

Elizabethtown College Honors Program

Current Courses

Departmental and Honors Program Courses

HAN 111 Understanding Human Cultures

Dr. Robert Wheelersburg

A holistic analysis of foreign cultures, including such aspects as religion, history, kinship, and marriage. This course seeks to develop your abilities to perform ethnographic analyses in an educated way to respond more effectively to foreign cultures. The aims and objectives of this course are the same as those of every scientific endeavor: discovery and explanation. Many of the world's modern enterprises, such as commerce and international relations are based upon an understanding of foreign peoples. Thus, it is important for us as world citizens to be able to attain an understanding of a foreign culture by observing and understanding the behavior of its people. Fulfills Non-Western Cultural Heritage Core.

HBI 111 Introduction to Biological Science I

Dr. Deb Wohl

During the semester, it is my intention to help you obtain a firm understanding of mechanisms underlying the basic biological principles. This course will introduce you to many biological concepts and help lay the foundation for your upper level classes, and perhaps more importantly, help you act as an informed citizen in society. Fulfills Natural and Physical Sciences Core for Biology majors, lab science

HCH 207 The Chemistry and Politics of AIDS and Cancer

Dr. Tom Hagan

This course seeks to rectify the science of two deadly diseases with the public policy that has been established around these diseases. While many persons have pre-conceived notions about how AIDS and cancer are viewed, does the actual biochemical basis of these diseases correlate well with their corresponding public policies? Students will look at these diseases from several points. Biologically, they will decipher how, at the organ and cellular levels, these two diseases arise. At the chemical level, students will unravel how and why certain molecules are implicated in causing these diseases. By probing the structure of these molecules and how they interact and react with other molecules, you will learn to appreciate and understand how these diseases begin, develop, and ultimately ravage the body. From the standpoint of public policy students will examine how the U.S. has responded to the threat of AIDS and cancer to public health, analyze how government makes health and science policy, assess the extent to which government policies toward AIDS and cancer have been effective in protecting public health, discuss the effects of alternative policies, speculate on the likeliness of policy change, and explore what citizens can do influence government priorities and policies that reflect "good" science. Fulfills Natural and Physical Sciences Core (no lab), WRI, Honors interdisciplinary

HEN 252 Irony, Humor, and Despair in Modern Literature: Joyce, Kafka, and Beckett, Dr. Mark Harman

In this course, students explore the modern movement in literature by reading selected works by three great writers, discovering intriguing parallels between works by two expatriate Irishmen and a Jewish writer of undefinable national persuasion who considered himself an exile. Students will address questions such as: To what extent are the literary connections between Kafka and Joyce rooted in comparable struggles among assimilated Central European Jews and anglicized Irish intellectuals about issues such as language and identity? How did Beckett overcome his obsession with Joyce and create his own distinctively bleak voice? In exploring these works students will focus on neglected qualities in all three writers (e.g. their sense of irony and humor). Fulfills Humanities Core, WRI, Honors Interdisciplinary.

HEN 253 Gaelic and Anglo-Irish Irelands, Dr. Mark Harman

A study of the intersection between the Gaelic and Anglo-Irish linguistic, cultural, and literary traditions of Ireland. Besides exploring the past and present state of Gaelic language and culture, the class will focus on the impact of the older Gaelic heritage of English-language classics such as Swift, Joyce, Yeats, Beckett, and Heaney. This course is cross listed as Modern Languages 232. Please specify if you need enrollment in one department

over another. Honors Interdisciplinary seminar, Western Cultural Heritage Core, WRI.

