

**Spring
2026**

**COURSE
CATALOG**

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

Mark Stephen Cosby
HONORS COLLEGE

Cosby Honors College

Spring 2026 Course Catalog

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Notes on Honors Registration

Priority Registration

If you have earned the privilege of priority registration through Honors, by taking on average one honors course per semester and attending the required third semester advising session, then you should have an enrollment appointment for November 5, 2025.

Check your enrollment appointment as soon as it is available in CampS the week of October 6. If your enrollment appointment is not what you expected, contact Kim immediately and before October 24 at wellnik@uwec.edu.

Course Levels

Any honors student can enroll in a 100-level HNRS course, while students with sophomore-standing or higher (30+ earned credits) are eligible to enroll in 300-level HNRS courses.

Navigating Registration

- All honors course section numbers begin with the number 5
- MyBlugold CampS: go to manage classes > class search and enroll > click on the desired semester > type in "honors"
- Schedule Builder: + add course > search by section attributes > click on attributes tab > select "honor course" OR
> add course > from the dropdown menu, select "all subjects." > click on the course tab to view all available honors courses by department.
- **Recommendation:** check your eligibility to enroll in the courses you put in your shopping cart by using the "validate" function in Schedule Builder or MyBlugold CampS.

Waitlists

If an honors class is full (courses with the HNRS prefix), it will indicate "need department consent" to enroll. If you would like to be added to the waitlist, please complete the [honors waitlist eForm](#). Do NOT submit multiple eForms; you can list more than one course on the form. **Please do NOT contact instructors.**

You will be notified by email *if* a seat becomes available; diligently **check your email throughout winter break** because we never know if or when a seat *may* become available. If you are emailed about an open seat, you will be given a very short period to register for it.

Waitlist requests will not be accepted until the first day of registration.

[Link to the Honors waitlist eForm](#)

Other Ways to Earn Honors Credit

Information on honors contracts, counting some research and internship experiences toward Honors, pursuing an honors thesis, or earning honors credit while on study abroad can be found on the [Honors SharePoint site](#) in the Advising, Registration, and Graduation Requirements section.

Important deadlines:

- Chat with your professor before Dec. 1, 2025, to inquire if they are willing to serve as your contract mentor. [Honors contract eForms](#) for spring 2026 must be submitted **by February 6, 2026**.
- Serve as an **honors tutor** (HNRS 420) in an honors course you have taken before. First talk with the professor and make a plan; then submit this [eForm](#) **by January 9, 2026**.
- If you are interested in pursuing an **honors thesis** sometime during your last two semesters, [please chat with Dr. Fielding](#)!

Want more information about anything Honors?

- Check the [Honors SharePoint site](#).
- Schedule a time to chat with [Kim Wellnitz](#). We can discuss:
 - Your degree audit, Honors and LE requirements
 - Honors contracts, Mentoring (HNRS 410), Tutoring (HNRS 420)
 - Possibly using research and internships toward honors requirements
 - The honors waitlist and how it works
 - Pathways and options to complete Honors; create your plan to complete Honors
 - Earning University Honors credit for Department Honors or McNair Scholars
- If you would like to chat about an Honors thesis, meet with [Dr. Fielding](#).
- Want to chat about fellowships, scholarships, and other prestigious awards? Schedule a meeting with [Dr. Weidman](#).
- Email us at honors@uwec.edu

Honors Advising Week

We're here to help you graduate with University Honors! No appointments are needed, simply drop-in on these days. We will help you as our schedules allow.

Honors Commons (McIntyre Library 2002, 2nd floor) 8:30 am – 3:30 pm:

- Wednesday, October 29
- Thursday, October 30
- Friday, October 31
- Monday, November 3
- Tuesday, November 4

Winterim Honors Course

Reminders:

- Registration for winterim courses is available in CampS and Schedule Builder starting Oct. 6.
- Be sure to check the [Blugold Central website](#) for tuition rates.
- Please [email Blugold Central](#) with any questions regarding your financial aid eligibility or stop by VLL 1108 to chat with them.
- Due to the short duration of winterim courses, please be aware of the deadlines for dropping, withdrawing, and tuition payment/refund.

