

**Honors
Course Descriptions
Summer 2015**

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Honors College Summer 2015 Courses

A wide variety of course topics are available to Honors College students in summer 2015. Please check back often, as changes may occur until summer sessions begin. Need an appointment with an Honors advisor? Stop by the office in Honors Hall or phone 509-335-4505. *Advising will be offered by email or telephone ONLY to students currently studying abroad.*

HONORS 270.1 – 3 units

May 11 – June 19

MTWTHF 9:00–10:15, Honors 142

Principles and Research Methods in Social Science

The American Foreign Mission Movement and its Consequences

Instructor: Jennifer Thigpen

Prerequisite: Must be a current Honors student

This course is designed to introduce students to the principles and research methods specific to the discipline of history. Course readings and assignments will allow students the opportunity to practice their skills in identifying the particular kinds of questions historians ask about a given topic as well as the methods they employ to gain answers to those questions.

This summer 2015 section will focus on the American Foreign Mission Movement of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Over the course of the semester, students will gain the skills necessary to conduct original research on some aspect of this topic. Common readings will not only provide students a foundation for understanding missionary motivations for spreading Christianity across the globe, but will explore the consequences of their movements—both for missionaries and for the peoples they hoped to convert. Course readings will expose students to various historical sub-fields, including colonial, Western, cultural, religious, and women's and gender history. Students enrolled in this course will gain an understanding of the different theoretical and methodological approaches historians have taken to this topic in order to gain an accurate understanding of the past.

Required text:

None; readings will be placed on reserve in the library.

HONORS 270.2 – 3 units

June 22 – July 31

MTWTHF 1:30–2:45, Honors 142

Principles and Research Methods in Social Science

Instructor: Joe Huseby

Prerequisite: Must be a current Honors student

This course examines cases of genocide and mass violence since World War II. Students will be exposed to theories that seek to explain and understand genocide and mass violence. Students will also be exposed to the historical context of these cases and will learn to apply the theories to the cases. The course will highlight the process of accumulating knowledge and information on cases of genocide and mass violence and the process of deconstructing information and facts in order to understand historical events. Emphasis is placed on understanding origins of knowledge in these cases and comparing different sources of information as they apply to historical and theoretical analysis, and criminal investigations of crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Required text:

None

HONORS 280.1 – 3 units

May 11 – June 19

M–F 3:00–4:15, Honors 142

Movies and the Meaning of Life

Instructor: Nathan Nicol

Prerequisite: Must be a current Honors student

There was a time when most of our big ideas came from books. Sometime early last century this began to change: and a lot of our big ideas now seem to come from movies. This is perhaps most evident in our ideas of what makes for a good life, a meaningful life, or indeed by contrast, what makes one empty, devoid of meaning. Accordingly, we will watch and examine some of the more powerful movies to come out of Hollywood over the last century or so. We will work through several issues in philosophy and film. And in particular we will work through most of the papers in the excellent collection, *Movies and the Meaning of Life: Philosophers Take on Hollywood*, edited by Kimberly A Blessing & Paul J Tudico, Open Court, 2005.

Required texts:

The Meaning of Life: A Very Short Introduction, by Terry Eagleton, Oxford University Press, 2007

Movies and the Meaning of Life: Philosophers Take on Hollywood, edited by Kimberly A Blessing & Paul J Tudico, Open Court, 2005

HONORS 280.2 – 3 units

June 22 – July 31

MTWTHF 3:00–4:15, Honors 142

Germany Goes to the Movies: Watching Foreign Films as an Intercultural Experience

Instructor: Rachel Halverson

Prerequisite: Must be a current Honors student

This course will use case studies of thematically related German films to examine how film creates a space for cultural and intercultural learning. Specifically, how it allows us to access a culture, time, and place other than our own and makes us aware of the cultural parameters which define our individual lives and views of the world around us:

- ❖ Case Study #1: Films that portray attempts to change society.
- ❖ Case Study #2: Films that portray German unification.
- ❖ Case Study #3: Films that portray sports and national identity.