HES 215 Meteorology, Prof. David Ferruzza

An introductory, yet comprehensive course about the atmosphere: Causes, effects, and geographic distribution of weather/climate. Scientific basis for Meteorology, up to and including special emphasis on how the changing world of weather may affect our atmospheric environment. The world community is currently "making history" with its consideration of and debates on the environment (Climate Change). Therefore, many of the Spring 2008 Term Projects might be on topics related directly or peripherally to Climate Change. Fulfills NPS core, lab course

HHI 112 History of Modern Asia

Dr. David Kenley

This course will examine the history of Asia from 1500 until the present day. There will be a focus on cross-cultural contacts within Asia and with the West. By semester's end, students will have a factual understanding of Asia's role in the international community, including the cultural, political, intellectual, and economic factors that have influenced this region's history. Students will also learn to critically evaluate historical materials relevant to the study of Asia. Fulfills Non-western Cultural Heritage Core, WRI

HMA 251 Probability and Statistics

Dr. Leyla Batakci

In this course, students will 1) learn basic facts and techniques of descriptive statistics, experimental design, probability, and statistical inference, 2) develop an awareness and appreciation of the role of statistics in one's environment and activities, 3) develop statistical reasoning and statistical thinking skills, 4) develop the ability to comprehend and critically evaluate public surveys and scientific reports; and 5) establish a foundation for advanced study and the application of statistics in one's area of specialization.

HMA 270 History of Math

Dr. Gabriela Sanchis

In this course, students will 1) gain an understanding of how mathematics developed in an intuitive and experimental fashion out of a need to solve problems, 2) become familiar with the tools and notation available in different time periods, and how these helped or hindered mathematical discoveries, 3) summarize the development of areas such as arithmetic, algebra, and geometry, 4) recall the names and contributions of important mathematicians, and 5) gain appreciation for the creative aspects of mathematics. Fulfills Math Analysis Core, Honors Interdisciplinary

HMA 272 Ethnomathematics

Dr. Tim McDevitt

We will study how diverse cultures and mathematics have influenced each other throughout history. For example, we will examine mathematical patterns in African and Incan art, probability in games played by the Iroquois and Maori, algebra in the kin relations of the Warlpiri and Malekula, graph theory in Bushoong sand patterns, and the number systems, geometry, and calendars of the ancient Maya. The course will include a required week-long trip to Mexico over spring break to see Mayan ruins and learn about Mayan accomplishments first-hand from professional archaeologists. The trip to Mexico requires an additional fee. Fulfills Honors Interdisciplinary, Math Analysis Core.

HMA 275 Mathematics in Music

Dr. James Hughes

Participants will deepen and enrich their creative experience of music by learning about the principal ways that mathematical ideas are applied to the creation of music, and incorporating these ideas into their own creative repertoires. Of particular interest will be basic acoustical phenomena, tuning systems, and (especially) music theory and composition. Although strong connections between mathematics and music have been evident for thousands of years, our primary emphasis will be on contemporary applications; historical aspects, although interesting and important in their own right, will be explored only insofar as they provide essential explanatory background for current practices. There are no formal college-level course prerequisites for this course. However, students who enroll in this course will be expected to have strong, prior interest in both mathematics and music. Ideally, such interest will be manifested by either possession of the following skills, or willingness to obtain them rapidly with extra effort at the outset of the course. Fulfills Honors Interdisciplinary, Creative Expression Core

HON 301 Thesis Preparation

Dr. Dana Mead

The purpose of this course is to prepare students for the development and writing of the Honors Senior Thesis. Students will become familiar with the writing and research approaches of their particular discipline, develop an interdisciplinary perspective on their thesis topic, and draft a 10-page thesis proposal in collaboration with their thesis advisor. Highly recommended to students whose departments do not have a 4-credit course for Honors in the Discipline or to those who feel unsure of what to do to write a thesis. Optional, one credit, P/NP, counts toward the 4 required thesis credits.

HON 305 Honors Leadership Theory and Practice

Dr. Dana Mead, Chaplain Tracy W. Sadd

This course provides a capstone classroom experience for Juniors and Seniors in the Honors Program by examining leadership from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students learn academic theory and analysis of leadership through presentations by leaders in government, religion, business, and non-profit sectors, as well as an emphasis on self-reflection and personal leadership development. Students learn about great leaders throughout history, learn to evaluate the actions and qualities of leaders, compare and contrast leadership styles and strategies, identify their own leadership potential through self-reflection and personal growth experiences, and understand leadership theories and their application to real world problems. Students engage in both leadership activities through presentations to other groups in the honors program and planning and implementing an honors program service project for the semester. Fulfills Honors Program Requirement.