Decoding the Wizarding World: Symbols, Storytelling, and Cultural Context in Harry Potter

Instructor: Professor Jen Ekblad

Course Details: HNRS 138.581, 3 credits, \$150 online course fee

Course Dates: January 6 – 24, 2026

Modality: Online, asynchronous

LE attributes: K3 and S1

Course description: In Decoding the Wizarding World, we will explore the rich symbolic landscape of Harry Potter through dual lenses of cinematic storytelling and cultural studies. By analyzing the films alongside key literary excerpts, students will examine how visual and narrative symbols in the wizarding world function as powerful cultural artifacts that reflect, challenge, and shape broader social meanings. This course invites students to develop critical thinking skills as they investigate visual storytelling techniques, symbolic patterns, and cinematic choices while simultaneously considering how these elements carry ideological weight and evolve in meaning over time. Students will learn to "decode" the wizarding world by examining how symbols like blood purity ideology, magical creatures, and institutional spaces (Ministry of Magic, Hogwarts Houses) reflect real-world power structures and social dynamics.

Special attention will be given to the evolution of Harry Potter symbolism across media platforms and generations, including how symbols have been reappropriated by different communities, transformed through digital spaces, and adopted for contemporary social movements. Students will examine how Harry Potter symbols function as identity markers in today's culture and how directors' distinct visual approaches shaped the series' symbolic language. Through immersive analysis and creative projects, students will develop sophisticated analytical tools relevant to navigating today's complex symbolic landscape while building a deeper appreciation for the artistic and cultural significance of the Harry Potter phenomenon. Students should expect to spend 6-9 hours per week outside of class on film screenings, reading assignments, analytical writing, collaborative activities, and project development.

Schedule At-a-Glance

100-Level Colloquia

Title	Course	LE	Instructor	Credits
A World of Water	HNRS 118.501	K1 + I1	T. Wellnitz	3
Reflecting on 250 Years of the American Experiment	HNRS 124.501	K2 + R3	D. Simmons	3
Medical Malfeasance and Health Care Horrors	HNRS 132.501	K3 + R1	H. Fielding	3
Vampires and Modern Culture	HNRS 135.581	K3 + S1	S. White	3
Love, Shakespeare	HNRS 137.501	K3 + S3	S. Weidman	3
Shotokan Karate	HNRS 138.501	K3 + I1	E. Mahaffy	3
Climate Resilience in the Anthropocene	HNRS 139.501	K3 + R1DD	B. Gross	3
Creative Crucible: Make. Break. Repeat.	HNRS 147.501	K4 + S3	C. Garvey	3
Peripheral Visions: Contemporary Art Practices Beyond the Canon	HNRS 149.501	K4 + R1DD	CV Peterson	3
The Culture of Pets	HNRS 153.501	R2 + S1	M. Licon	3
The Art of Persuasion	HNRS 158.581	S1 + I1	S. Gilberstadt	3
The Loneliness Epidemic	HNRS 184.501	R1 + R3	K. Streckert	3

You can find videos for some spring 2026 courses on the UWEC Honors YouTube channel.



Honors Sections of Courses in Other Departments

Title	Course	LE	Instructor	Credits
Honors: Introduction to Accounting	ACCT 201.501	None	S. Gilberstadt	3
Honors: Foundations of Biology I	BIOL 221.501/531	K1 + Lab	D. Gingerich and D. Herman	4
Honors: General Chemistry II with Honors: General Chemistry II Laboratory	CHEM 109.501/502 CHEM 109.531/532	None	J. Dahl, A. Cook, M. Carney	4
Honors: Planet Earth: The Physical Environment	GEOG 104.501/531	K1 + Lab	H. Jol and P. Rozario	4
Honors: American Women's History	HIST/WGSS 205.501	K3 + R1 DDIV	M. Weber	3
Honors: Elementary Statistics	MATH 246.501	S2	R. Harrison, J. Harrison	4
Honors: Introduction to Public Health	PH 225.501	R1DD + I1	Alex Craker	3

300-Level Colloquia (sophomore standing, 30+ credits)

