

Spring 2008 Honors Courses

Below you will find a listing of the Honors courses for 1st and 2nd year students for the Spring 2008 term. Students are not permitted to register for more than 7 hours of Honors courses per semester without advisor permission. You will need to contact the Honors advisor for permission PRIOR to registration.

The Great Equalizers?: Education & Inequality – CRN 11447 – M/W 3 to 4:15

This course tentatively satisfies: Cultural Diversity

Historically, the American educational system has been viewed as the “great equalizer.” That is, our schools have been regarded as a place where, because of equal opportunity and individual effort, people have the chance to overcome the circumstances of their birth and make something of themselves. But to what extent do schools truly function as the “great equalizers”? In this class we will examine the connection between the educational system and social inequality. We will explore the ways in which schools in the U.S. on the one hand, create opportunities for people to succeed, and on the other, function to reproduce existing inequalities. We will focus on inequalities of race, social class, and gender. Some of the topics we will explore are: whether teachers interact with male and female students in the same way; why public schools in the U.S. differ so much in terms of their level of resources and quality; how “tracking” within schools creates an internal system of stratification; whether and how policies like affirmative action and *Title IX* work to level the playing field; and how students from diverse backgrounds interact within each other in schools and make sense of their own identities and educational experiences. Part of this course will also involve hands-on community engagement, potentially in the form of “field trips” and conducting original research on social inequalities on the UNF campus. At the end of the course, students will have a broad understanding of how our nation’s educational system is both a site for incredible opportunity and for the reproduction of social inequalities.

Psychology of War - CRN 12041 – M/W 3 to 4:15

This course tentatively satisfies: Social Science (Part A)

This course will focus on the psychological mechanisms involved in the decision to engage in war and armed conflict. Reviews of historical and recent conflicts (including world wars, civil wars, acts of genocide and terrorism) will provide a basis to explore psychological processes related to aggression, prejudice, conflict resolution, negotiation, social influence, obedience to authority, and propaganda. Topics will include: What rational explanations are given to justify war and armed conflict? Why are methods of armed conflict chosen instead of other forms of conflict resolution? Was Adolf Hitler mentally ill? Why are acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and other war crimes so common in armed conflicts? How are people persuaded to go to war? How can a person be persuaded to commit suicide as an act of war? Students will research historical records related to a conflict of their choice and present their findings to the class. This course will be of interest to psychology, history, political science, and communication majors.

Science and Religion - CRN 11414 – T/R 3:05 to 4:20

This course tentatively satisfies: Philosophy

Various academic texts and media sources frequently present science and religion as having an inherently adversarial relationship. According to this view, Western monotheistic religions such as Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are (at least in part) pseudo-sciences, and science is a vehicle for attacking (or at least correcting) these religions. In this course, we will attempt to determine the extent to which this view is accurate. We will do so by examining the history both of science and of religion, focusing particularly on three major developments—the Copernican Revolution, the progress of evolutionary biology, and the recent debate in physics between proponents of the more traditional model of physics developed by Einstein, proponents of Quantum Mechanics, and proponents of String Theory. In essence, we will seek to understand and to examine critically one of the most intriguing and important issues of our time.

Lived Asian Religions - CRN 12853 – T/R 3:05 to 4:20

This course tentatively satisfies: Cultural Diversity

This course will explore Buddhism, Hinduism, Shinto, and other Asian religions as they are lived by their practitioners. An examination of the Abrahamic faiths (Islam, Judaism, and Christianity) as they are practiced and lived in Asia will also be included.

The Modern History of Iraq, Iran, and Turkey - CRN 12047 – T/R 9:25 to 10:40

This course tentatively satisfies: Core

The class will focus mainly on socio-political, religious and economic developments in the three countries from about 1900 to the present. Topics such as Western imperialism and intervention in the region; the rise of nationalism and the challenges of forging unified states; and the role of Islam in national politics will figure prominently in the course.

Myths, Legends, and Hoaxes - CRN 12004 – T/R 10:50 to 12:05

This course tentatively satisfies: Cultural Diversity

Stories and storytelling are a basic element of the human experience. We will examine how myths and legends define our world and our experience of it. We will examine both classic myths and the modern mythologies created in film. We will also examine urban legends and other hoaxes as part of how we understand the world.

Greek Philosophy, Religion, and Magic - CRN 11415 – M/W 4:30 to 5:45

This course tentatively satisfies: Philosophy

This Honors course investigates the nexus of philosophy and magic, myth, and religious belief in ancient Greece, at the height of Athens' civic glory (about 500-300 B.C.E). We will examine the cultic practices, the famous mystery religions, myths, magical beliefs, charms, curses, witches, and ghosts of that period. In contrast, we'll also look at how the very first philosophers began to think about the world around them, devising naturalistic explanations and applying reason to their fears and questions about the world in which they lived.

