

Honors College Course Descriptions

Fall 2025

***Offered on a consistent basis.**

Community note: If you are not an Honors College student but would like to enroll in one of our courses, that's wonderful news. Please email Associate Dean Emily Ruth Rutter (errutter@bsu.edu) or honors@bsu.edu for permission.

Honors 101: Introduction to Honors Ways of Knowing (section 1, 3 credits)*

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

Instructor: Beth Dalton

Course Title: **Moonlight on the Wabash: An Exploration of the Hoosier State**

Course CRN: 37281

Course Description: An introductory course that provides students with an overview of honors education, interdisciplinary thinking, information literacy, and creative inquiry. The course introduces students to distinct modes and methods of knowledge production while also engaging students in the process of co-constructing knowledge from interdisciplinary perspectives. In this section of HONR 101 we will consider the ways in which Indiana occupies a unique place geographically, linguistically, and culturally. In this section of Honor 101, students will use a variety of disciplinary approaches to explore Indiana and its people, past and present. Through research, writing, classroom discussion, and collaboration, students will become acquainted (or reacquainted) with the Hoosier state, their new home. **Special permission required:** First-Year Signature Experience only (fulfills 1 HONR 390 course requirement).

Honors 101: Introduction to Honors Ways of Knowing (section 2, 3 credits)*

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

Instructor: Bridget Lester

Course Title: **The Meaning of Life**

Course CRN: 37282

Course Description: An introductory course that provides students with an overview of honors education, interdisciplinary thinking, information literacy, and creative inquiry. The course introduces students to distinct modes and methods of knowledge production while also engaging students in the process of co-constructing knowledge from interdisciplinary perspectives. This section of HONR 101 will explore the meaning of life through the lenses of various academic disciplines, such as science, philosophy, history, and business. Through engagement with scholarly works, classroom discussions, and collaborative activities, students will reflect on their own developing viewpoints. **Special permission required:** First-Year Signature Experience only (fulfills 1 HONR 390 course requirement).

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 179: Honors Introduction to Science and Society (sections 1, 2 and 3; 3 credits)*

Course Day/Time: Section 1: T/Th, 11-12:15; Section 2: M/W, 3-4:15; Section 3: T/Th, 12:30-1:45

Instructor: Bridget Lester

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

Course CRN: Section 1: 35671; Section 2: 35673; Section 3: 36759

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*.

Honors 189: Inquiries in Global Studies/Honors Introduction to Global and Social Issues (sections 1, 2, 3, and 880; 3 credits)*

Course Day/Time: Section 1: T/Th, 12:30-1:45; Section 2: T/Th, 2-3:15; Section 3: T/Th, 3:30-4:45; Section 4: asynchronous online

Instructor: Obed Frausto

Course Title: **Indigenous Thinking**

Course CRN: Section 1: 22238; Section 2: 26963; Section 3: 25544; Section 4: 32417

Course Description: In this course, we will explore Latin American thought in the humanities, social sciences, and technology. First, we will study concepts such as pluriversality, which refers to the possibility of multiple worlds within our world. It emphasizes the importance of thinking about the meanings of plural and diverse viewpoints. In understanding the limits of only one world, we will be able to open it to a horizon of possibilities. In this course, in sum, we will explore how to transform reality by bringing together multiple perspectives, learning from each other, and especially listening to those hidden and dismissed voices from the indigenous cultures and the Afro-descendants in the American continent (América and Abby Yala). Second, we will examine the main underpinnings of decoloniality, which posits that society's hierarchy and power are still based on race, gender, and ethnicity. Based on decoloniality, in order to transform society, we should focus on understanding and ultimately dismantling the interrelations between these categories. In this course, we will explore Latin American thinkers such as Enrique Dussel,

Anibal Quijano, Santiago Castro-Gómez, Maria Lugones, Walter Mignolo, Rita Segato, Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, Boaventura de Sousa Santos, and Bolivar Echeverría, among others.

