**Spring 2021 Honors Courses**

First-Year Only Honors Option for Non-Science Majors: BI 125-HO Genes to Genomics

BI 125-HO Genes to Genomics — Prof. Cook — Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:20 am – 12:50 pm

Course Description: This honors course reserved for first-year students is designed for non-science majors interested in the problems and promises associated with modern-day genetics. Discoveries and technological advances in genetics are taught with an emphasis on the social, moral, ethical issues facing society today.

A comment from the instructor: With the advances that are happening in Biotechnology, the field of Genetics is going through a scientific revolution. Things that were only dreamed about or perceived as mere fiction are becoming realities. This course is an exploration of some of these scientific discoveries and applications and their impact on our lives.

Major objectives of this Honor Course are:

1. Teach basic Human Genetics, Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering,
2. Encourage active participation of students in class discussions,
3. Explore the legal and social issues related to Biotechnology,
4. Debate whether the Eugenics movement is still with us and
5. Explore the impact of human genome research on society.

Topics Covered in the Course include

1. Evolution, Social Darwinism and Eugenics,
2. Genetics and The Human Genome Project,
3. Reproductive Technologies, Cloning, Stem Cell Research and Bioethics,
4. Genetic Screening, Genetic Testing, Gene Therapy and Gene Doping,
5. Criminology and DNA Forensics,
6. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and Genetic Patents and
7. Race and Genography and Genetic Discrimination

First-year Honors students can take an Honors version of this course concurrently with peers taking a non-Honors version of the course.
This course counts as a Mathematics/Science course in the Knowledge Areas and it fulfills the following Key Skills:

- practice/exposure Information Literacy (L)
- practice/exposure Written Communication (WC)

Contact: heather.cook@wagner.edu

First-Year Only Honors Course: SO 103-HO American Society and Its Social Problems

SO 103-HO American Society and Its Social Problems — Prof. Esser — Mondays & Wednesdays 1:00–2:30 pm

This Honors course introduces students to American society and its social problems through the development and application of a sociological framework. We will use historical and cross-cultural comparisons to see contemporary social problems as products of broad changes in both the structure of social institutions (e.g. economic and political institutions) and in the social characteristics of the American population (e.g. ethnicity, race, social class, and gender).

Assignments will include a policy position paper analyzing differences between Republican and Democratic policy positions in general and on a given campaign issue (e.g. healthcare or how to grow the economy) in particular.

This Honors course can be counted as a Social Science course in the Knowledge Areas, and it provides the following Key Skills:

- intensive Intercultural Understanding (UU)
- practice/exposure Quantitative Thinking (Q)

Contact: jesser@wagner.edu

Honors Team-Taught, One-Unit ILC: HI 236-HL or TH 229-HL The Civil Rights Movement

HI 236-HL History of the Civil Rights Movement — Prof. Reynolds — Tuesdays 1:00–4:00 pm

or

TH 229-HL Devised Theatre — Prof. McCarthy — Tuesdays 1:00–4:00 pm

This collaborative, team-taught, one-unit history and theatre ILC will examine the modern Civil Rights Movement and create theatre performance pieces appropriate to ideas associated with the national fight for racial equality for African Americans in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. The course will run as a colloquium and acting workshop in which historic texts and artistic works are read, shown, discussed and dismantled. We will discover truths about American history, the
individual creative process in relation to the evolution of student ideas. Students will be asked to risk not knowing in order to discover. The course texts will include historic research materials related to students’ projects as well as selected readings, speeches, and archival films. Course materials will include—but not be limited to—props, costumes, and set pieces necessary for works.

Students must choose to take the course for History credit or Theatre credit.

Enrolling in this Honors course as HI 236 counts as a Humanities (H) course in the Knowledge Areas and provides the following Key Skills:

- intensive Intercultural Understanding (UU)
- intensive Information Literacy (LL)
- practice/exposure Written Communication (WC)

OR

Enrolling in this Honors course as TH 229 counts as an Arts (A) course in the Knowledge Areas and provides an intensive Creativity Key Skill (CC).

Contact: rita.reynolds@wagner.edu and theresa.mccarthy@wagner.edu

Honors Course as Part of ILC for Nursing Majors: NR 224-HL Nutrition & Health

NR 224-HL Nutrition & Health — Prof. Aurelus — Mondays & Wednesdays 8:00–9:30 am

This intermediate learning community (ILC), intended for Nursing majors, includes an option for an Honors section of NR 224 Nutrition & Health, offered every fall and spring semester.

This ILC looks at the cellular nutrition of eukaryotes (humans) vs. the nutrition of prokaryotes (bacteria). The ILC also covers the similarities and differences in the structure, function and role of carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, vitamins and trace elements in humans and bacteria. Finally, it looks at the immunological aspects of nutrition across the human life span compared to the immunological aspects in disease prevention.

Students may take any section of MI 200 (concurrently or as a prerequisite).

The Honors section of NR 224 offers a more challenging approach to the study of Nutrition & Health by requiring an additional research paper and a public presentation (such as at a health fair, to another class, or in a workshop).

