

BAYLOR HONORS PROGRAM:

FIRST-YEAR HONORS SEMINARS AND OTHER FRESHMAN HONORS CLASSES: FALL 2024

First-Year Seminars (FYS) are introductory courses in the Honors Program curriculum; most incoming Honors Program students will participate in one of these highly recommended seminars during their first semester at Baylor. These small classes typically enroll 12-18 students, and they allow enrollees and professors to explore the themes of the course through reading, discussion, research, and writing. Some of these seminars count towards distribution requirements on the Arts and Sciences core curriculum, and a few may substitute for other required courses via petitions that are arranged through the Honors Program office.

Classes with an “N” section number (e.g., FYS 1399.N2) satisfy a student’s New Student Experience (NSE) requirement through an integrated syllabus. Students may have more than one NSE on their schedule.

NOTE: CLASS AVAILABILITY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. YOUR ADVISOR WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MOST ACCURATE AND UP-TO-DATE LIST OF HONORS CLASSES WHEN YOU MEET.

Philosophy and Politics

Dr. Stacey Hibbs

MWF 12:20-1:10 PM

FYS 1399.N1 (CRN 48762) or PHI 1308.H1 (CRN 45697)

This course uses important texts from the history of political philosophy to teach students how to think about politics in a philosophical rather than an ideological way. Students will engage in intense class discussions on some of the major themes that political philosophers have taken up: What is the connection between politics and the good life? Are there legitimate and illegitimate forms of government? What are we to make the founding of the American political order? Can we identify the strengths and weaknesses of American democracy? Writers to be read will span history, covering texts written by the Ancients (e.g., Aristotle), to the Middle Ages (Machiavelli) to the Modern (Locke, Tocqueville, Haidt).

Topical Areas of Interest: *Pre-Law, Philosophy, Political Theory, Writing Development, Critical Thinking.*

Political Philosophy

Dr. David Corey

TR 9:30-10:45 AM

FYS 1399.N13 (CRN 48745)

This course uses canonical texts from the history of political philosophy to teach students how to think about politics in a philosophical rather than an ideological way. Students will engage in intense class discussions on some of the major themes that political philosophers have taken up: What is politics? What is justice? What ends ought politics pursue? What are the possibilities and limits of political association? Students will also write a number of exegetical essays and improve their skills in philosophical writing.

Topical Areas of Interest: *Pre-Law, Philosophy, Political Theory, Writing Development, Critical Thinking.*

Doubt, Faith, and the Pursuit of Truth

Dr. Charity Anderson
PHI 1301.H1 (CRN 40886)

MW 1:00-2:15 PM

We all want answers, but rarely examine the questions we ask. How do we question well? Is there such a thing as a bad question? Can I be confident in what I know? In this course, we will look at these and other central philosophical questions, using close readings of classical and contemporary texts as our starting points — works from Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, and Hume, among others, then moving to modern authors such as C.S. Lewis. Classes will be discussion based — composed of very little to no lecture. Instead, we will wrestle with big ideas and hard questions through Socratic dialogue.

Topical Areas of Interest: *Faith and Reason, Ideas, Philosophy, Self-Knowledge, Epistemology*

Research Writing: Dostoevsky and the Human Condition

Dr. Lindsay Martin
GTX 1301.H1 (CRN 50994)

MW 10:10 AM

This course approaches academic writing as a way of participating in dynamic conversations about enduring questions. We will take Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Notes from Underground* as a starting point for rhetorical analysis, argument analysis, and research writing. This short piece of fiction explores the human condition against the backdrop of the Enlightenment and its legacy in the West. Students will engage in critical discussion of questions such as the following: What does it mean to be human? How do our theological and philosophical beliefs affect the way we think about who we are, how we interact with others, and what we live for? Can rationalist or materialist formulations account for the totality of human experience? Three essay assignments and regular shorter writing assignments will introduce students to academic writing and give them a chance to engage closely with Dostoevsky's short fiction and non-fiction.