Honors 189: Inquiries in Global Studies/Honors Introduction to Global and Social Issues (sections 4 and 5, 3 credits)*

Course Day/Time: Section 4: MWF, 8-8:50; Section 5: MWF, 9-9:50

Instructor: Galit Gertsenzon

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

Course CRN: Section 4: 26639; Section 5: 22239

Course Description: Throughout history and across the globe, the human impulse toward music-making has provoked continuing discourse 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 power around the world. We look at national anthems and national 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/Honors Introduction to Global and Social Issues (sections 6 and 7, 3 credits)*

Course Day/Time: Section 6: T/Th, 9:30-10:45; Section 7: T/Th, 11-12:15

Instructor: Kelsey Timmerman

Course Title: **Where Are You Eating?**

Course CRN: Section 6: 36663; Section 7: 36760

Course Description: In this course, we will follow the food on our plates around the world in order to explore the environmental, cultural, political, historical, and social issues impacting our diets, our lives, and our planet, including climate change, slavery, colonialism, neocolonialism, and the green revolution. *This course is appropriate for students interested in Philosophy, Anthropology, Geography, Education, Business, Marketing, Communications and Media, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Design, Agriculture, Healthcare, Social Work, Political Science, and Economics.*

Honors 189: Inquiries in Global Studies (section 8, 3 credits)

Course Day/Time: M/W, 3-4:15

Instructor: Jane Anyango

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

Course CRN: 36775

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. For more impactful learning, we will compare existing literature on rural health care in the United States which we are familiar with, and rural health care in Uganda. *This course will have particular appeal to students majoring in Nursing, Pre-Med, African American Studies, Anthropology, and any student with global and community health interests.*

Honors 190: Honors Introduction to Humanities and the Arts (section 1, 3 credits)*

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

Instructor: Alex Kaufman

Course Title: **What Is Beauty?**

Course CRN: 37324

Course Description: This course will be a study of the world around us and what we and others consider to be beautiful and why. We will read some global perspectives on aesthetics that explore aspects of beauty in literature, art, music, nature, the physical world, and existence. We will discover the beauty of our campus, hear from professionals who work within the broad field of aesthetics, engage with texts/objects/places with concepts of beauty in mind, formulate a personal and applicable working theory of beauty for one's life, and create works that both reveal and also challenge concepts of beauty. Students will not need to purchase a textbook for this class. *This course counts as HONR 201, 202, or 203. Please speak with your Honors College advisor about the substitution that makes sense for your degree plan.*

Honors 190: Honors Introduction to Humanities and the Arts (section 2, 3 credits)*

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

Instructor: Jason Powell

Course Title: **The Beautiful Life**

Course CRN: 37325

Course Description: Join us as we explore some of the foundational personal, social, religious, and cultural ideas of the ancient world – all of which are still with us today. 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, to live tragically and beautifully. 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. *This course counts as HONR 201, 202, or 203. Please speak with your Honors College advisor about the substitution that makes sense for your degree plan.*

Honors 199: Inquiries in American Civilization (section 1, 2, and 3; 3 credits)*

Course Day/Time: Section 1: MWF, 11-11:50; Section 2: MWF, 1-1:50; Section 3: MWF, 2-2:50

Instructor: James Rankin

Course Title: **Misinformation in Modern America**

Course CRN: Section 1: 22243; Section 2: 22244; Section 3: 22245

Course Description: This class focuses on how misinformation and misunderstanding develop and permeate throughout current American society. This course explores the psychological mechanisms (such as cognitive biases and heuristics) which commonly lead many to develop false beliefs, either about ourselves or the world around us. The development and spread of pseudoscientific beliefs will also be explored in this class. *This course will be of particular interest for students exploring careers in health professions (medicine, public health, psychology), education, and digital media.*

Honors 199: Inquiries in 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 Maria Ressa 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 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. Finally, students in this class will decide who they will nominate for the next Nobel Peace Prize.