The films chosen for the course ultimately serve as windows through which one can view Germany at various points in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and as mirrors which reflect the intersection of the German world and our own. Using the methodology modeled in the course, students will conduct their own examinations of foreign films and the cultural insights they reveal. (NOTE: All films will be shown in the original German with English subtitles. Students will have the option of viewing the films online in LLRC. Most films will be available on reserve in Terrell Library for viewing as well. Should you have any questions about the film screenings, please feel free to e-mail Professor Halverson [Rachel_Halverson@wsu.edu].)

Required texts:

Course readings will be made available to students in Blackboard Learning.

HONORS 290.1 – 3 units

May 11 – June 19

MTWTHF 10:30–11:45, Honors 142

Science as a Way of Knowing

Instructor: Ray Lee

Course Prerequisite: Must be a current Honors student. Any B, BSCI, P, PSCI, or SCI lab or concurrent enrollment.

In Honors 290, students will learn to view the world from a scientific perspective and make connections between biology and their everyday lives. Modern approaches to understanding the natural world have become increasingly interdisciplinary. Consequently, the course will emphasize how science today integrates information from molecules and cells to natural history to global cycles. The ocean world and animal biology is fertile ground for discovery and student investigation, and will serve as a springboard for scientific exploration in this course.

In addition, students will learn how to use resources for gathering scientific information including researching the primary literature.

Optional text:

Marine Biology by Castro & Huber (2010) 8th edition

HONORS 290.2 – 3 units

June 22 – July 31

MTWTHF 9:00–10:15, Honors 142

Modeling and simulation of the real world problems

Instructor: Sergey Lapin

Course Prerequisite: Must be a current Honors student. Any B, BSCI, P, PSCI, or SCI lab or concurrent enrollment.

Mathematical modeling has become an integral part of modern society. Mathematics modeling is the process of translating real-world problems into quantitative terms for interpretation, suggestions of improvement and future predictions. In various fields ranging from biology to engineering, to business, models play an important role to allow things work properly and correct decisions to be made. Addressing real world problems involves the following steps: specifying the real problem, formulating a mathematical model of the problem, solving the mathematical problem, interpreting the solution and evaluating the model. Motivated by real world problems, the course will survey mathematical techniques for predicting future events and making the best possible decisions. The course will provide introduction to mathematical modelling, optimization and numerical simulation.

Required texts:

None

HONORS 370.1 – 3 units

May 11 – June 19

MTWTHF 1:30–2:45, Honors 142

Israel, Palestine and the Two State–Solution

Instructor: Michael Myers

Course Prerequisite: HONORS 270 or ECONS 198

This course examines the political, religious and social problems concerning a two–state solution in the Middle East. We will adopt the seminar style and look at writings from Israeli, Palestinian and third–party sources.

The seminar will give students practice in applying theory to significant public policy questions. The discussions will be lively and the inquiry earnest. The goal of the course is to come up with workable, practical solutions.

Students will lead discussion of the text through means of presentations and précis. Students will write short solution papers and discuss their contents with class members.

Required texts:

United Nations documents concerning the two–state solution

A Just Zionism: On the Morality of the Jewish State (Chaim Gans)

The Two–State Solution (Ruth Garvison, ed.)

A Palestinian State (Mark Heller)

Fateful Triangle (Noam Chomsky)

HONORS 370.2 – 3 units

June 22 – July 31

MTWTHF 10:30–11:45, Honors 142

Social Problems in Modern Japan

Instructor: W. Puck Brecher

Course Prerequisite: HONORS 270 or ECONS 198



In an effort to capture the richness and complexity of modern Japan, this course provides an introduction to Japanese society and culture from the mid-20th century to the present. Throughout this period the country has grappled with an ongoing and perplexing process of self-reinvention. From the strains of military defeat, to the bewildering effects of rapid modernization, to the anxieties of recession and environmental crisis, modern Japanese experience is a portrait of transformation.

