously mentioned authors, along with some glimpses at the writing of several notable Canisius faculty and alums, writers for other media, and some of this area's up-and-coming literary artists.

HON 430 Tutorial 3 Credits

This course will be conducted as a tutorial in the Oxbridge (Oxford & Cambridge Universities) style, i.e., one or two students will meet with the instructor once weekly to discuss readings and write & revise papers. Interested students should contact the instructor for mutually agreeable topics.

Restriction: restricted to honors students or by permission of the honors director.

Offered: occasionally.

HON 451 Thesis 3 Credits

Independent research on topic selected by student, culminating in a research paper or creative writing project. Students work closely with their faculty advisers.

Restriction: junior or senior standing in the honors program.

Offered: fall & spring.

HON 499 Independent Study 3 Credits

Study and work with a faculty supervisor. Project to be determined by faculty agreement. Independent studies require an application and approval by the associate dean.

Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, department chair, & associate dean.