HPC 105 General Psychology

Dr. Catherine Lemley

This course introduces the general subject matter of psychology and seeks to instill habits of critical thinking. Students will learn the technical vocabulary and principles of psychology and be trained in the scientific method. The field will be presented in a historical context with emphasis on origins and purposes, along with an exploration of current issues in psychology. The course includes an experiential component in the lab studying the operant conditioning of a rat, and writing a report according to guidelines of the American Psychological Association. Fulfills Social Sciences Core.

HPC 111 Introduction to Neuroscience

Dr. Catherine Lemley

A survey of the biological basis of psychological processes, including neurons and brain organization, the endocrine system, motor control, higher cortical functions and dysfunctions in order to provide an integrated understanding of the brain and behavior. Recovery from brain damage, sexual behavior, emotion, language, mood disorders, schizophrenia and additional related topics are also covered. Fulfills Natural and Physical Sciences Core

HPH 255E Environmental Ethics

Dr. Gabriel Ricci

This course is designed to familiarize students with the range of positions that identifies the contemporary phenomenon of ecological consciousness. While these types of courses are identified with the discipline of philosophy, they have their historical roots in the biological science of ecology. Current academic offerings began to proliferate after the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, primarily in response to the growing awareness that civilization was on a collision course with Nature. The historical framework for this course will highlight the perennial conflict between what environmentalists call First Nature (primordial physical nature) and Second Nature (cultural and artifactual overlay). In this course, students will be introduced to multiple perspectives which identify with contemporary environmentalism including deep ecology, ecofeminism, and others. Students will be encouraged to think critically about humanity's relationship to Nature. Fulfills Honors Interdisciplinary.

HPH 234 Justice Through the Ages

Dr. Gabriel Ricci

This seminar addresses the subject of justice as it has appeared in classical literature. The course will begin with readings from the ancient world and will conclude with modern-day readings on the subject. We will also include films which have eloquently addressed the perennial problems associated with defining justice. As we progress through the semester it will become obvious that our interpretations will have to accommodate changing

worldviews. We will first encounter this issue when we shift from the Greek mythological world view to Plato's rationalist perspective. Fulfills Honors Interdisciplinary.

HRE 285 Amish, Brethren, and Mennonites in the U.S. Since 1850

Dr. Donald Kraybill

An interdisciplinary study of the Amish, Brethren, and Mennonite experience (beliefs, history, practices) in the context of modern American culture. Primary attention will be given to understanding how these communities responded to major developments in American society since 1850—the industrial revolution, the modern state, individuation, modern warfare, conscription, the rise of technology, compulsory public education, theological liberalism, and religious pluralism. The course will explore how changes in American society have encouraged assimilation, fragmentation, and in some cases reactionary (old order) movements within Anabaptist and Pietist groups. Offered Spring semester; fulfills Western Cultural Heritage Core, WRI, Honors Interdisciplinary.

HREL 289 Communal and Utopian Societies

Dr. Jeff Bach

This Honors course examines various types of communal societies, frequently known as utopian or intentional communities, that have sought to institute an ideal social order, a “heaven on earth.” Emphasis will be given to both historic and contemporary religious expressions of American communal development. Case studies include the Ephrata Society, Brook Farm, Oneida, New Harmony, the Hutterites, the Amana Colonies, the Shakers, Reba Place Church, and the Catholic Workers Movement. Students will become familiar with the social history and belief systems of communal societies, come to understand the theories that explain these groups, and develop an appreciation for the many ways in which social systems shape questions of group identity and individualization. Fulfills Honors Interdisciplinary.

HSO 224 Amish in Modern Society, Dr. Donald Kraybill

Sociological theories and concepts will be used to analyze and compare Amish society with contemporary American society. Using concepts such as power, class, culture, gender, inequality, deviance, social control, and technology the course will explore fundamental differences between Amish society and modern life. The course will examine the Amish in the context of modern culture to explore questions about how societies construct values and organize social behavior, and how their members view the idea of progress, the impact of technology on human experience, and the roots of social well being. Offered fall semester, fulfills Social Sciences Core, WRI