

Honors Program

Developing Scholars, Leaders, and Global Citizens



Honors Seminars
Fall 2017

Honors Curriculum

18 Credits

- Honors Seminars (13 credits), Honors By Contract (1), Senior Workshop (1), and Senior Project (3)
- 13 of 18 credits completed as Core/Major/Minor
- 5 credits unique to Honors Program (1 credit Honors by Contract, 3 credit Senior Thesis Project, and 1 credit Senior Seminar)

Honors Seminars - Fall 2017

- Biotechnology
- Environmental Explorations of the Hudson
- Ethics of Food
- Race and Ethnicity
- Leadership, Communication, and Social Media
- Race in America
- The Culture of Love and Desire
- Why Nations Fail
- Civic Engagement and Leadership
- Financial Technology
- Strengthening Communities: Leadership, Collaboration, and Business Development

Civic Engagement and Leadership

HONR 396L112

M/R 2:00

Core: Social Science

Major/Minor: Political Science

Pathway: Public Praxis, Global Studies, Legal Studies

Prof. Melissa Gaeke

Description: Civic engagement consists of those behaviors, attitudes, and actions that reflect active membership in a community. This course introduces students to the principles and mechanisms of civic engagement and explores the role of leadership and leadership styles in the practice of civic engagement. The course examines how civic engagement can influence individuals and communities more broadly and will pay special attention to the role of non-profit organizations in addressing pressing social problems. Students will apply theory to practice in our local community and explore ways to expand their capacity for civic leadership and engagement. Students will participate in a community based learning (CBL) project off campus as a part of their coursework that relates to their field of study.

Biotechnology

HONR 370L111

T/F 2:00

Prof. Andrew Ryder

Core: Natural Science

Pathway: Global Studies, Quantitative Studies, Environmental Studies, Technology and Society

Description: The biotechnology revolution, now in its fifth decade, is just beginning. Many therapeutics and vaccines coming onto the market today are the product of extraordinary creativity and brilliant methodologies. In our course we will learn how innovative and well researched ideas become molecules, how molecules become drugs, and how drugs are approved. Students will develop a working appreciation of the steps in drug development through course discussions, lab work, guest lectures, and visits to clinics. The courses ultimate objective is to allow students to develop the skills to learn about the advances in biotechnology and thus be able to become active participants in the healthcare of their selves and their loved ones.

Environmental Explorations of the Hudson

HONR 375L111

T/F 12:30

Prof. Ted Fink

Pathway: Hudson River Valley Studies, Environmental Studies, Technology and Society, Quantitative Studies

Core: Natural Science

Major/Minor: Environmental Science Elective

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area will be the focus of an extended classroom aboard Marist's research boat, enriching the learning experience for students. The Hudson is considered one of the richest ecosystems on Earth. Students will gain a once in a lifetime opportunity to observe and interact with the River's environment. Marist's boat becomes a water-based classroom, opening new doors to experiential learning. Students gain a new appreciation of the natural processes that have shaped the River, see first hand how humans impact and manage those processes, and in turn students learn to become stewards of the environment.

Leadership, Communication, and Social Media

HONR 396L111

M 11:00 W 9:30

Prof. Jennie Donohue

Pathway: American Studies, Public Health, Technology and Society

Major/Minor: Communications Elective

Description: Effective leaders need to possess solid communication skills, and today that skill set includes social media literacy. This Honors communication class is designed to help students identify their professional brand and then consistently communicate it via social mediums. Students will gain practical knowledge and insights about social media as well as learn how to successfully monitor and manage their professional online presence.

The Culture of Love and Desire

HONR 380L111

M/R 12:30

Prof. Rose DeAngelis

Core: Literature

Pathway: Gender Studies, American Studies

Major/Minor: English

Description: The course will focus on various conceptualizations of love and desire and the ways in which these concepts affect expectations about and experiences within the lives of men and women. We will look at the power of passion in fiction, drama, and film and consider if and how love and desire can destabilize the traditional norms of behavior associated with class, race, and gender in relationships. We will read Allende, Baldwin, Barry, Hellman, De Filippo, and others, and we will view two films. Besides Honors, this course will fulfill the Core literature requirement and may serve as elective credit for the English major. The course may also count as credit towards the Women's Studies Minor and the Gender Studies Pathway. Please consult either Dr. Kristin Bayer or Dr. Angela Laflen.