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

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

Instructor: Galit Gertsenzon

Course Title: **The Power of Music, Culture, and Society in the United States**

Course CRN: 22247

Course Description: Music has the extraordinary power to evoke a strong emotional response in the listener. Pervasive and persistent, the interplay between music and social commentary in the United States is as varied and spirited as America itself. Throughout our nation's history, music has proven a remarkable force of unity and resonance—shaping identity, directing social change, and sustaining the human spirit. This course explores musical expression in the United States and examines the sociopolitical environments that give rise to a distinctly American voice. We'll listen closely to ideations of power, resistance, equality, and peace as we survey a variety of literature and musical testimony. We will explore narratives of migration, immigration, race, religion, and class, as well as interconnection. Student work includes classroom and online discussions, listening-based assessments, critical reflection, and, if preferred, performance. Depending on student interests, this course may culminate with various performances during the Honors College music and arts showcase (poetry, prose, music). *This course will be of particular interest to College of Fine Arts students and any students with an interest in music and performance.*

Honors 199: Inquiries in Contemporary American Civilization (section 6, 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: 26845

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 201: Inquiries in Earliest Cultures to ca. 500 CE (sections 1, 2, and 3; 3 credits)*

Course Day/Time: Section 1: MWF, 9-9:50; Section 2: MWF, 11-11:50; Section 3: MWF, 2-2:50

Instructor: Timothy Berg

Course Title: The Good Life

Course CRN: Section 1: 22248; Section 2: 22250; Section 3: 22252

Course Description: This is a course about what it means to live a good and beautiful life. We are going to pay attention to some of the deep and persistent questions that we humans ask ourselves, namely, "How should we live?", "What does it mean to be human?", "What does it mean to be happy?" "How should we live with others?" and "What is the meaning of life?". These are some of the major questions that philosophy and religion have attempted to answer, but we can also find insights in the arts, literature, and other areas of human life. We'll examine what people from the ancient world (prior to ~500 c.e.) have said as they attempted to answer these questions, with an emphasis on Asian traditions in conversation with western ideas. Their answers do not need to be our answers. Instead, we'll look to them for guidance and to provoke our own thinking on these weighty topics as you work to find your own preliminary answers. We will create a temporary intentional community aimed at engagement with great ideas.

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

Course Day/Time: Section 4: T/Th, 9:30-10:45; Section 5: T/Th, 11-12:15

Instructor: Beth Dalton

Course Title: Golden Ages

Course CRN: Section 4: 22254; Section 5: 22255

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, 2-3:15

Instructor: Brent Blackwell

Course Title: **Conquerors and the Conquered: Could it ever have been different?**

Course CRN: 22260

Course Description: This section of 202 focuses on conflict in its broadest sense: how one group of people comes to dominate and control another group and how the oppressed groups come to fight back against this hegemony. While some of these battles are indeed physical, there are even more interesting areas where they occur like the battlefields of art, literature, music, architecture, and even mathematics. In addition to reconstructing this dominant narrative of the conquerors, we'll focus on the marginal groups of Western society—the conquered—from the early Middle Ages to the Enlightenment (c.400-1750). We will examine the cultural implications of stories and counterstories, including narratives focused on witches, vampires, and werewolves. *This course will be of particular interest to students interested in race, sex, religion, and gender. Also, this course will be of particular interest to students who feel an affinity for many different approaches to understanding from art to science and from music to mathematics.*

Honors 202: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 500 to ca. 1800 CE (section 2, 3 credits)*

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

Instructor: Pete Davis

Course Title: **From Dark to Light: Turning the Old World into The New**

Course CRN: 22262

Course Description: From the start of the Common Era and the Dark Ages, through the Renaissance, to the beginning of the Enlightenment, we'll explore how the ancient world gives way to a world that will soon flourish with technological and scientific breakthroughs. We'll trace the strange journey from medieval battlefields to the crusades to the black plague to the emphasis on science and learning that will begin to transform our world at astounding speeds. In addition to reading some of the great works of literature from around the world, we'll also supplement our texts with some movies, like *Monty Python's Search for the Holy Grail*, that will shed light on the past and how we view it from our vantage point today. *This class will be of particular interest to students interested in poetry, art, philosophy, music and movies about world history.*

