



Honors Residential College: Orientation (Fall 2023)

The Honors Residential College (HRC) is an intentional and integrated living and learning community committed to cultivating students' love of God, love of neighbor, and love of learning. Toward this end, the HRC offers incoming students the following ways to foster these loves.

2023-2024 Theme: During a year in which the HRC will not be in its familiar environs of Memorial and Alexander halls, we joke that we are the HRC in "exile." We are determined to lean into this idea and take as our theme for the year "Hope in Exile." Like this year, there will be points throughout life in which we find ourselves in places unexpected, unanticipated, or, perhaps, even unwanted. Hope is the sustaining virtue, but also one that seemingly is in short supply. Through the upcoming year, we will consider hope, what it might look like in daily life, how we foster it, and the means by which we share it with others.

The Formation Series: The Formation Series is one of the main ways our community comes together around our shared theme. Each fall and spring, the HRC hosts a series of three public lectures. In these engaging presentations, Formation lecturers will investigate the dynamic between ideal and lived practices. To earn an Honors Unit for participating, students must attend two lectures each term and write a reflection essay on one of the lectures. Students may earn half an Honors Unit for one term and a whole Honors Unit for completing both semesters.

The Service Committee: The Service Committee, led by our HRC student leaders and staff, is comprised of the following focused areas of service:

- **Supporting Local Education:** Through the **Afterschool Centers for Education (ACE)**, HRC students go twice weekly to an East Waco middle school to tutor and lead activities for students. In addition, HRC students participate in the **STARS Book Club** to lead reading groups for elementary students at Crestview Elementary school.
- **Supporting Local and Global Needs:**
 - In the past year, HRC students have volunteered weekly at other local organizations such as the **Humane Society** by walking dogs and helping in the **Caritas** food pantry to help fight poverty and food insecurity in the Waco area.
 - The HRC has also partnered with other local and global missions organizations such as making blankets for children in need with **The Linus Project** and packaging Christmas presents for children around the world with **Operation Christmas Child**.
- **Supporting the Baylor Community:** The HRC has created the **Brightening the Brazos Project**. Once a semester, the HRC picks up trash on the banks of Waco's Brazos river.
- **HRC Mission Trip:** Each year, the HRC partners with **One More Child** to organize an

HRC-specific mission trip in hopes of creating a Christ-centered community that fosters the love of God, love of neighbor, and love of learning. One More Child seeks to bring hope through Christ-centered services to vulnerable children and struggling families. In the upcoming 2023-2024 year, the HRC will once again volunteer with One More Child following graduation in May 2024 at an international site that is to be determined.

HRC Co-Curricular Courses: In order to support our co-curricular mission, where living and learning happen together, the HRC is proud to offer the following HRC-specific courses for residents in Fall 2023 (offerings will also be made available for Spring 2024):

Christian Scriptures

Prof. Julian Chike

MWF 11:15-12:05 PM

REL 1310.H1 (CRN 44715)

North Village Community Center Rm 4126

Religion 1310, “The Christian Scriptures,” is a university-required course. The HRC is happy to offer an HRC-specific Honors section of the course, taught by Professor Julian Chike, in an HRC classroom with HRC students. This section will emphasize reading scripture within the arc of salvation history, and hence will begin with Christ’s mission as the lens through which to understand the whole of scripture. Questions of Biblical interpretation and authority will also be explored. Students are encouraged to continue with the HRC Honors section of Christian Heritage (REL 1350), the second university-required religion course, in the spring semester.

Code Blue! Leading as a Doctor

Dr. Sparky Matthews

MWF 10:10-11:00 PM

FYS 1399.N10 (CRN 47005)

This course focuses on the principles of leadership necessary to become a successful physician in today’s rapidly changing world of medicine. Taught by a physician that was himself a Baylor University premed student, students will spend time learning how a physician thinks, the rubric for medical decision making, and the ethical basis for dealing with difficult decisions and mistakes. As the title “Code Blue” implies, physicians are required to make rapid, life-and-death decisions on a regular basis. This course will begin to build the student’s decision-making process that will eventually be frozen into habit. There is no prerequisite medical knowledge required. The ideal class participant is a premed student that knows little about the world of medicine or what it means to be a physician. This course is the first step in developing the student into a leader of character in the world of medicine. One-on-one mentoring with Dr. Matthews is an additional feature of this course and may extend (at the student’s discretion) beyond the semester.

PPS Offerings

Accompanying Immigrants in Waco

Israel Loachamin

Tues 11:00-11:50 AM

PPS 1100.13 (CRN 48836)

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the journey of a Spanish-speaking immigrant in Waco to develop an awareness of the unique and rich community that the U.S. has. Students will **earn ½ Honors Unit** for participating in this

course. In addition, the course fulfills a Lifetime Fitness requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Food and Sustainability

Katie Walter & Sky Walton
PPS 1100.15 (CRN 49464)

Wed 3:35-4:25 PM

This course invites students to explore the realities of industrial and local food systems, inequities in food access and distribution, and environmental sustainability while also getting their hands dirty at World Hunger Relief Institute Farm in Waco, TX. Students will assist weekly with orchards, gardens, livestock, and other farm projects. Students will **earn ½ Honors Unit** for participating in this course. In addition, the course fulfills a Lifetime Fitness requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences. As this course includes an off-campus volunteer component, access to a vehicle will be necessary. However, ride-sharing will be coordinated in the beginning weeks of the course; therefore, students without access to a vehicle are still encouraged to sign-up.

Chapel Offerings

Evening Chapel Prayers

CHA 1093.06 (CRN 48568)

MTWR 9:00 PM-9:20 PM

North Village Fine Arts Studio

Students may earn one of their two required chapel credits through the Evening Prayer Service by joining with their HRC neighbors in centering their daily work in response to God's love. Prayer services are about twenty minutes long and are based on ancient Christian traditions of prayer. To earn credit, students must attend 75% of class periods (approximately three out of four services each week). Evening Prayer Services are led by the HRC's chaplain and the HRC Spiritual Life committee.

Faith & the Healing Profession

CHA 1087.121, (CRN 48541)

MW 10:10 AM-11:00 AM

Elliston Chapel

This chapel opportunity is designed to help students explore the ways in which faith perspectives and spiritual practices form and prepare future healthcare professionals to deal with the challenges they will face. Each week will include talks and discussions that will emphasize the importance of healthy spiritual life and encourage the development of helpful practices early in one's career in the medical world. Dr. Jason Whitt (Faculty Steward of the HRC and professor in Medical Humanities) and Dr. Rich Sanker (Director of Pre-Health) will coordinate this chapel course. HRC Pre-Med students are encouraged to attend this amazing chapel experience.