“FinTech” - Financial Technology

HONR 370L2000

W 6:30

Prof. John Hill

Pathway: Quantitative Studies, Studies in Political Economy

Description: The entrepreneurial startup community is aggressively developing new "FinTech" applications which are disrupting the way financial services and products are delivered, especially to Millennials. The future of financial services is likely to be a combination of new entrants, plus the gradual adoption and integration of new technology and mobile applications into the existing financial system. This course will give Marist students exposure to FinTech applications within a critical context and framework analyzing technology, entrepreneurship and traditional money, banking and financial markets.

Race in America

HONR 391L111

W 8:00 F 11:00

Prof. Steven Garabedian

Core: History

Major/Minor: History

Pathway: African Diaspora Studies, American Studies, Gender Studies, Global Studies

Description: This course examines the history of race in America by treating “race” as both a powerful abstraction, an idea, and a concrete set of experiences that shape the lives of all citizens and have presented a particular set of challenges to people of color in North America. Beginning with the development of race as a concept, we will trace the ways and moments in U.S. history when this idea manifested itself in American law, economics, politics, society, and culture. Our intention is to provide the historical background necessary for students to better understand contentious and complex issues today such as the Black Lives Matter movement, white privilege, criminal justice reform, and so-called color blindness.

Race and Ethnicity

HONR 396L111

M/R 12:30

Dr. Addrain Conyers

Core: Social Science

Major/Minor: Criminal Justice

Pathway: African Diaspora Studies, American Studies, Gender Studies, Global Studies, Public Health

Description: This course examines the status of racial and ethnic groups from historical, economic, social, and political perspectives. It is designed to expand knowledge of theory, research, and current events in regards to the relations of race and ethnicity in the United States. It is the intent of this course to introduce key topics, stimulate individual thought, and enhance the understanding of group interactions in American society. Students will be able to: (a) demonstrate an understanding of concepts such as racism, assimilation, ascribed and achieved statuses, prejudice, and discrimination; (b) display basic knowledge of historical, socioeconomic, and political demographics of the U.S.; (c) demonstrate critical thinking pertaining to race/ ethnicity and other intersecting social identities; and (d) apply these concepts to the analysis of race and ethnicity on personal, national, and global levels.

Why Nations Fail

HONR 395L112

T/R 3:30

Prof. Christy Caridi

Core: Social Science

Major/Minor: Economics

Pathway: Global Studies, Contemporary European Studies, Quantitative Studies, Studies in Political Economy

Description: The goal of the class is to examine an economic debate that began with Adam Smith and the publication of the *Wealth of Nations*. The core of the debate is the role of economics in society. Is economics an art heavily reliant on the studies of religion, morality, ethics and politics or is economics a science wholly independent of the social sciences? If economics is an art, then economic policy should seek to create the greatest good for the greatest number (Bentham). If economics is a science, then economic policy should outline the means without consideration of the ends (Freidman).

Strengthening Communities: Leadership, Collaboration, and Business Development

HONR 395L113

T/R 11:00

Prof. Melinda Weisberg

Minor: Business

Pathway: Public Praxis, Studies in Political Economy

Description: In this course students will examine the characteristics of communities that have successfully navigated complex fiscal and social issues, as well as the role of leaders, organizations, institutions and businesses in this success. Students will be challenged to examine their own responsibilities as current and future community leaders and to develop a plan for development of related skills and emotional intelligence. Throughout the course students will have the opportunity to participate in the Marist chapter of Enactus, “a community of student, academic and business leaders committed to using the power of entrepreneurial action to transform lives and shape a better more sustainable world.”

Ethics of Food

HONR 365L111

W 2:00 F 3:30

Prof. James G. Snyder

Core: Ethics, Applied Ethics, Religious Studies

Major/Minor: Philosophy

Pathway: Environmental Studies, Public Health, Technology & Society, Hudson River Valley Studies, Public Health

Description: Throughout the course we will also turn our attention to ethical questions surrounding food. In recent years, moral issues concerning food have started to attract a lot of attention. For example, countless restaurants and college campuses throughout the country are now offering vegetarian and even vegan options on their menus. Supermarkets make efforts to stock organic products and “fair trade” coffee. Alongside our exploration of classical ethical theories, we will also examine various ethical questions involving food. What should “count” as food? Should we, for example, eat animals? Which ones? How should food be produced? Should we be concerned with the environmental impact of agricultural practices? What about genetically-modified food? Does such bio-engineering represent the means by which we can overcome food shortages and hunger or does it involve an unacceptable manipulation of “nature”? What responsibility do we have to feed populations that are facing food shortages? Etc. In exploring questions such as these, we will determine how various ethical theories inform or fail to inform the relevant debates.