Title	Course	LE	Instructor	Credits
Doing Business in China	HNRS 323.501	K2 + R2	L. Dong	3
Against Our Better Judgment: Incentives, Instincts, and Irrational Decisions	HNRS 324.501	K2 + R3	C. Rozowski	3
Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground: Jazz and Poetry	HNRS 335.501	K3 + S1	P. Hecht	3
Art and Film of the Holocaust	HNRS 337.501	K3 + S3	Anna Zook and Aaron Zook	3
Musical Exoticism	HNRS 349.501	K4 + R1DD	G. Peters	3
Credit Cards and Beyond	HNRS 353.501	S1 + R2	J. Magliocco	3
The Lasso Way	HNRS 358.501	S1 + I1	A. LeGear	3
Knot Theory and Its Application	HNRS 368.501	S2 + I1	C. Otto	3
(Re)Thinking Authoritarianism: Historical Foundations and Contemporary Geographies	HNRS 387.501	R2 + R3	J. McCombs	3

You can find videos for some spring 2026 courses on the UWEC Honors YouTube channel.



Courses by Liberal Education (LE) Requirement

LE	Course	Section	Title
K1	HNRS 118	501	A World of Water
K1 w/ Lab	BIOL 221	501/531	Honors: Foundations of Biology
	GEOG 104	501/531	Honors: Planet Earth: The Physical Environment
K2	HNRS 124	501	Reflecting on 250 Years of the American Experiment
	HNRS 323	501	Doing Business in China
	HNRS 324	501	Against Our Better Judgment: Incentives, Instincts, and Irrational Decisions
K3	HNRS 132	501	Medical Malfeasance and Health Care Horrors
	HNRS 135	581	Vampires and Modern Culture
	HNRS 137	501	Love, Shakespeare
	HNRS 138	501	Shotokan Karate
	HNRS 139	501	Climate Resilience in the Anthropocene
	HIST/WGSS 205	501	Honors: American Women's History
	HNRS 335	501	Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground: Jazz and Poetry
	HNRS 337	501	Art and Film of the Holocaust
K4	HNRS 147	501	Creative Crucible: Make. Break. Repeat.
	HNRS 149	501	Peripheral Visions: Contemporary Art Practices Beyond the Canon
	HNRS 349	501	Musical Exoticism
S1	HNRS 135	581	Vampires and Modern Culture
	HNRS 153	501	The Culture of Pets
	HNRS 158	501	The Art of Persuasion
	HNRS 335	501	Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground: Jazz and Poetry
	HNRS 353	501	Credit Cards and Beyond
	HNRS 358	501	The Lasso Way
S2	MATH 246	501	Elementary Statistics
	HNRS 368	501	Knot Theory and Its Application
S3	HNRS 137	501	Love, Shakespeare
	HNRS 147	501	Creative Crucible: Make. Break. Repeat.
	HNRS 337	501	Art and Film of the Holocaust

R1DDIV	HNRS 139	501	Climate Resilience in the Anthropocene
	HNRS 149	501	Peripheral Visions: Contemporary Art Practices Beyond the Canon
	HNRS 349	501	Musical Exoticism
	HIST/WGSS 205	501	American Women's History
	PH 225	501	Introduction to Public Health
R1	HNRS 132	501	Medical Malfeasance and Health Care Horrors
	HNRS 184	501	The Loneliness Epidemic
R2	HNRS 153	501	The Culture of Pets
	HNRS 323	501	Doing Business in China
	HNRS 353	501	Credit Cards and Beyond
	HNRS 387	501	(Re)Thinking Authoritarianism: Historical Foundations and Contemporary Geographies
R3	HNRS 124	501	Reflecting on 250 Years of the American Experiment
	HNRS 184	501	The Loneliness Epidemic
	HNRS 324	501	Against Our Better Judgment: Incentives, Instincts, and Irrational Decisions
	HNRS 387	501	(Re)Thinking Authoritarianism: Historical Foundations and Contemporary Geographies
I1	HNRS 118	501	A World of Water
	HNRS 138	501	Shotokan Karate
	HNRS 158	501	The Art of Persuasion
	HNRS 358	501	The Lasso Way
	HNRS 368	501	Knot Theory and Its Application
	PH 225	501	Introduction to Public Health

100-Level Colloquia

A World of Water

Instructor: Dr. Todd Wellnitz

Course Details: HNRS 118.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday and Wednesday, 3:30 to 4:45 pm

LE Attributes: K1 and I1

Water covers 71% of the Earth's surface, and all life depends on it. Yet aquatic environments and the creatures they contain remain a profound mystery. Despite centuries of exploration, our understanding of oceans and freshwater habitats remains fragmented. Consider this: while 12 people have walked on the surface of the moon, only 3 have reached the deepest part of the ocean. We know Earth's landforms and terrestrial life in exquisite detail. But when it comes to the oceans, our ignorance outweighs our knowledge. Only about 25% of the seafloor has been mapped, and most ocean species remain undiscovered.

