

THE HONORS COMMUNITY

Administrative Leadership

Scott Huelin (2009). Director for the Honors Community and Professor of English. B.A. and M.A., University of North Carolina; Ph.D., University of Chicago.

Joy Moore(2007). Assistant Director for the Honors Community and Director for Barefoots Joe and Modero Coffee Roasters. B.A., University of Arkansas; M.A., Denver Seminary; M.F.A., Pacific University.

Faculty

Justin D. Barnard(2007). Professor of Philosophy in the Honors Community. B.A., Palm Beach Atlantic College; M.A. and Ph.D., Florida State University.

Staff

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Academic Suite. B.A., Union University.

Mission

The Honors Community is a lively intellectual *koinonía* with

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fellowship, because it is a common bond in a shared endeavor—the ardent pursuit of the truth—and a shared conviction—that all truth leads us to the Truth. As such, our fellowship extends beyond our own place and time to include the Christian intellectual tradition, the collective efforts of the faithful in all places and times to pursue and embrace the Truth wherever it is found.

- A. Special studies courses (variable credit)
- B. Scholar-in-Residence tutorial (variable credit)
- C. Other courses with the HON prefix
- D. Select study abroad opportunities

Typically, students satisfy the requirements of General Honors through successful completion of three General Honors Core courses. In certain circumstances, the Directors may approve the substitution of a General Honors elective class for one of the General Honors Core classes.

Discipline-Specific Honors

Discipline-specific Honors provides an opportunity to pursue high-level, funded research in your major under the direct supervision of a faculty mentor. Students interested in Discipline-specific Honors typically apply to the program in the spring of the sophomore or fall of the junior year. Eligible students must have a cumulative 3.5 GPA and meet any additional department-specific requirements. To graduate with Discipline-specific Honors, students must satisfy Honors colloquium requirements in their junior and senior years, complete 12 hours of Honors contract courses in the major, produce an Honors project/thesis in their major, maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA, and fulfill any other requirements established by the department. Students admitted into Discipline-specific Honors have access to research and travel funds to support the production and presentation of their Honors work. For more information on Discipline-specific Honors in your major, consult your departmental advisor.

University Honors

Students who satisfactorily complete the requirements for both General Honors and Discipline-specific Honors earn University Honors, one of Union's highest accolades.

Scholar-in-Residence Program

A scholar of national or international reputation is invited each year to deliver a series of lectures at the University. The Scholar-in-Residence tutorial allows students to receive credit for reading, research, and writing under the supervision of the Scholar-in-Residence.

Student Organization

The Honors Student Association (HSA) advises the Directors and plans co-curricular and extracurricular events for the Honors Community. HSA officers are elected for one-year terms at the beginning of each spring semester. All students currently enrolled in either General or Discipline-specific Honors, as well as alumni of either program who are still enrolled at Union, automatically enjoy membership in the HSA.

Course Offerings in Honors (HON)

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

205. Wisdom (6) F

Prerequisite: Admission to General Honors.

Wisdom has served, in many civilizations, as the highest goal of education. The Old Testament declares that wisdom "is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her" (Prov. 3:15). We will inquire after the nature of wisdom and seek the means of acquiring it, giving attention to biblical and extrabiblical literature as well as their historical contexts and their elaborations in subsequent traditions. We will consider contemporary applications of these traditions, including reflection upon the purpose and pursuit of contemporary higher education in light of wisdom. Exercises are aimed at developing various dimensions of wisdom within the self. Due to the nature and purpose of this course, as well as its student writing, it satisfies the first half of the Written Composition requirement in the General Core.

215. Beauty (6) S

Prerequisite: HON 205. Pre- or Co-requisites: HIS 101.

What exactly makes any particular person, poem, song or object beautiful? The nature of beauty will be explored through both theory and practice. Students will examine and produce beautiful things in various media, reflect on what makes them beautiful, and discuss the history of aesthetic theory—Eastern and Western, theological and secular—as a resource for answering these questions. The class will culminate in a gallery show involving both works of art and theoretically-informed reflections upon them. The content, along with a focus on improvement of student writing, satisfies the General Core requirement for Arts in Western Civilization, as well as the second half of the Written Composition requirement.

225. Justice (6) S

Prerequisite: HON 205.

While most agree that a healthy society should be based on justice, there has been little agreement as to what justice is. In this course, we will search for an adequate definition—considering biblical and theological resources as well as philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, and Rawls—while looking closely at attempts to bring justice in particular communities and situations, both historical and contemporary. This course incorporates service-learning work and reflection upon it. This course satisfies the General Core Social Science/Humanities requirement and, in light of the historical conflicts over justice, satisfies HIS 102.

235. Creation (4) F

Prerequisite: HON 205.

This course is an opportunity to develop tacit knowledge as it relates to scientific pursuits and to understand experientially the differences in the basic assumptions and methodologies held by various scientific communities. Along the way, students will encounter content from traditional physical and life science courses, but the central objective is helping students to think in the same manner as a professional scientist without the benefit of many years of training. This course fulfills the General Core Laboratory Science requirement and can be applied to Group A or Group B.

319. Virtue and Vice in the Christian Tradition (3) W

An examination of the nature of virtue and vice in the Christian tradition.

With permission, one or more of the following courses may be chosen to fulfill partially the requirements of the General Honors program. All are subject to the approval of the Community Leadership Committee unless otherwise stated in the published schedule of class offerings.

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| 179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering. | 195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed
295-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed
Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings. |
| 179PF-279PF-379PF-479PF. External Domestic Study Programs (Pass/Fail) As Needed
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering. | 395-6-7. Special Studies (1-3) As Needed
Upper level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings. Includes, but not restricted to, offerings of the Scholar-in-Residence Program. |
| 180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4) As Needed
All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to registering. | 495-6-7. Independent Studies (2-4) On Demand
Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s). |