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

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

Instructor: Bart Huelsenbeck

Course Title: **Spiritual Journeys**

Course CRN: 28928

Course Description: The interconnections between body and mind are well known. When the body moves, so too does the mind or spirit. It's hardly surprising, then, that stories of travel and adventure are typically also ones of spiritual awakenings. This section of Honors 202 will focus on stories of persons (some real, some fictional) who find themselves traveling—physically and spiritually—through challenging scenarios. Big events, and major personal changes, are the

result. Mnemotechnics—i.e., the art of memory—is another area where the mind and body work in conjunction: techniques of memorization rely on the fact that humans are ‘hardwired’ to recall what happens during travel. If students are interested, we shall also spend time with this kind of spiritual travel. *This class may be especially appealing to students interested in literature, languages, philosophy, religion, psychology, and storytelling.*

Honors 202: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 500 to ca. 1800 CE (section 4, 3 credits)*

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

Instructor: Matt Hartman

Course Title: **Journeys**

Course CRN: 35727

Course Description: This course is about journeys, real and imagined. Journeys provide occasions for self-discovery as well as encounters with others. In many instances, journeys serve as metaphors for life itself, confronting us with questions about morality, identity, and the source of life’s meaning. We will read literature (fiction and nonfiction, poetry and narrative), examine art, and explore music from cultures across the globe throughout this period. Likely course texts will include *The Conference of the Birds*, by Sufi poet Farid ud-Din Attara; the Anglo-Saxon epic Beowulf; *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, by the Japanese poet Basho; *Candide*, by the French philosopher Voltaire; and Symphony No. 5 by Beethoven. In addition, we will play a role-playing game about art and humanism in Renaissance Italy.

Honors 203: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 1800 CE to the Present (sections 1 and 2, 3 credits)*

Course Day/Time: Section 1: T/Th, 2-3:15; Section 2: T/Th, 3:30-4:45

Instructor: Kelsey Timmerman

Course Title: **Our Lives, Our Labor**

Course CRN: Section 1: 22265; Section 2: 35728

Course Description: From industrialization in the 1800s to the present-day gig economy and AI, technology has shaped what humans do with their time, how we see ourselves in the world, how we treat each other and nature. In this class, we will encounter works of literature, art, and ideas trying to make sense of our lives and our labor in an ever-changing world. We’ll see how ideas spread across cultures. For instance, yoga influenced Thoreau and his idea of Civil Disobedience, which influenced Gandhi’s nonviolence, which influenced Martin Luther King Jr. Through Canvas responses, group discussions, and small group work, we will practice asking questions of the art, the artist, society, ourselves, and each other. Many of these questions won’t have definite answers, but, in the pursuit of them, it’s my hope you’ll be further down a path that leads to a life and a life’s work of meaning and purpose. *This course is appropriate for students interested in Philosophy, Anthropology, Geography, Education, Business, Marketing, Theatre, Art, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Design, Healthcare, Social Work, Political Science, and Economics.*

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

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

Instructor: Alex Kaufman

Course Title: **Food and Feast**

Course CRN: 22267

Course Description: This course focuses on the literature, art, music, culture, and philosophy of the modern world. Two key elements of the human experience then and today are 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 203, 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. Students will not need to purchase a textbook for this class.