Beyond science, water flows through our art and culture and enriches our lives. It inspires creativity and shapes the popular imagination. From books like *Moby Dick* and *Huckleberry Finn* to films like *Jaws* and *Avatar: The Way of Water*, water serves as an essential setting or even as a central character. In art, water becomes a powerful metaphor for exploring what makes us human—our motivations, yearnings, and inner struggles.

World of Water invites students to explore this mysterious realm through multiple lenses. We will study the ecology of marine environments, examine the ways human society depends on water, and explore the biology of local aquatic life. Students will read works such as Helen Scales' *The Brilliant Abyss* and view films such as Guillermo del Toro's *The Shape of Water* as the basis for discussion of how water shapes imagination and culture. For the final project, students will express their perspective on water's influence on human society by creating an original creative work inspired by water.

Reflecting on 250 Years of the American Experiment

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Simmons

Course Details: HNRS 124.501

Course Days/ Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 to 10:45 am

LE Attributes: K2 and R3

250 years ago in a cramped, humid room in Philadelphia, fifty-six men declared to the world the thirteen British colonies in America would no longer be subject to King George III with that declaration, the Founders of the United States committed themselves and their neighbors to the American Experiment: a natural experiment exploring whether a diverse society could successfully establish and maintain a republican form of self-governance. On the eve of the semi-quincentennial anniversary of this experiment, we examine the results of the American experiment and consider whether today's outcomes align with the hypotheses of the Founders. Our course is organized as a book club, so you should expect to read around 70 pages every week with class time devoted to discussion.

Medical Malfeasance and Health Care Horrors

Instructor: Dr. Heather Fielding

Course Details: HNRS 132.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11 to 11:50 am

LE Attributes: K3 and R1

Biomedical research, health care, and public health have increased longevity and improved quality of life. However, there is a dark side to medical research and our current, still developing research ethics emerged in response to incredible abuses. In this course, we will learn about unethical and dubious research such as the Nazi medical experiments, the Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis, Holmesburg prison dermatology experiments, and other abuses. In addition, sometimes well-intended "state-of-the art" care has unintended and devastating consequences, such as birth defects of children whose mothers took thalidomide to treat morning sickness, the

use of lobotomy to treat mental illness, and more. As we explore the way that the ethics of medical research have morphed over time in response to these events, we'll also engage with Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*, two important works of literature that have much to say about how research and researchers can go astray and what is at stake when we listen to the point of view of the subject of research. The course is entirely discussion-based, with 3-5 hours of reading of varied kinds of sources outside of class per week. Assessments include two essay exams and a final project that asks you to look at new developments in biomedical research and treatment, such as gene editing or Neuralink, and predict the health care horrors of the near future.

Vampires and Modern Culture

Instructor: Professor Sarah White

Course Details: HNRS 135.581

Course Days/ Times: Online; additional Tuesday online meeting at 7 pm strongly encouraged but not required.

\$150 online course fee.

LE Attributes: K3 and S1

Let's take a bite out of vampire lore. We'll explore famous texts like *Carmilla*, *Interview with The Vampire*, *Dracula*, and *The Fledgling*, as well as films such as *Nosferatu*, *Daybreakers*, and *Sinners*. How have cultural depictions of vampires changed over time, and what do those changes tell us about social anxieties--about the boundaries of the human, gender and sexuality, race, time and aging, and more? Bring your thirst for investigation, creativity, and critical thinking as we analyze diverse representations of vampires throughout literature, film, history, and theory.

Note: There will be a weekly live class meeting on Tuesday nights at 7 pm; attending this meeting is encouraged but not required.