Within the international community, postwar Japan has also been an important archetype of both modernity/industrialism and post-modernity/post-industrialism. This course begins with a study of those paradigms within the Japanese context. Precisely where Japan falls on these two axes is a matter of debate and, for our purposes, less important than understanding these paradigms as frameworks for interpreting modern life. Our attention then turns to a sampling of controversial issues that have exerted formative influences on the modern Japanese experience. These include the ANPO riots of the 1960s, changing gender roles, environmental crises (industrial pollution), social crises (suicide and bullying), youth crises (*hikikomori*; shut-ins), and the “lost decade” (the 1990s). Collectively, these phenomena have come to define modern and contemporary Japanese life. The course concludes by considering the “triple disaster” (earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear radiation leak) of March 2011, watershed events that may well have set Japan on a new course of self-reinvention. Each of these topics will be juxtaposed with analogous phenomena in the U.S. or elsewhere. No prior knowledge of Japanese language or culture is required.

Required text:

Critical Issues in Contemporary Japan, edited by Jeff Kingston (Routledge, 2014)

HONORS 370.3 – 3 units

May 10 – 23

Study Abroad in IRELAND

Instructor: Matthew Carroll

Course Prerequisite: Students must have registered through the Education Abroad office by February 2

HONORS 380.1 – 3 units

May 11 – June 19

MTWTHF 12:00–1:15, Honors 142

Ghostly Companions from Post–War Europe:

Image, Melancholy and Collective Memory in the Work of W.G. Sebald

Instructor: Kimberly Burwick

Course Prerequisite: HONORS 280

In this course, we will focus acutely on the work of W.G. Sebald (specifically *Austerlitz*), as we investigate how this virtuoso of the literary world came to reestablish the novel as a medley of travelogue, biography, photo–journalism, and art history. Recently classified as “witness literature,” Sebald humanizes and complicates the search for a post–war identity that is both collectively and individually true to the parameters of melancholy. In this class, we will study archetypal reactions to black and white photography, Holocaust narratives, and memory as an archeological construct.

Required text:

**Austerlitz*

**The Emergence of Memory: Conversations with W.G. Sebald*

HONORS 380.2 – 3 units

June 21 – July 5

Study Abroad in ANDALUCIA

Instructor: Kim Andersen

Course Prerequisite: Students must have registered through the Education Abroad office by February 2

HONORS 430.1 – 3 units

May 10 – 23

Study Abroad in IRELAND

Instructor: Matthew Carroll

Course Prerequisite: Students must have registered through the Education Abroad office by February 2

HONORS 430.2 – 3 units

May 10 – 23

Study Abroad in ANDALUCIA

Instructor: Kim Andersen

Course Prerequisite: Students must have registered through the Education Abroad office by February 2

HONORS 430 – units vary

Foreign Study Practicum

By Arrangement

Special assignments and research related to education abroad. Read about The Certificate of Global Competencies on this website: <http://honors.wsu.edu/studyabroad/index.html>

Students interested in completing Honors 430 should meet with an Honors advisor. An approved contract is required before Honors staff can register you for this course.

HONORS 450 – units vary

Honors Thesis

By Arrangement

All students are required to complete a 3-unit Honors Thesis in order to fulfill their Honors requirements. The Honors thesis is an in-depth reading and writing project directed by a student's major department. Students can choose to complete original research or a creative project. Detailed guidelines on the thesis and the proposal approval process are available on the Honors College website. Final grades for Honors 450 are entered by the Honors College when the thesis is satisfactorily completed and an oral presentation has been given. Oral presentation dates vary throughout the year; please check with the Honors College or watch the FLASH for dates.

An approved Honors Thesis Proposal is required before Honors staff can register you for this course.

HONORS 499 – units vary
Honors Independent Study
By Arrangement

Students interested in completing an independent study requirement should meet with an Honors advisor.

An approved contract is required before Honors staff can register you for this course.