NR 224 provides the following Key Skill:

- practice/exposure Information Literacy (L)
AA 250-HO Introduction to Management and the Arts

AA 250-HO Introduction to Management and the Arts — Prof. Price — Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:20 am – 12:50 pm

This course will be an overview of some of the central issues facing an arts manager today. Topics will include the various types of arts organizations, the styles of management, organizational structures, financial controls, legal issues, marketing, fundraising and strategic planning. This course is a prerequisite for upper ARTS ADMINISTRATION courses and is open to Honors students or with permission of the instructor.

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing

For students who entered Wagner College in Fall 2018 or after, this Honors course provides a practice/exposure Key Skill in Oral Communication (O).

Contact: todd.price@wagner.edu

AH 310-HO Art and Aesthetics in the Third Reich

AH 310-HO Art and Aesthetics in the Third Reich — Prof. Morowitz — Mondays 1:00–4:00 pm

One of the most murderous regimes in history, the Third Reich was also one of the most deeply invested in all areas of art and aesthetics. Beyond the realm of producing propaganda in every medium, from posters to film to processions, the Nazis stole or destroyed millions of works of art throughout Europe, planned the redesign of many major cities, held the most highly attended “art” exhibit ever held and attempted to control every facet of the visual arts. This course proposes that we cannot fully understand National Socialism without understanding the aesthetic ideology of the party and of Adolf Hitler and shows how “culture was not only the end to which power should aspire, but the means of achieving it.”

A comment from the instructor: Topics to be explored include Hitler's youth as a struggling painter in Vienna and his rejection from the Art Academy; the systematic expropriation of Jewish art collections and the works of foreign museums; Albert Speer's plans for a newly designed Berlin; the 1937 Degenerate Art exhibit; the carefully designed parades, processions and rallies; and recent law cases to have stolen works of art restored to their rightful owners. The course ends with a look at memorials and museums dedicated to the Holocaust and ask whether it is possible for art, in any form, to illuminate one of the darkest chapters in human history.

This Honors course can be counted as an Arts (A) course in the Knowledge Areas and provides the following Key Skills:
EN 111-HO World Literature

EN 111-HO World Literature — Prof. Hurley — Mondays & Wednesdays 2:40–4:10 pm

An introductory course covering fiction from English-speaking countries other than the U.S. and Great Britain such as Canada, India, and South Africa and writing in translation from such areas as Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

For students who entered Wagner College during or before Summer 2018, taking this Honors course fulfills a Writing Intensive unit (W) and the English literature requirement (LIT).

For students who entered Wagner College during or after Fall 2018, this Honors course counts as a Humanities (H) course in the Knowledge Areas and provides the following Key Skills:

- intensive Intercultural Understanding (UU)
- practice/exposure Critical Reading and Analysis (R)
- intensive Written Communication (WW)

Contact: ahurley@wagner.edu

Cross-listed Honors Course: EN 203-HO / RE 203-HO Spiritual Quest in Literature

EN 203-HO / RE 203-HO Spiritual Quest in Literature — Prof. Kaelber — Tuesdays 6:00–9:00 pm

An examination of some major pieces of fiction concerned with heroes on a search for meaning and purpose in their lives. Their search often leads them far from traditional religious beliefs.

Cross-listed as English 203 and Religion 203

For students who entered Wagner College during or before Summer 2018, taking this Honors course as EN 204 fulfills the English literature requirement (LIT).
For students who entered Wagner College during or after Fall 2018, this Honors course counts as a Humanities (H) course in the Knowledge Areas and provides the following Key Skills:

- practice/exposure Intercultural Understanding (U)
- intensive Critical Reading and Analysis (RR)
- practice/exposure Creativity (C)

Contact: wkaelber@wagner.edu

EN 348-HO Southern Women Writers

This course is designed to introduce students to a selection of influential Southern Women Writers working in a variety of genres and across a broad historical period. As we explore these writers in the context of the South, we will also investigate the cultural complexities of “Southern Women Writers” as a category in order to assess the benefits and risks of this designation. Toward this end, we will consider such questions as what counts as the South?; what are the historical stakes of literacy and literary production for women in the South?; and what are our assumptions about women’s writing, and are they valid? Additionally, we will examine how the writers on our syllabus write within and against conceptions of womanhood and region, particularly as they intersect with issues of sexuality, race, class, and ability.

For students who entered Wagner College during or before Summer 2018, this Honors course fulfills a Writing Intensive unit (W) and the English literature requirement (LIT).

For students who entered Wagner College during or after Fall 2018, this Honors course counts as a Humanities (H) course in the Knowledge Areas and provides the following Key Skills:

- intensive Intercultural Understanding (UU)
- practice/exposure Critical Reading and Analysis (R)
- intensive Written Communication (WW)

Contact: alison.arant@wagner.edu

FM 222-HO Introduction to Documentary Filmmaking

This course introduces students to different approaches and styles of documentary filmmaking, which they will apply in their own productions. Central to the course is a close observation and
understanding of the world around us. Students will learn how to be sensitive and acute observers as they focus their cameras on the collective and individual contexts around them, while developing their critical faculties through collective discussions and the analysis of a variety of documentary and hybrid-form films and videos. The honors section of this course will include more sustained and in-depth readings and discussions concerning documentary film history and theory, which will in turn inform students’ creative projects.