Love, Shakespeare

Instructor: Dr. Sean Weidman

Course Details: HNRS 137.501

Course Days/ Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 to 3:15 pm

LE Attributes: K3 and S3

This course will treat Shakespeare's dramatic corpus as a love letter to being human—and, through his plays, we'll try to learn to love deeper: to articulate ourselves, to recognize others, to hurt and to heal, to name feelings, to draw boundaries, to wish for repair, to find enchantment, to seek our desires, to dream of elsewhere. We'll study how we hear ourselves when we talk of ourselves, and how we find in others the worlds we long for. We'll unveil love's intimacies, laugh at love's follies, bear love's burdens, mourn loves lost, protest too much love's absence, and chase love to the edge of doom. We'll measure, remedy, and renew the forces of love (friendship, tenderness, care, affection, adoration, obsession, lust). We'll sense what it is to see love sightlessly, to listen for love's speech, to feel love's constant heart, and to encounter love as power—or, as Lorna Grisby puts it, "what it means to have power, what it means to take power, and what we're left with when power is gone."

In pursuit of the power of love, we'll read and watch across Shakespeare's oeuvre, studying the heartbeat of representation and theatricality. And, in the difficulty of his early modern verse—itsself a labor of love—we'll think through questions of performativity, identity, and self: about family, friendship, and class; gender, sexuality, and romance; and anti/racism, dis/ability, and power. We'll grapple with the legacy of England's bard, appreciate why his global influence endures, and wonder why such diverse audiences have found his stagecraft pleasing—and we'll try to experience some of that pleasure ourselves. Our goal will be to fall in love with Shakespeare, and maybe to fall back in love with love.

Shotokan Karate

Instructor: Professor Ellen Mahaffy

Course Details: HNRS 138.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00 to 3:15 pm

LE Attributes: K3 and I1

The martial art, Shotokan Karate, is more than a practice in self-defense. Shotokan is a way of life (Bushido) that simultaneously develops the mind, body, and soul. The founder, Gichin Funakoshi, defined 20 philosophical approaches that can be applied both in the dojo (training space) and outside. This semester, I am asking you to take on a beginner's mind, one that is open to being humble, open to growth through the art and practice of kihon (basic punching, blocking and kicking techniques), kata (predefined set of techniques to simulate defense from multiple attackers), and kumite (sparring). The latter works on your timing and distancing with a partner. You will learn about Shotokan's history, philosophy, and how to bring its practice into your everyday life. This course is open to all bodies, and no prior experience is required. As an interdisciplinary course--part learning the practice and skill of karate, part exploring its history and philosophy, part digging into how karate is represented in popular culture--expect 2-3 hours of outside class work for practice, reading, writing, movie watching, and reflecting. Students should obtain a gi—the uniform worn by karate practitioners—before class begins, at a cost of approximately \$35. Recommendations for obtaining the gi will be provided.

Climate Resilience in the Anthropocene

Instructor: Professor Bella Gross

Course Details: HNRS 139.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 to 10:50 am

LE Attributes: K3 and R1DD

As natural disasters, climate refugees, and climbing global temperatures darken our news feeds, hope seems to drift further away. This class will argue that hope is not so far out of reach yet. In this course, students will encounter ecologists, stewards, and everyday people who are pushing back environmental injustices today. This R1 course will focus closely on Indigenous involvement and perspectives in the Great Lakes and around the globe. There will also be an emphasis on interdisciplinary environmental advocacy and appreciation through poetry, art, and other media. Students should be prepared for approx. 3 hours or less per week of coursework including reading/watching related material, completing assignments, and preparing to lead or participate in class discussions.

Creative Crucible: Make. Break. Repeat.

Instructor: Dr. Christa Garvey

Course Details: HNRS 147.501

Course Days/ Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 to 1:45 pm

LE Attributes: K4 and S3

Creative Crucible is your dare to transform your creative life. This course isn't about waiting for inspiration; it's about forging it through habit, intention, and the courage to fail boldly. Drawing from the professor's battle scars as a performing classical musician and insights from revolutionaries across disciplines, we'll deconstruct how breakthrough innovations emerge from both relentless dedication and catastrophic failures. You'll collaborate with students from radically different backgrounds through intensive one-day creative collisions and sustained 10-week projects. Expect unexpected partnerships that spark innovation at the intersection of diverse creative traditions. Simultaneously, you'll pursue your creative beast in an individual project of your choosing, whether mastering a new musical interpretation, developing a startup idea, or exploring any medium that calls to you. Daily journaling will track not just what you create, but how you create. This course values both fresh invention and bold interpretation. All majors are welcome. No perfection required. Just process. **WARNING:** May cause unexpected brilliance, frequent failure, and an obsession with meaningful work. Creativity is risky business. I dare you.