Honors 203: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 1800 CE to the Present (section 4, 3 credits)*

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

Instructor: Beth Dalton

Course Title: **Same Song, Different Key**

Course CRN: 22268

Course Description: In this class, we will explore some of the 19th, 20th, and 21st century cultural movements by way of texts and works of art that reframe past interpretations of the human experience. For instance, we will see how Penelope experienced her husband's 20-year absence in Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*. Perhaps it is possible to see the story of *Beowulf* from other perspectives. We will also review the centuries' art movements with an emphasis on artists such as Kehinde Wiley and Robert Indiana, whose art enters into conversation with the masters of the past. As always we will continue to ruminate on those Enduring Questions: What is the purpose of art and literature? Who is it for? What does it reflect about the cultures we examine 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 203: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 1800 CE to the Present (sections 5 and 6, 3 credits)*

Course Day/Time: Section 5: MWF, 8-8:50; Section 6: T/Th, 8-9:15

Instructor: Jason Powell

Course Title: **New Identities of the Modern World**

Course CRN: Section 5: 22269; Section 6: 35729

Course Description: Join us in our literary and philosophical journey through the new and emerging social and subjective identities of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will grapple with the divided self of the Romantic poets, the ennui of the Russian bourgeoisie, the struggle for respect and equality in the Harlem Renaissance, the alienation of French philosophy, and the fight for autonomy from the indigenous voices of Latin America. Together, we hope to better understand this amorphous thing we call humanness in a post enlightened, industrial, and colonial world.

Honors Colloquia (HONR 390)

Offered on a consistent basis.

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (section 1W, 3 credits)

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

Instructor: Molly Ferguson

Course Title: **Mapping Texts**

Course CRN: 26507

Course Description: This course will explore what maps *reveal and conceal* about global power networks as depicted in imaginative writing (both fiction and nonfiction). While the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Google Earth, tracking, and satellite navigation have become “invisible technology,” we may not always fully understand how information embedded in place can be relational and connected. The act of mapping and of thinking through place has the potential to build awareness of the complexities and the relational nature of global texts. More directly, in this class we will study place in literature and you will learn to use ESRI Story Map tools to build “story maps” of movement across and within borders in the texts that we read, to contextualize the writing in its sociopolitical time and place. As a class, we will create an online StoryMap repository and guide that will exist in [Cardinal Scholar](#) after the course ends.

Pending funding, our class will travel to New York City to explore it as mapped in Rebecca Solnit’s *NonStop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas* (one of our course texts). **This course will be of particular interest to students who study literature, geography, political science, and digital tools in humanities. This course counts as an elective in the Women’s and Gender Studies major and minor.

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (section 2, 3 credits)

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

Instructor: Kevin Moloney

Course Title: **The American Experiment in Indiana**

Course CRN: 26505

Course Description: On the eve of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, this colloquium will explore the semiquincentennial through the past and present of Indiana. How have the people and events in this state influenced the development of the U.S., for better or for worse? In Socratic-dialog-based course meetings, we will hear from guest experts, historians, and — if possible — witnesses to nation-building events. These events might include the collapse of the Midwest manufacturing economy, Indiana’s determining vote to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, Louis Armstrong’s world-changing 1926 recordings, election fraud riots of 1876, and the Underground Railroad among others. Students will select and explore a case to research critically, then produce a media artifact that communicates their discoveries. These artifacts might include research papers, legal briefs, short stories, films, photo essays, music, artworks, dramaturgy, and more.

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (section 3A, 3 credits)

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

Instructor: Gabriel Tait

Course Title: **Afro-Futurism**

Course CRN: 26614

Course Description: This course explores Afrofuturism, a cultural, aesthetic, and intellectual movement that reimagines the future through the lens of Black experiences, histories, and visions. Drawing from literature, music, visual arts, film, and critical theory, students will examine how Afrofuturist works challenge dominant narratives, blend technology and tradition, and create speculative futures rooted in African diasporic cultures. Through the works of writers like Octavia Butler, filmmakers like Wanuri Kahiu, and musicians like Sun Ra, students will interrogate themes of identity, liberation, and technological utopias while considering how these creations offer strategies for resistance and transformation. The course encourages students to think critically about the intersections of race, science fiction, and future imaginaries, fostering a deeper understanding of how Black artists and thinkers reshape the world. *This course counts as an elective in the African American Studies minor.*