Topical Areas of Interest: *Literature, Faith and Learning, Philosophy, Writing, Prelaw, Humanities, Religion, Christianity.*

This class satisfies the research and writing requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Mystery of Mysteries

Dr. Alan Jacobs
FYS 1399.N4 (CRN 48746)

TR 11:00-12:15 AM

Why are so many people fascinated by mysteries — AKA murder mysteries, detective novels, tales of detection? Untold millions of peaceable, friendly, law-abiding folks pass their leisure hours reading about murder and its aftermath. How do we account for that? To try to answer that question, this class will explore the history of this odd kind of story, focusing primarily on novels but also looking into movies and television. Authors studied will include: Edgar Allan Poe, Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, Chester Himes, P. D. James, and Tana French.

Topical Areas of Interest: *Writing, fiction, humanities, popular culture, literature, sociology.*

(Big) Reputation: Navigating Gossip, Scandal, and Ambition

Dr. Matt Anderson
FYS 1399.N2 (CRN 49646)

MW 1:00 PM

This is not a course about Taylor Swift. But we will think about what reputation is and what role it plays in our lives. From navigating friendships to finding employment to live on the internet, how we think about reputation structures everything humans do—and the ethical questions surrounding reputation are some of the most pervasive and interesting questions we can think about. Specifically, this course will address: honor, shame, ambition, suspicion, defamation, fraternal correction, gossip, slander, scandal, stigma, social media, and #metoo. We might read selections from: Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Virgil, Augustine, Aquinas, Dante, Chaucer, Anthony Trollope, the United States Supreme Court, and contemporary philosophy.

Topical Areas of Interest: *Business, marketing, popular culture, media, philosophy, sociology, psychology.*

Child Migration in the Western Hemisphere

Dr. Victor Hinojosa
FYS 1399.N5 (CRN 45902)

TR 11:00-12:15 PM

Since 2013, more than 850,000 children and families have fled Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras and sought asylum in the United States. This course seeks to understand the causes, characteristics, and consequences of this migration by examining why these children and families flee, what happens to them along the journey, and their prospects upon arrival in the United States.

Topical Areas of Interest: *International Studies, Social Work, Family Studies, Political Science, Latin American Studies, Current Events, Sociology, Poverty and Justice Studies.*

Hunger and Justice

Dr. Matthew Whelan
HON 1398.N1 (CRN 51254)

MW 1:00 PM

We live in a world that produces more than enough food to feed everyone – and yet nearly 700 million people are hungry. In this seminar we ask: what’s going on? What does justice require of us in the face of this reality? As we seek answers, we’ll hear from experts on famine, nutrition, and public health. We’ll trace the “hunger and thirst for justice” (Mt 5:6) emerging out of the Judeo-Christian tradition. And we will gain practical experience regarding the local face of hunger and poverty in Waco, Texas, as well as efforts to alleviate it.

This class satisfies the Engaged Learning requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences.

British Novels of the 1890s

Dr. Lynne Hinojosa
FYS 1399.N6 (CRN 47003)

TR 9:30-10:45 AM

What do detective fiction, modern gothic fiction, dystopian fiction, science fiction, and Christian fantasy have in common? These novel genres all increasingly became popular in England in the 1890s, when European imperialism was spreading across the globe, women’s movements were beginning to take hold, and Victorian moral and religious ways of thinking were facing new pressures from advances in science and technology. In this course we will read a variety of British novels (and novellas) published in the 1890s, paying special attention to the ways they portray and respond to Christianity, imperialism, gender, science, and social and moral norms. Students will also have the opportunity to use collections housed in Baylor’s Armstrong Browning Library. Texts may include: Arthur Conan Doyle’s *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*; Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*; Henry James’s *The Turn of the Screw*; William Morris’s *News from Nowhere*; H.G. Wells’ *The Time Machine* or *The War of the Worlds*; Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*; and George MacDonald’s *Lilith: A Romance*.