What you'll get out of this class: by the end of the semester, your careful reading of the texts and penetrating critical analyses of them should give you better understanding of both the ancient Greek views on these topics and also how persons in our contemporary society might be dealing with the same rich cluster of beliefs and questions that the Greeks had. I hope you will also be more aware of how the mixture of belief and reason affects the way we make decisions both individually and as societies and nations today. Perhaps most importantly, you will gain sharper paper-writing, argumentative, and speaking skills that should help you in your upper-division courses. This is a tough class that will challenge you—but it will also give you many rewards.

Honors Statistics for Health and Social Sciences – CRN 11439 – T/R 1:40 to 2:55

This course substitutes for: STA 2014 (Elem. Stats for Heath/SS)

When we try to observe connections between phenomena in the real world, the information often comes to us in a confusing, even contradictory fashion. Unseen influences, measurement difficulties, and even pure 'bad luck' make it difficult to decipher the true relationships between variables. At its core, statistics is about the art of drawing conclusions in the face of this uncertainty. As such, it is fundamental to the physical, social, and behavioral sciences.

In this Honors version of STA 2014 (Elementary Statistics for Health and Social Sciences), we will

- summarize data with an array of numerical and graphical techniques;

- select appropriate summaries for realistic data sets;
- incorporate these summaries into written reports;
- calculate probabilities for the behavior of simple sample statistics;
- understand the 'critical thinking' link between probability theory and statistical reasoning;
- draw conclusions about a single population;
- draw conclusions comparing two populations.

We will cover the same topics and use the same text as other sections of STA 2014, but will focus more on the analysis and interpretation of actual data drawn from the health and social sciences. In addition to the TI-83 or TI-84 calculator, we will use the computer package SPSS to carry out data analyses. Grades will be based on a combination of exams and written reports.

Honors Financial Accounting – CRN 11445 – M 1:30 to 4:15

This course substitutes for: ACG 2021 (Principles of Financial Accounting)

****Honors Financial Accounting MUST be taken with Honors Microeconomics.****

The course will give students an introduction to financial accounting by using a financial statement of the student's choosing to understand the accounting process and how financial statements are prepared and analyzed. Unlike the traditional class where students focus on the mundane aspects of debits and credits from the financial statement preparer's perspective. This course will make use of a financial statement analysis project that will examine financial statements from the user's perspective. Along the way, students will sharpen their command of excel by using it as a powerful tool to aid in the analysis process as well as begin to use the Wall Street Journal as a tool for collecting data on company performance. Students will be exposed to both the Global issues involved in the business context and the impact of ethics on the process of financial statement preparation. In this regard discussion of Enron, Worldcom, Tyco and Parmalat will be integrated.

The course will focus on the importance of developing internal controls for small business in a global environment and will be integrated with Honors Microeconomics taught by Dr. Andres Gallo. Students participating in this course will be learning about Guatemala and the challenges for business in this environment as preparation for a study abroad opportunity in spring 2009.

The course has been developed for honors students who intend to major in business, minor in business or have ACG 2021 as a required part of their program of study. As a result, this course will substitute for ACG 2021. Students who are considering business or business related majors are encouraged to enroll.

Honors Microeconomics – CRN 11515 – W 1:30 to 4:15

This course substitutes for: ECO 2013 (Principles of Macroeconomics)

****Honors Microeconomics MUST be taken with Honors Financial Accounting.****

Description coming soon...

Portfolio

4 sections of this course will be offered. All sophomore students must sign up for one of the sections.

This course is designed to guide you toward producing a successful sophomore portfolio in order to be awarded the distinction of University Honors. Producing the portfolio is an opportunity to reflect on--and articulate--your personal and academic growth during your first two years in the honors program. It is a meaningful product that documents your achievements and demonstrates your understanding of the honors objectives. The precise form of this document or artifact will evolve as your understanding of your encounter with the program evolves over the first 8 weeks of the course. The artifact is also

accompanied, if necessary, by a written document that reflects how the project articulates with the Honors objectives.

Portfolio courses available:

- CRN 11532 – F 11 to 11:50
- CRN 11533 – T 4:30 to 5:45
- CRN 11534 – R 4:30 to 5:45
- CRN 11535 – M 11 to 11:50

Honors Trip Courses – Spring 2008

****These courses are limited to students participating in the applicable trip being offered over Spring Break or Summer A. Permission to register for these courses will be required.****

All trip courses have a 2000-level Honors course number and 3000-level Honors course number. All students will enroll in the 2000-level Honors course, unless they are an upper-level student. Upper-level students will enroll in the 3000-level Honors course. Please contact the Honors Advisor if you are unsure which class you should register for.

Media Literacy (Washington D.C)

This course tentatively satisfies: English/Literature

The Cross and the Sword (Spain)

This course tentatively satisfies: Core

Literature and Human Rights (Peru)

This course tentatively satisfies: English/Literature

Tropical Ecology (Ecuador)

This course tentatively satisfies: Gen. Ed. Non-Lab Science