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (section 4, 3 credits)*

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

Instructor: Tim Berg

Course Title: **Art Thinking**

Course CRN: 26510

Course Description: What does it mean to have an experience with art, either as artist or observer? Why are humans so drawn to making and thinking about visual expression? Why do we make it? How do we approach it? What is it doing to us? What response is it asking of us? This course investigates the experiences involved in thinking about art, both the doing and observing. We will examine some of the creative responses to these questions given by people from a variety of cultures who've made, written about, or responded in some way, to visual art, including artists, critics, theorists, art historians, poets, and others. We'll think both about *what* they are saying as well as *how* they are saying it, and we'll practice some of their approaches (via writing and other methods) and develop our own. Our larger goal is to examine and reflect on our own approaches and responses to art in order to find new pathways for making meaning in our lives via the experience of art. *This course is especially appropriate for anyone wishing to develop their skills of close looking, critical examination, and deep reflection and discussion on important topics. These skills can be used in all fields, from the humanities and arts to nursing, business, science, and beyond.*

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (section 5, 2 credits)

Course Day/Time: Wednesday, 4-6pm

Instructor: Jackie Buckrop

Course Title: **Bond. James Bond.**

Course CRN: 26511

Course Description: For more than 60 years, James Bond (007) has been a hugely popular cultural icon and global brand, currently ranking fourth on the list of highest grossing film franchises. This two-credit hour course surveys: Who James Bond is, what he does, and the world in which he lives and works through the writings of Ian Fleming and the canonical films. Additionally, we will examine what scholars and fans tell us about James Bond, his world, **and ours** through academic and lay resources. Ultimately, the assignments allow us to determine what is of interest and educational worth. What makes Bond so enduring? Will he remain so? Students will determine what can and should be learned about the character and phenomenon,

and discuss the historical and current political, social, and economic world in which Bond exists. *Students with no knowledge, limited knowledge, or extensive knowledge have the opportunity to choose the manner in which the course objectives can be fulfilled. This course is especially appropriate for anyone who wishes to explore the influences of popular culture.*

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (section 6, 1 credit)*

Course Day/Time: Wednesday, 11-11:50

Instructor: Sarah Ackermann

Course Title: **The Originals: A Look at Female Photographers in a Pre-Selfie Era**

Course CRN: 26512

Course Description: “Let’s take a selfie!” Four powerful words that represent a significant cultural marker of society today. Learners in this course will venture back to a pre-selfie era and explore the work of female photographers who used self-portraiture in their portfolio of work. Learners will situate the work of those professionals within today’s social environment, in which the selfie has become a cultural phenomenon. Learners will consider their own participation in the selfie-craze and the implications it may or may not have on the art world and beyond. Learners will respond to presented topics and lessons learned through the creation of an enlightened selfie series of work. *This course will be of particular interest to students interested in visual storytelling, photography, self-portrait photography, and/or popular culture. All majors are welcome and will have a fabulous voice in this course.*

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (section 7, 3 credits)

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

Instructor: David Roof

Course Title: **Citizenship, Community, and Leadership**

Course CRN: 26513

Course Description: This course seeks to engage you in a journey that delves into the intersections of citizenship, community involvement, and leadership development. We will explore the question of what it means to lead a purposeful and meaningful life. In this context, we will examine the responsibilities of engaged citizenship, ethical leadership, and the role of community in shaping our individual purpose.