Topical Areas of Interest: Literature; History; Reading and Writing; Psychology; Religion, English; Philosophy, Great Texts.

Foundations of Western Civilization

Dr. Ken Jones
FYS 1399.N8 (CRN 42667) or CLA 1300.H1 (CRN 48588)

MWF 1:25-2:15 PM

This course will explore the foundations of Western Civilization from the world of the ancient Greeks and Romans through the Middle Ages. Attention will also be given to the civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia and Persia. The reading will be taken mostly from primary sources: documents and literary works from the civilizations under discussion. As a study of various civilizations, the class is interdisciplinary and will touch on history, literature, philosophy, politics, culture, myth, law, and religion. A deeper understanding of the issues that face our contemporary society will come from understanding the origins and beginnings from which it grew.

Topical Areas of Interest: *History, Classics, Intercultural Relations, International Studies, Critical Thinking.*

Honor & Character in Medicine

Dr. Sparky Matthews
FYS 1399.N9 (CRN 42664)

MWF 11:15-12:05 AM

In this course, incoming Freshman will learn about becoming a physician of honor and character, preparing to lead in the world of medicine. Taught by a physician that was himself a Baylor University premed student, the course will focus on integrating leadership principles, ethical issues of honor and character, and a Christian foundation as students begin their journey towards becoming a physician. 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 physician leader of character. 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.

This seminar is reserved for students residing in the HRC.

Topical Areas of Interest: *Pre-medicine, leadership, medical ethics, medical humanities.*

Code Blue! Leading as a Doctor

Dr. Sparky Matthews
FYS 1399.N10 (CRN 47005)

MWF 10:10-11:00 PM

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.

Topical Areas of Interest: *Pre-medicine, leadership, medical ethics, medical humanities.*

Crossroads in Medicine

Dr. Richard Sanker
FYS 1399.N11 (CRN 46071)

TR 2:00-3:15 PM

What does it mean to have the power to heal another individual? What ethical lines should not be crossed to save another human life? What would happen if humans could live forever? Medicine is a complicated profession in which science, philosophy, business, sociology, psychology and religion all intersect. Every day, the modern day physician sits at a crossroads of possibilities trying to determine the best outcome for their patients and their practice. This course will use several literary texts as a context for discussion of the many issues and concerns that physicians must encounter as an aspect of their everyday responsibilities in research and patient care. Plus, we will look at medicine from several different perspectives to see how it can be researched from multiple academic disciplines.

Topical Areas of Interest: *Premedical Studies; Medical Humanities; Business; Philosophy; Ethics; Religion*

Honors Chapel Options

CHA 1087	121	48541	Faith & the Healing Profession	Various	MW	1010 AM
<i>~ CHA 1087-121 is open to any Honors College student pursuing a pre-health educational goal.</i>						
CHA 1093	04	48568	HRC Evening Chapel Prayers	Colon, Carlos	MTWR	900 PM
<i>~ CHA 1093-04 is for students living in the Honors Residential College (HRC). Prehealth students in the HRC can take either CHA 1087-121 (recommended) or CHA 1093-05. Note: These chapel options do not bear Honors Program credit but satisfy university requirements.</i>						

Business Degree and Majors

ACC 2303	H1	44782	Financial Accounting-HNR	Carpenter, Don	TR	200 PM
ECO 1380	H1	46897	Intro Econ Analysis/Policy HNR	Mencken, Kimberly	MWF	125 PM
ECO 1380	H2	46900	Intro Econ Analysis/Policy HNR	Chin, Yoo-Mi	TR	1100 AM
ECO 1380	H3	46898	Intro Econ Analysis/Policy HNR	Chin, Yoo-Mi	TR	1230 PM
<i>* ECO 1380-H1 is for Hankamer Scholars. ECO 1380-H2 & H3 are for BBF and UNSC. Most business students take ECO 2306/2307.</i>						
ECO 2306	H1	46905	Princ of Microeconomics-HNR	Aimone, Jason	TR	1100 AM
ECO 2307	H1	40597	Princ of Macroeconomics-HNR		TR	800 AM