Peripheral Visions: Contemporary Art Practices Beyond the Canon

Instructor: Professor CV Peterson

Course Details: HNRS 149.501

Course Days/ Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 11am to 12:15pm

LE Attributes: K4 and R1DD

Art is more than what you see in textbooks. This course introduces you to contemporary artists from around the world whose voices and perspectives have often been left out of the mainstream. We'll explore how artists from diverse cultural backgrounds use materials like fiber, print, sculpture, painting, and installation to express ideas, explore traditions, and engage with a wide range of themes and interests. Through lectures, student-led presentations, and a final creative project, you'll develop a deeper understanding of contemporary art and the world it reflects. No prior art experience is required—just curiosity and a willingness to engage. Expect about 3–4 hours of reading and research outside of class each week.

The Culture of Pets

Instructor: Professor Meghan Licon

Course Details: HNRS 153.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 12 to 12:50 pm

LE Attributes: R2 and S1

How does the meaning and function of the same animal vary across different cultural contexts in our community and abroad? How have human and animal interactions changed over time? Which animals are valued as companions, a source of food, or for their abilities to perform specific tasks? How do we interact with animals on campus and in the surrounding community? These are some of the questions we'll address in this discussion-focused course. Assignments may include interacting with pets and writing about it (at Bark Break, for example), researching a trend or issue in pet culture, or researching and reflecting on cross cultural perspectives on animal welfare.

The Art of Persuasion

Instructor: Professor Sheril Gilberstadt

Course Details: HNRS 158.581

Course Days/ Times: Online, asynchronous. \$150 online course fee.

LE Attributes: S1 and I1

What is persuasion? How can we evaluate the impact of persuasion? The Art of Persuasion colloquium will persuade you to contemplate these issues. This interactive, online colloquium explores the impact of persuasion in a variety of contexts, including the effect of persuasion in a legal, business, artistic and scientific setting. The course will also examine the persuasive effect of artificial intelligence and the media and focus on ethical issues related to persuasive tactics. By focusing on the benefits and limitations of persuasive discourse, this course is likely to have a persuasive effect on how you perceive external factors that challenge your views. Students can expect to spend about three hours each week on readings and/or assignments.

The Loneliness Epidemic

Instructor: Professor Katie Streckert

Course Details: HNRS 184.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1 to 1:50 pm

LE Attributes: R1 and R3

In March of 2023, the US Surgeon General announced a national health advisory warning of the country's "Epidemic of Loneliness." The advisory noted that 52% of American adults felt lonely some or most of the time, while college students' reported loneliness is at record highs. Why the rise in loneliness, and how can we combat this epidemic in our own lives and communities? This honors colloquium will examine recent interdisciplinary research surrounding the biological, psychological, and sociological dimensions of loneliness and why it has become so prevalent, along with strategies to decrease disconnection and fuel community. Discussion will be a core learning method as we connect the varied perspectives of required readings to our own experiences, working together to come to a deeper understanding of why Americans are so lonely. Opportunities to put this knowledge into practice will be built into the class, including participating in ProjectConnect, a six-week program scientifically

formulated to build connection, and other application activities. Students will also complete a hands-on community-building final project. Coursework will be highly practical, and the aim is for students to both understand what is behind the loneliness epidemic and to feel more connected on campus by the end of the semester. Expect to spend 2-3 hours reading and 1-3 hours completing activities to activate what you've learned each week.

Honors Sections of Courses in Other Departments

Introduction to Accounting

Instructor: Professor Sheril Gilberstadt

Course Details: ACCT 201.501

Course Days/ Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 2 to 3:15 pm

LE Attributes: None

Are you interested in learning the language of business? Are you curious about what kinds of business practices and procedures can minimize the risk of fraudulent activity? This honors accounting course introduces you to the language of business, explores how accounting can be used as a tool for making informed business decisions and examines generally accepted accounting principles.

