

Interdisciplinary Honors Studies

Special Programs

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In contemporary society, over-specialization has forced blinders upon many indi-

Minor in Interdisciplinary Honors—18 hours

- I. Interdisciplinary Core Requirements—12 hours
 - A. HON 210 and 220—Freshmen year
 - B. HON 320 and 340—Sophomore year
- II. Electives—2 hours
These include opportunities for travel and study abroad, study with the Scholar-in-Residence, and approved courses across the University that are of an interdisciplinary nature.
- III. HON 411—4 hours
The capstone of the Interdisciplinary Honors Program is the writing of the Honors thesis, a major project that is expected to be of the highest quality.

Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies—18 semester hours

The Interdisciplinary Studies minor was designed for students who determine in the course of pursuing the Interdisciplinary Honors minor that they are unable, for whatever reason, to undertake or complete the writing of a thesis. This minor is an alternative open only to students officially accepted into the Honors Program.

- I. Interdisciplinary Core Requirements—12 hours
 - A. HON 210 and 220—Freshmen year
 - B. HON 320 and 340—Sophomore year
- II. Electives—6 hours
Opportunities for overseas travel and study, study with the Scholar-in-Residence, and approved courses across the University that are of an interdisciplinary nature.

Scholar-in-Residence Program

A scholar of worldwide reputation is invited each year to deliver a series of lectures at the University. Students may take the Scholar-in-Residence course which involves research, writing, and tutorials. Prerequisites: HON 210 and 220.

Student Organization

Incorporated into the Interdisciplinary Honors Program is the **Honors Student Association (HSA)** whose purpose is to serve as the social arm of the program. It functions as any social organization does, choosing its officers from among the student participants and organizing its functions to further the academic programs of the minor. Any student who has participated in any of the Honors classes is eligible for membership in HSA. Students interested in pursuing a minor in Interdisciplinary Honors are also invited to come to meetings but are not allowed to be voting members.

Student Awards

Academic Excellence Medal is given to the graduating minor who has the highest academic average in the minor, provided the GPA in the subject is not less than 3.5 and provided the student has completed, before Awards Day, a minimum of 15 hours in the discipline at Union University in courses for which precise grades are computed as distinguished from courses graded pass or fail.

The **Honors Student of the Year** Awards are presented to the students active in the Program who have shown the most intellectual and perceptive growth in the year's time. The awards are determined by the Honors Council.

Course Offerings in Honors (HON)

()-Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

210. Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies (3) F

Influences and processes contributing to the formation of worldviews and their alteration through time. In order to accomplish this objective, students will be taught how to live appreciatively within given cultural and theoretical perspectives while at the same time learning how to evaluate these critically and constructively. Encouragement to think creatively about the interrelation between the various disciplines of the university, and about the implications of the fields of human inquiry for Christian faith and practice, will help students to develop a worldview that will prepare them to take their place as leaders in the twenty-first century.

220. Great Ideas (3) S

Prerequisite: HON 210.

A survey of the interdisciplinary nature of the ideas, thoughts, and theories of human culture. This course will examine many of the great ideas of the Western cultural and intellectual heritage that are important for the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences arts and professional studies. The interdependence of ideas will be considered along with the way ideas operate in a variety of unique historical and cultural contexts. This course will progress from a survey of Western cultural and intellectual history to presentation of papers by students in a seminar fashion.

320. Great Books I (3) F

Prerequisite: HON 220.

Seminal works from the fields of philosophy, theology, history, literature, the natural sciences, or the social sciences will be read and studied with special attention to ways these works reflect historical trends, political situations, philosophical ideas, cultural and religious traditions, and socioeconomic conditions. Students will be encouraged to think critically and creatively about these works by considering them from selected intellectual and cultural perspectives that lie outside the time-frame and thought world to which each work specifically belongs.

340. Great Books II (3) F

Prerequisite: HON 320

Students will read and critically assess significant books related to their major field of study. Students in professional or technical studies may choose to read from great books that will help them to formulate ethical principles that will aid them in the practice of their profession. The Director of Interdisciplinary Honors will determine the book list for each student by consulting with the student and the department of the student's major. Students will meet for lectures during the early part of the semester, but for the most part they engage in self-motivated research and writing. Each student will present a paper focusing upon one book written during a particular period in the history of ideas. In the paper, students will discuss interdisciplinary connections that exist between the work they are considering and the thought world of the time period in which they are working. Professors from the department of the student's major will be invited to participate in the seminars and encouraged to give critical and constructive feedback to students.

411. Thesis (4) On Demand

Prerequisite: Interdisciplinary Core—12 hours.

The thesis shall be presented and defended before a committee of three faculty members appointed by the Interdisciplinary Honors Council. Students planning to submit a thesis their senior year should choose a topic by the end of their sophomore year and

submit a proposal by the beginning of their junior year, leaving the junior and senior years open for the conducting of research and writing. Students will officially sign up for the thesis with the registrar during the first semester of their senior year. The thesis may be done in conjunction with senior performance requirements already established by such departments as Music, Art, Biology, Chemistry and others at the discretion of the Council and the department.

One or more of the following courses must be chosen to fulfill the requirements of the program. All are subject to the approval of the Interdisciplinary Honors Council unless otherwise stated in the published schedule of class offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (2 or 3)

Upperlevel group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings. Includes, but not restricted to, offerings of the Scholar-in-Residence Program.

495-6-7. Independent Studies (2-4)

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).