

HNRS Courses for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

HNRS 110 is open only to students admitted to the Honors Program

HNRS 240-271 are open to all Honors Program students as well as to any student with a GPA of 3.2 or higher.

HNRS 300 is open only to students admitted to the Honors Program who have completed all 100 and 200 level requirements.

Courses satisfying the global requirement are highlighted in orange.

Fall 2023

Section Name	Short Title	Days and Time	Faculty Name
HNRS-110-A	Heretics, Lunatics or Geniuses	MWF 08:30AM-09:30AM	Poli, DorothyBelle
The scientific method should allow us to come to conclusions without bias; however, culture influences how science progresses. Cultural needs (e.g., stem cells for healing, clean water, and fuel) dictate the direction of research and can shape whole decades and even centuries of inquiry (e.g. cancer and the “god” particle). How has science inquiry evolved? This course will examine the current level of American scientific literacy, the value of critical thinking, and how science challenges American values.			
HNRS-110-B	Narratives of Urban Space	MWF 09:40AM-10:40AM	McGraw, Kenneth
How do urbanites interact with urban space(s)? Urban space is not simply habitable space devoid of content or context dependent on its inhabitant’s comings and goings, but is instead a space that both affects and is affected by the individual. In other words, a city is never neutral. It is ever an actor and amplifier - of oppression, of power, of action. The course examines the specific and dynamic relationship between the city and its inhabitants. We will use a selection of narratives from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries in order to examine the dynamic ways authors represent the complex relationship between urban space and those who engage it. Our investigations will further trace this relationship between the city and its subjects across the narratives and spaces of class difference, ethnicity, gender, and other defining qualifications.			
HNRS-111-A	Portfolio Seminar I	M 02:20PM-3:20PM	Poli, DorothyBelle
HNRS-111-B	Portfolio Seminar I	M 02:20PM-3:20PM	McGraw, Kenneth
HNRS-113-A	Portfolio Seminar II	T 01:10PM-02:10PM	Brenzovich, Skip E.
HNRS-113-B	Portfolio Seminar II	W 02:20PM-03:20PM	Brenzovich, Skip E.
HNRS-113-C	Portfolio Seminar II	TH 10:10AM-11:10AM	Brenzovich, Skip E.
HNRS-250CH-A	Chemistry and Crime	MWF 08:30AM-09:30AM	Brenzovich, Skip E.
HNRS-250CHL-1	Chemistry and Crime Lab	W 02:20PM-05:20PM	Barshick, Christopher
HNRS-250CHL-2	Chemistry and Crime Lab	T 01:10PM-04:10PM	Livingston, Stephanie
HNRS-250CHL-3	Chemistry and Crime Lab	TH 08:30AM-11:30AM	Keithley, Richard
(Enroll in HNRS-250CH-A and your choice of lab section at the same time.)			
How can science, in general, and chemistry, more specifically, contribute to the investigation of crime? The evening news, the primetime TV lineup, and the local bookstore are all filled with examples of the work of forensic scientists. This course will emphasize fundamental chemical principles that allow us to understand the techniques used to analyze evidence from a crime scene. From bloodstains to drug identification to DNA fingerprinting, commonly employed techniques of the forensic scientist will be			

studied. In the laboratory, students will perform some of these same analyses used by professional criminologists to solve simulated crimes. Students will also use general chemistry principles to design their own analysis methods. Finally, the class will engage the Roanoke College community around the issue of alcohol use. In addition to learning about the chemistry and biochemistry of alcohol and about how technicians analyze alcohol levels in the blood, we'll research alcohol use and abuse at Roanoke and report our findings to the campus.			
HNRS-260PH-G	Global HIV/AIDS	TTH 08:30AM-10:00AM	Joyce, Jonathan
HIV/AIDS is a global biomedical epidemic, but how is it also a social and cultural disease? In highly developed nations, AIDS has become a treatable, though decidedly stigmatized infection. In much of the world, however, AIDS remains a death sentence, a path to orphan-hood, an economic and social disaster. We will begin with HIV/AIDS 101, and then move on to think about the disease from a sociological perspective. We will examine the social history of HIV/AIDS, including denial, fear, misinformation, discrimination, and in time, some positive turning points. We will study the ways inequality in sexuality, gender, social class, and race have allowed inequality to persist in prevention and treatment programs. We will read the voices of those living with HIV/AIDS. We will think about stigma and other processes as they affect individuals and institutions. Importantly, we will do all of these things on both a national and global scale.			
HNRS-270-A	What's True About the Bible?	TTH 10:10AM-11:40AM	Wisnefske, Ned
No book has had greater impact on Western civilization than the Bible, and no book has been more intensively analyzed. This course poses the question, "What's true about the Bible?" and helps students answer it by teaching them critical tools scholars have employed: historical and archaeological; literary--text, source, form, and redaction criticism; and theological. Students will learn to read biblical texts knowing their historical and literary background, and understanding their religious insights. They will then be able to enter into critical conversations concerning what biblical texts mean for us today.			
HNRS-271-A	Why Hitler?	MWF 09:40AM-10:40AM	Willingham, Robert
This course will ask the question: Why Hitler? Why did one of the most sophisticated nations in Europe follow one of the most murderous and hateful leaders in world history? German history, the legacies of the First World War, and the biography of the dictator himself will be examined to help students begin to form an answer to this question.			
HNRS-300-A	What Should We Eat?	MWF 08:30AM-09:30AM	Adkins, Brent
What should we eat? The question is unavoidable. It must be answered, yet a little reflection shows that answering the question involves us in a whole host of economic, moral, ethical, political, nutritional, cultural, religious, aesthetic, and environmental concerns. Furthermore, these concerns are often in tension with one another. The fact of the matter is, though, that we rarely engage in such reflection. Our food choices are the result of habit and inertia. Using the work of Aristotle and Spinoza we will analyze the role of habit in human experience. Then we will turn to recent work by Michael Pollan to see how wide-ranging factors limit our food choices and thus the type of habits we can develop.			

Spring 2024

The following courses are tentatively scheduled for Spring 2024. If you anticipate conflicts, please speak with your Honors advisor to develop a plan.

HNRS-112-A	Portfolio Seminar I		Poli, DorothyBelle
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HNRS-114-A	Portfolio Seminar II		Rahmoeller, Maggie
HNRS-120-A	Beyond Sustainability	MW 02:20PM-03:50PM	O'Neill, Katherine
HNRS-120-B	TBA	MWF 09:40AM-10:40AM	Garrison, Justin
HNRS-240-A	Statistics in an Online World	MWF 02:20PM-03:20PM	Childers, Adam
HNRS-251-A	Culinary Chemistry	MWF 12:00PM-01:00PM	Brenzovich, William
HNRS-270-G	The Maya World-Global	TTH 02:50PM-04:20PM	Flores-Silva, Dolores
HNRS-300-A	What Are the Chances?	TTH 10:10AM-11:40AM	Rahmoeller, Maggie