Foundations of Biology I + Lab

Instructors: Lecture - Dr. Derek Gingerich, Lab - Dr. Dan Herman

Course Details: BIOL 221.501/ 531

Course Days/ Times: Lecture: MWF, 10 to 10:50 am, Laboratory Monday 1 to 3:50 pm

LE Attributes: K1 and Lab

The honors section of BIOL 221 will foster skill-building and learning among a trusted cohort of students. The lab instructor will demonstrate the relevance of each lab exercise by relating those exercises to current events and will discuss medical/clinical/research significance of techniques being utilized in lab. The lab instructor will include a Canvas page of supplementary reading that ties lab experiences to scientific events of historical and current importance (e.g., "The Double Helix"), with opportunity for discussion.

General Chemistry II + Lab

Instructors: Lectures - Dr. Jennifer Dahl, Dr. Anna Cook, Labs - Dr. Mike Carney

Course Details: CHEM 109.501/502 CHEM 109.531/532

Course Days/ Times:

Lecture section 501: Tuesday and Thursday, 8 to 9:15 am

Lecture section 502: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 to 9:50 am

Lab sections 531 and 532: Monday, 5 to 7:50 pm

LE Attributes: None

Continuation of Chemistry 105 + 106. Equilibrium, thermodynamic and kinetic aspects of chemical reactions; acid-base, precipitation, and redox reactions; transition metal compounds; organic compounds; nuclear reactions. Honors students will work collaboratively and often with less guidance from the instructor to complete the laboratory experiments. Students will also be presented with challenging exercises that apply and extend the learning from the lab to new situations.

Planet Earth: The Physical Environment

Instructor: Lecture – Dr. Harry Jol, Lab – Dr. Papia Rozario

Course Details: GEOG 104.501/531

Course Days/ Times: lecture Tuesday and Thursday, 11 am to 12:15 pm, lab Wednesday, 1 to 2:50 pm

LE Attributes: K1 with Lab

This course examines the physical processes that shape our environment, which we view as a complex model of interacting systems. Students will learn about the principles and mechanisms of climate and weather, soils, vegetation, ecosystems, and earth surface processes that sculpt physical landscapes. Also examined are the Earth's systems from a local to global scale as they relate to human interactions with the physical environment.

This honors lab section will develop essential skills to identify and describe earth materials, including minerals and rocks, and interpret the geologic processes that form them. Students will learn to apply observations and logic to describe their natural world and how geologic processes shape their landforms, cause natural hazards, and form our resources. Emphasis is placed on developing critical observational and analytical skills to understand how these processes form landscapes, generate natural hazards, and create vital resources. In addition to laboratory investigations, the course incorporates on-campus field experiences, allowing students to apply classroom knowledge to real-world settings and engage directly with the dynamic Earth system.

American Women's History

Instructor: Dr. Maggie Weber

Course Details: HIST 205.501 and WGSS 205.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 to 9:50 am

LE Attributes: K3 and R1 DDIV

Note: you can take this course as either HIST 205 or WGSS 205.

While frequently ignored or dismissed, women have always played an integral part in the development of United States. From reform movements and national politics to daily survival and economic sustenance, women contributed and influenced how the nation thought, fought, and survived. Yet, there is no “one” women’s experience in America. Diversity in background, age, class, sexuality, race, region, citizenship status, and other aspects of identity all changed how women interacted with society and each other.

To understand these differences and interrogate our own modern assumptions about the past, this class will be using a framework of Intersectionality, Decolonial Thinking, and Queer Theory. Kimberlé Crenshaw’s theory of Intersectionality paved a path to understanding more precisely how individual identities overlapped to create different lived experiences. We will be using it to showcase how different women faced different oppressions that reflected their specific historical identities. Decolonial Thinking seeks to interrogate and unravel the production of knowledge and its perceived social value from Eurocentric imperialism.

This class will explore how European colonialism and white supremacy influenced attitudes towards womanhood and gender. It will discuss how groups and individuals who historically challenged patriarchal systems often struggled to comprehend and adequately address these long-term oppressions. Finally Queer Theory challenges normative assumptions about the world and social conventions. Specifically, this class will ask students to confront their own beliefs and definitions about womanhood and whether it can have a history.

For the Honors Section in particular, we will concentrate on reading and applying the above theories to history. In addition to the normal weekly readings, honors students will also be expected to read the work of Kimberlé Crenshaw, bell hooks, Susan Stryker, Joan Scott, Judith Butler, and others. We will then discuss how these broader theories can be used in history and the potential lens of analysis they bring to the table. Finally, honors students will have an additional semester assignment. After reading bell hook’s book *Feminism is for Everyone*, students will be required to write a reflective response.