Business for non-majors

ECO 1305	H2	50576	Issues in Economics		TR	800 AM
<i>* ECO 1305 does not count for a business degree. Business majors take ECO 2306, 2307, or 1380. Students who take ECO 1305 may not take ECO 2306 for credit.</i>						

Classics & Languages

CLA 1300	H1	48588	Foundation Western Civilization	Jones, Kenneth	MWF	125 PM
GRK 1301	H1	42753	Elementary Greek I-HNR	Fish, Jeffrey	MWF	905 AM
LAT 1301	H1	10598	Elementary Latin I-HNR	Hanchey, Daniel	MWF	905 AM

Fine Arts/Music

FDM 1303	H1	18190	Intro Mass Communication HNR	Korpi, Michael	TR	930 AM
JOU 1303	H1	12768	Intro Mass Communication HNR	Korpi, Michael	TR	930 AM
<i>* FDM 1303/JOU 1303 are cross listed, i.e., the same class. Satisfies communication literacy req. for the BA/BS/BFA.</i>						
FDM 1304	H1	32322	Sight, Sound, and Motion-HNR	Sheldon, Zachary	TR	800 AM
<i>^ FDM 1304-H1 is for Film & Digital Media majors and pre-majors</i>						
MUS 1301	H1	42504	Theory I-HNR	Lai, Eric	MWF	905 AM
MUS 1302	H1	50249	Theory II - HNR	Vagts, Andrew	MWF	905 AM
MUS 2301	H3	40661	Theory III-HNR	Fleming, Amy	MWF	1010 AM
MUS 1321	H1	42669	Engaging with Music-HNR	Azar, Maroun	TR	930 AM
<i>* Music Theory classes (MUS 1301, 1302, and MUS 2302) are for music majors. * MUS 1321 satisfies the fine arts req. for the BA/BS/BFA degree</i>						
THEA 1306	H1	47380	Introduction to Theatre - HNR	Popp, Merritt	MWF	1115 AM

Required Great Texts

GTX 2302	H1	23906	Medieval Intellectual Trad HNR	Hinojosa, Lynne	TR	1230 PM
GTX 2302	H2	34747	Medieval Intellectual Trad HNR	Ryden, David	TR	1100 AM
GTX 2302	H3	50520	Medieval Intellectual Trad HNR	Anderson, Matthew	MW	230 PM
GTX 2302	H4	18320	Medieval Intellectual Trad HNR	Foley, Michael	TR	930 AM
GTX 2302	H5	45032	Medieval Intellectual Trad HNR	Murray, Sarah Jane	MW	100 PM
<i>* First-year University Scholars take GTX 2301 in the fall term. BIC students do not need to take GTX.</i>						

Humanities and Social Sciences (except Religion)

PHI 1301	H1	40886	Doubt, Faith, & Certainty HNR	Anderson, Charity	MW	100 PM
PHI 1308	H1	45697	Political Philosophy HNR	Hibbs, Stacey	MWF	1220 PM

PPS 1100	13	48836	Accompanying Immigrants in Waco	Loachamin, Israel	R	330 PM
Religion						
REL 1310	H1	44715	The Christian Scriptures-HNR	Duncan, John	TR	930 AM
REL 1310	H2	16653	The Christian Scriptures-HNR	Benton, Susan	TR	930 AM
<i>* 1310-H1 is for students living in the HRC. 1310-H2 is open to all Honors students.</i>						
Pre-med / Science						
BIO 1305	H1	44200	Mod Concepts Bioscience HNR	Pitts, Ronald	MW	230 PM
CHE 1301	H1	44367	Bas Prin Mod Chemistry I-HNR	McGrath, Thomas	TR	930 AM
CHE 1301	H2	46575	Bas Prin Mod Chemistry I-HNR	McGrath, Thomas	TR	200 PM
MTH 1321	H1	46723	Calculus I HNR	Hunziker, Markus	MWF	1010 AM
PHY 1420	H1	48437	General Physics I HNR	Tucker, Garritt	MWF	905 AM
Science for non-Science Majors						
CHE 1405	H1	50672	Chemistry & Society	Demesa, Maricel	MW	735 AM
<i>* CHE 1405 is NOT on the approved A&S Scientific Method distribution list for students in the College of Arts and Sciences.</i>						