This course isn't lectures and textbooks—it seeks to foster an ongoing discussion about active participation and meaningful engagement. In our quest for understanding, we'll dive deep into discussions on engaged citizenship and the ethical dimensions of leadership. From dissecting classic speeches to exploring the philosophies of thinkers like Arendt, Berlin, and Du Bois, you'll be challenged to critically examine the complexities of our social and political landscape. Our approach will prioritize in-depth exploration, vibrant discussions, and dialog across differences. From Habermas's emphasis on rational discourse to Popper's insights on open societies, each reading and class discussion will offer a unique lens through which to examine the complexities of citizenship, community, and leadership in today's world. *This course will be of particular interest to American Studies, History, Sociology, English as well as anyone in the broad social sciences.*

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (section 8, 3 credits)

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

Instructor: Kristin Barry

Course Title: **Architecture and War**

Course CRN: 26509

Course Description: In the face of military conflict, architecture has been used to construct identities, demoralize populations, and eliminate important visual connections to the past. Through the systematic destruction of religious and civic monuments in antiquity to the faux cities of World War I, DESIGN HAS BEEN USED AS A TOOL OF WAR, manipulated by multiple sides to affect personal attachments to place and heritage. Often propagated as an extension of religion or politics, design has a significant impact on military conquest, success, or defeat, making it one of the most frequently used weapons in conflict. This course is an intensive analysis of the theories and histories of visual culture as related to war, beginning in antiquity and continuing through the ISIL/ISIS caliphate. We will discuss the ways in which visual culture has been used as a tool of propaganda or an active participant in military conflicts, at times as a symbol of history or heritage, and also as a form of destruction of identity. Through a thematic assessment, we will determine the role that visual culture has historically played in conflicts and ways in which design can be used to reconstruct identities that have been lost in its destruction.

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (section 9, 1 credit)

Course Day/Time: Mondays, 2-2:50pm

Instructor: Heather Williams

Course Title: **Love Where You Live: The Importance of Neighborhoods**

Course CRN: 30289

Course Description: Neighborhoods are the basic building blocks of our cities and towns, and they are often where grassroot change takes place. This course will investigate the history of city development in America with an emphasis on the importance of neighborhoods. Readings and discussion will focus on the many dimensions of today's neighborhoods, including the forms they take, the forces and factors influencing them, and the people and organizations trying to change them. We will use Muncie, IN (Middletown, USA) as our living laboratory. Students will tour the community by bus, work with a city neighborhood to address a community need, and explore what it means to love where they live.

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (section 800, 3 credits)*

Course Day/Time: online asynchronous

Instructor: James Rankin

Course Title: **Everyday Data Analytics**

Course CRN: 30371

Course Description: Students will develop a deeper understanding of the nuances of data which appear in the public view (such as polling data, crime statistics, reporting of scientific studies). This course will not focus on math or statistical programming, but rather on contextualizing the real world connections of data one commonly sees in their day to day lives, ways in which we can counter misinformation, and how to speak to friends, family, and others about data, statistics, and science. *This class may be of interest for students who are interested in pursuing a career in the legal field, political campaigning, or advertising, as well as those who wish to sharpen their communication and persuasion skills.*

Honors 390: Honors Colloquium (870, 3 credits)*

Course Day/Time: online asynchronous

Instructor: Galit Gertsenzon

Course Title: **Silenced Voices: Exploring the Music, Art, Film, and Literature of World War II**

Course CRN: 26506

Course Description: This online course considers the historical events of World War II and the Holocaust in the context of music, art, film, and literature, honoring the lives of those who made it (art, composition, and performance), commemorating it (music, film, and literature), and acknowledging the tactics of those who exploited it (propaganda and expurgation). Together we explore the diverse roles that various arts played during the years 1933–1945, including the Nazi use of music and art as a means for censorship and discrimination; music performance and creation in various ghettos and concentration camps in Europe; and ways in which composers, performers, and audiences used music for emotional and physical survival and for spiritual resistance during World War II and after. We survey a treasury of musical artworks composed in Nazi concentration camps and ghettos and dive deep into artworks that testify to the horror and heroism of this extraordinary time. We consider how art and music-making were central to persecuted life in the prison camps and how officials exploited orchestras for various purposes, including entertainment for perpetrators and execution for prisoners. Through primary source documents, scholarly literature, and listening exercises, we witness personal and collective tragedy through the arts. Course themes will teach students about diverse minorities persecuted by the Nazis, including Jews, LGBTQ+, Black, Sinti, and Roma people. Depending on student interests, this course may culminate with various performances (poetry, prose, music) of compositions created or banned during the Holocaust or made in postwar response. *This course will be of particular interest to College of Fine Arts students and any students with an interest in music and performance.*