For students who entered Wagner College during or before Summer 2018, this Honors course fulfills the Technological Competency requirement (TC) and the American Diversity requirement (D).

For students who entered Wagner College during or after Fall 2018, this Honors course counts as an Arts (A) course in the Knowledge Areas and provides the following Key Skills:

- practice/exposure Intercultural Understanding (U)
- intensive Creativity (CC)
- intensive Technological Competency (TT)

Contact: philip.cartelli@wagner.edu

HI 250-HO History of Science and Medicine in America

HI 250-HO History of Science and Medicine in America — Prof. Palfreyman — Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:20 am – 12:50 pm

Americans usually think of the development of science and medicine as a story of steady, continuous progress from the primitive, often superstitious past to the advanced, ever-improving present. In reality, the evolution of scientific and medical knowledge has looked less like a straight line and more like a twisting tree with splintering limbs and numerous dead branches. This course will examine the ways in which various groups of Americans have argued about truth, competed for legitimacy, and undergone paradigmatic revolutions in the complicated and often confused path towards the place we stand today. We will cover specific developments and debates in the progression of scientific and medical knowledge, including Newtonian physics, humoral medicine, evolutionary theory, eugenics, germ theory, atomic energy, the human genome, climate change, weaponization of technology, and more. We will also consider the history of science as a way of thinking—a set of principles and methods that has admitted a tremendous variety of competing and even opposing theories about how the world and the human body work.

This course counts as a Humanities course in the Knowledge Areas and provides the following Key Skills:

- intensive Critical Reading and Analysis (RR)
HI 291 History of Pandemics

HI 291-HO History of Pandemics — Prof. Smith — Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:40–4:10 pm

This Honors course will trace the important continuities—and discontinuities— that link our current experience of COVID-19 to ancient, medieval and modern examples of plague and pandemic disease. We will read Thucydides, Boccaccio, Manzoni, Camus and other classic texts, to examine ways that women and men have chronicled their experiences of shared human suffering. Taking a chronological and global approach, we will also discuss the history of public health and consider ways that different societies have responded politically and economically to epidemic disease, both in the long and short term.

This course counts as a Humanities course in the Knowledge Areas

and provides the following Key Skills:

• intensive Critical Reading and Analysis (RR)

• practice/exposure Oral Communication (O)

• intensive Written Communication (WW)

Contact: asmith@wagner.edu

Cross-listed Honors Course: PS 209 / RE 209 Is Religion "Man-made?"

PS 209 / RE 209 Is Religion “Man-made?” — Prof. Kaelber — Thursdays 6:00–9:00 pm

Are religious “truths” divinely given or are they created by human beings? We will unravel this issue by approaching the question from various perspectives. We will consider, for example, the psychological approach of Sigmund Freud as well as the materialistic approach of Karl Marx. We will also consider the way in which Christian beliefs, in particular, are conditioned by cultural and political circumstances. We begin by examining religious predictions regarding the “end of the world” and why people continue to hold these beliefs even when they are proven to be untrue. We conclude with the powerful play “Equus” about a teenage boy who creates his own religion.

Students must choose to take this Honors course as a Social Science course (PS 209) or a Humanities course (RE 209) in the Knowledge Areas. The course provides the following Key Skills:

• practice/exposure Information Literacy (L)

• practice/exposure Written Communication (WC)

Contact: brett.palfreyman@wagner.edu
PS 291 Psychotherapy and the Humanities

This is an honors seminar for students interested in the early and ongoing relations between psychotherapy as a form of clinical practice like medicine, nursing and social work and the broad history of human cultural life in which psychotherapy appeared. In a series of readings, lectures, presentations by students and responses to those presentations, and extended discussions the class will explore key texts (primary sources) and figures (psychiatrists and clinical psychologists) in order to discover the extent to which their ideas and recommendations for working with people who are suffering from emotional and other psychological reactions that inhibit their full participation in everyday life are based in ideas that originated with writers and artists, including philosophers, poets and creative originals in the performing artists. Among the figures whose work we will study are Sigmund Freud (Austrian), Carl Gustav Jung (Swiss), Medard Boss (Swiss), R.D. Laing (Scottish) and Jan van den Berg (Dutch). The course requirements include extensive reading, two oral presentations, and a term paper.

This course counts as a Social Science course in the Knowledge Areas and provides the following Key Skills:

• practice/exposure Critical Reading and Analysis (R)

• practice/exposure Oral Communication (O)

• practice/exposure Written Communication (WC)

Contact: mgroth@wagner.edu
speeches (awards, honors, ceremonies, weddings, etc.) as well as one-on-one situations. The primary goal of the class is to create relaxed, confident speakers who can be comfortable in any situation, whether formal or socially casual.

For students who entered Wagner College in or after Fall 2018, this Honors course provides the following Key Skill:

- intensive Oral Communication (OO)

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