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME HONORS CLASSES

SCIENCES:

Students with a strong background in the sciences who are enrolled in a science-related or pre-health academic plan should consider taking at least one of their science classes for Honors this fall. This will better prepare students for scientific research and preparation for professional exams.

BIO 1305-H1

Pitts

This introductory biology course will focus on the unifying principles common to all levels of biological organization, with emphasis on cell biology, metabolism, and genetics. These topics will be taught using real world examples from current issues in biology. The instructors will use active learning strategies to engage the students in activities such as classroom discussions, peer learning, case studies, data analysis, and problem solving. Students will be challenged to connect concepts across a variety of content areas and apply their knowledge to investigate biological questions.

WHICH BIO CLASS SHOULD YOU TAKE? (Guidance from the Biology Dept.)

- Students who **score a 4 on the AP Biology exam AND** who believe that their BIO knowledge is strong
 - ➔ Retake BIO 1305-H1 (forgoing AP credit) [recommended], or
 - ➔ Register for BIO 1306 in a non-Honors section (if available) or
 - ➔ Take a math/statistics class or another class to prepare for the MCAT (if premed)
- Students who **score a 5 on the AP Biology exam AND** who believe that their BIO knowledge is strong
 - ➔ Retake BIO 1305-H1 (forgoing AP credit) [recommended], or
 - ➔ Begin Physics sequence or
 - ➔ Take a math/statistics class or another class to prepare for the MCAT (if premed)
- Students who completed a **strong BIO course (not anatomy/physiology) during one of the last 2 years** of high school (whether AP or not)
 - ➔ Enroll in BIO 1305 Honors.
- Students who have **not completed high school BIO coursework in the last 2 years** of high school or who for any reason feel ill-prepared to join BIO 1305 Honors
 - ➔ Enroll in BIO 1305 regular sections.

CHE 1301-H1**McGrath**

This class will cover the fundamentals of inorganic chemistry and serve as a great springboard for those interested in doing research in chemistry or biochemistry. Students with a strong high-school chemistry background who plan on majoring/concentrating in Chemistry or Biochemistry are encouraged to take this class. NOTE: Dr. McGrath was chosen by the senior class as the 2024 Collins Outstanding Professor.

PHY 1420-H1**Tucker**

One focus of Honors Physics is the development of critical-thinking abilities regarding principles and applications of mechanics, wave motion, sound, and heat. This course will emphasize fundamental concepts and problem solving. Class size is limited to 16 students. Students majoring in engineering, physics/astrophysics, and chemistry are strongly encouraged to consider this class. Previous experience with Calculus I is strongly recommended.

**HRC PPS COURSES – PPS 1100-13, ACCOMPANYING THE IMMIGRANT IN WACO (T 11:00)
PPS 1100-15, FOOD AND SUSTAINABILITY (W 3:35)**

These service-learning classes can often satisfy a lifetime fitness requirement on BA and BS degree plans.

PPS 1100-13 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 found in the U.S.

PPS 1100-15 invites students to explore the realities of industrial and local food systems, problems and inequities in food access and distribution, and environmental sustainability. Students will have the opportunity to get their hands dirty on the World Hunger Relief Institute Farm in Waco. Students will assist weekly with orchard, garden, livestock, and other farm projects.