“H” Sections

“H” sections are open to all students and allow Honors students to earn Honors College credits through their major or minor coursework, complete a UCC requirement, and forge meaningful, interdisciplinary connections across their various programs of study. Please look out for the following sections tagged with an “H” and “HONC” for Fall 2025:

HIST 150_15H: The West in the World

UCC Foundations (Honors College section)

Instructor: Amy Bosworth

Course Day/Time: MWF, 1-1:50pm

Course Description: HIST 150H: The West in the World examines the history of the West within a global context and explores interactions and encounters with other civilizations from c.3,000 BCE until today. This course has something for everyone – from mummification in Ancient Egypt to Victorian museums, daily life in the Roman Empire to the splendor of Versailles under Louis XIV, medieval monks behaving badly to red lipstick as a means of protest. We will explore themes such as social, economic, and political changes and intellectual and religious developments by exploring and critically evaluating a variety of primary and secondary

written visual sources. This section of HIST 150 will be discussion-based rather than the traditional lecture-style course.

AFAM 100_1H: Introduction to African-American Studies

UCC Tier 1 (Social Sciences)

Instructor: Rod Taylor

Course Day/Time: MWF 11-11:50

Course Description: AFAM 100 explores African American artistic, literary, historical, and cultural expression. We will examine key figures, debates, and concepts that have shaped and continue to shape Black life in America. Students will analyze and reflect on a range of intellectually diverse topics, including the origins and interdisciplinarity of African American Studies, African American Studies at Ball State, slavery and its afterlives, frameworks for studying Blackness, the significance of foodways, and contemporary topics. Throughout the course, students will develop practical skills in collaboration, active reading, analytical writing, and archival research methods.

This course counts towards the minor in African American Studies. Furthermore, this section of AFAM 100 is an **“H” section**, meaning it is also open to Honors students to earn Honors College credit, but students throughout the university are welcomed and encouraged to take this course.

ENG 491_1H: Literature of African-American Traditions

UCC Tier 2 (Fine Arts/Design/Humanities); this course could also count as HONR 390

Instructor: Rod Taylor

Course Day/Time: MWF, 2-2:50

Course Description:

ENG 491(Literary and Print Culture of the Post-Bellum—Pre-Harlem Era) explores African American literary culture from the postbellum moment to the Harlem Renaissance. The course will begin with an overview of the scholarly conversations surrounding both American and Black print culture studies and transition to an examination of how African American writers and publishers used various forms of print, such as pamphlets, periodicals, and traditional literary forms (novel, poetry, etc.), to advance and weigh in on important issues of Black life in the United States. The course will conclude with discussions about archives and archival practices and their importance to contemporary literary study. Throughout the course, students will develop practical skills in close reading, analytical writing, archival research methods, and collaboration.

This course counts towards the English major/minor and African American Studies minor. Furthermore, this section of ENG 491 is an **“H” (HONC) section**, meaning it is also open to Honors students to earn Honors College credit, but students throughout the university are welcomed and encouraged to take this course.

Women’s, Gender, and African American Studies Pathways

Our Honors marked with a “W” and “A” courses count toward [WGAS](#) minors and the WGS major. Also, as part of the Honors-WGAS pathways to the [AFAM Studies](#) and [WGS](#) minors and [WGS](#) major, Honors College students receive Honors credit for all WGAS courses. We work

with students on a case-by-case basis to determine which course equivalencies work best for them.