

Spring 2020 Honors Courses

Course requirements that can be satisfied with Fall 2019 Honors courses:

Honors Core: HON 201, HON 203, HON 205
Honors Elective: GOV 207H, COM 203H, HON 250
Foundations 1b: COM 203H
Foundations 4a: HON 201
Foundations 4c: HON 203, GOV 207H
Foundations 4d: HON 205
Honors Thesis courses: HON 450, HON 451

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HONORS CORE COURSES

HON 201 A: Perennial Questions

Dr. Coleman Fannin MWF 9:00-9:50 3 credit hours
Satisfies an Honors Core requirement and a Foundations 4a requirement.

Alternate title: **The Good Life**

Course description: As Aristotle observed, most people agree that the highest good is *eudaimonia*, usually translated as “happiness” or “flourishing” (or “the good life”), but we disagree about what happiness is and how to attain it. Rather than despair at this disagreement, Aristotle argued that we can know the good, and indeed become good, by acquiring virtue, and classical philosophy generally followed him in this regard. Although the Christian tradition maintained that we are inclined to evil and can find perfect happiness only in God, it developed a similar account of human nature and its end. However, the Enlightenment and other movements have challenged this account, and the modern world has given rise to new conditions and problems that are relevant to the question of happiness. We will investigate this question by reading and discussing a series of core texts, ancient and modern, with the goal of gaining wisdom and ultimately living well.

HON 203: Institutions, Society & the Self

Dr. Michael Bailey MWF 2:00-2:50 3 credit hours
Satisfies an Honors Core requirement and a Foundations 4c requirement.

Alternate title: **Democracy and Its Friendly Critics**

Course description: America's leading statesmen such as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt understood that popular government is extremely difficult to sustain. They understood what we largely

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

HON 205 H A: Scientific Approach to Contemporary Challenges

Dr. Todd Timberlake MWF 9:00-9:50 and W 3:00-4:59 (lab) 4 credit hours
Satisfies an Honors Core requirement and a Foundations 4d requirement

Alternate title: **Are We Alone?**

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

HONORS ELECTIVE COURSES

GOV 207 H A: Honors: Contemporary World Issues

Dr. Kirsten Taylor TH 9:30-10:45 3 credit hours

Satisfies an Honors Elective requirement and a Foundations 4c requirement

Alternate title: **Politics of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

Course description: Major issues in world affairs, including security issues, international financial and trading regimes, global ecopolitics and ethnic conflicts. Elaborate coverage of emerging crises or conflicts or other notable world developments. This course will focus on political issues surrounding weapons of mass destruction.

COM 203 H E: Honors: Rhetoric and Public Address

Dr. Matthew Delzer TH 8:00-9:15 3 credit hours

Satisfies an Honors Elective requirement and a Foundations 1b requirement

Course description: Introduction to the theoretical foundations of contemporary public address and application of those principles through public speaking and visual communication. Emphasis on making and evaluating rhetorical choices regarding research, audience, analysis, organization, style, and delivery.

HON 250 H B: Honors: Media Law (WI)

Dr. Brian Carroll MWF 11:00-11:50 3 credit hours

Satisfies an Honors Elective requirement

Course description: Constitutional and legislative foundations of freedom of speech and press, with special emphasis on the law of libel, privacy, censorship, access and broadcast regulation. CR or PR: COM 220 or CI.

HON 250 H C: Honors: Leading Teams and Groups

Dr. Nate Pearson TH 12:30-1:45 3 credit hours

Satisfies an Honors Elective requirement

Course description: Students will understand the dynamics of formal and informal group structures inherent within society and organizations. Themes include leadership, groupthink, decision making, influence, diversity, motivation, and engagement. This course will use a student-centered approach which focuses on the role of the individual in building a team.

HONORS THESIS COURSES

HON 450: Honors Thesis I (3 Hours Credit)

Normally taken Spring of Junior year.

HON 450 is a thesis development course that is graded on an Honors/Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory scale. To sign up for HON 450 you will first need to identify your thesis director (usually a professor in your major department) as well as another thesis committee member (another faculty member who might be from your major department or from another department). You should develop at least a tentative idea for your thesis project. Your thesis director will need to create a syllabus for the HON 450 course and you will need to write a statement explaining how your project will help you advance toward your long-term goals. Finally, you will need to complete the special registration form found on the Berry Honors Program website (<https://www.berry.edu/academics/honors/>). Look for the link to the forms at the bottom left of the page. Bring the registration form (signed by your thesis director, committee member, and yourself), syllabus, and statement to the Honors director (Dr. Heller in Green 325 B) for her signature (email Dr. Heller at lheller@berry.edu first to set up an appointment). Completed and signed paperwork must be turned into the Registrar's Office by the end of the add/drop period.

HON 451: Honors Thesis II (3 Hours Credit)

Normally taken Fall of Senior year.

HON 451 is a thesis writing course that is graded on the standard letter grade scale. To sign up for HON 451 you must have already completed, or be currently enrolled in, HON 450. Your thesis director will need to create a syllabus for the HON 451 course and you will need to write a thesis proposal and summary of your work in HON 450. Finally, you will need to complete the special registration form found on the Berry Honors Program website (<https://www.berry.edu/academics/honors/>). Look for the link to the forms at the bottom left of the page. Bring the registration form (signed by your thesis director, committee member, and yourself), syllabus, and statement to the Honors director (Dr. Heller in Green 325 B) for her signature (email Dr. Heller at lheller@berry.edu first to set up an appointment). Completed and signed paperwork must be turned into the Registrar's Office by the end of the add/drop period.