Elementary Statistics

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Harrison and Dr. Jennifer Harrison

Course Details: MATH 246.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 2 to 2:50 pm

LE Attributes: S2

Can dolphins communicate? Are people born in January better at hockey than people born in December? Can statistics help us convict criminals? In this class, we’ll learn how to collect and analyze data to address a variety of real-world questions. This course covers the same material as the regular sections of Math 246, but with an emphasis on group discussions (with your awesome Honors classmates) and using computer simulations to gain a visual understanding of statistical concepts. We’ll finish the semester with a group project using statistics to analyze a real data set of your choice.

Introduction to Public Health

Instructor: Dr. Alex Craker

Course Details: PH 225.501

Course Days/ Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 2 to 3:15 pm

LE Attributes: R1DD and I1

Discusses population health and disease considering historical and current public health practice. Focus areas include cultural, political, environmental, and socioeconomic influences that increase population vulnerability and risk. In the honors section, we'll analyze the effectiveness of public health interventions, both as a group and via independent research. We'll also practice communicating public health messaging to a range of audiences as a collaborative team.

300-Level Colloquia (sophomore standing, 30+ credits)

Doing Business in China

Instructor: Dr. Longzhu Dong

Course Details: HNRS 323.501

Course Days/ Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 2 to 3:15 pm

LE Attributes: K2 and R2

As China is now and continues to be one of the world's largest economies in the recent future, understanding its business environment is crucial for future global leaders. Through lectures, case studies, and guided discussions, students will examine the complex interplay between China's private sector and the government, the role of state-owned enterprises, and the regulatory environment affecting both domestic and foreign businesses. We will address strategies for navigating geopolitical risks amid U.S.-China tensions and deglobalization, while also exploring opportunities in China's growing middle-class market and booming e-commerce sector. By analyzing successful and failed business models, comparing foreign and local company strategies, and drawing from the instructor's hands-on experience, students will gain a nuanced understanding of China's business landscape and its global implications, develop critical thinking skills essential for operating in this dynamic and challenging environment.

This course will also examine the cultural contrasts between the United States and China, focusing on how these differences impact leadership effectiveness in a global context. We'll discuss key interpersonal elements in Chinese business culture, such as the concept of "guanxi" (relationships), approaches to honesty, indirect communication, and the importance of "face." These factors, deeply rooted in Chinese history, significantly shape social interactions in China but can often perplex or frustrate non-Chinese business.

Against Our Better Judgment: Incentives, Instincts, and Irrational Decisions

Instructor: Dr. Casey Rozowski

Course Details: HNRS 324.501

Course Days/ Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 to 4:45 pm

LE Attributes: K2 and R3

Why do we overpay for gym memberships we never use? Why do we procrastinate on high-stakes tasks or chase sunk costs? In this seminar, students unpack the hidden logic behind our “dumb” behaviors by combining core economic models (incentives, trade-offs, market design) with behavioral insights from texts like *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, *Nudge*, *Predictably Irrational*, and *Antifragile*. Expect 3–4 hours per week on readings and brief written reflections. Class is primarily discussion-driven—with minimal mini-lectures—and features in-class small-group data analyses, weekly article presentations, policy memos, and a culminating “nudge” intervention proposal. No prior economics background is required; rather, students from any major will learn to apply economic reasoning to real-world problems and communicate their insights effectively.

Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground: Jazz and Poetry

Instructor: Dr. Paul Hecht

Course Details: HNRS 335.501

Course Days/ Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 5 to 6:15 pm

LE Attributes: K3 and S1

In this class we join jazz and poetry, which immediately shakes loose some interesting associations. While both jazz and poetry have (immense) practical dimensions, lots of things to learn how to do, and do better, and (enormous) bodies of passed-down knowledge to work to absorb, both also have loose associations: with heightened perception, with spiritual insight, and, negatively, with dreaminess or opaque self-indulgence. In this

class we will be just as interested in those associations, as in gaining purchase on the practical, feet-on-the-groundwork of both subjects. So, working with students where they are (no formal study of either topic is a requirement for this course), we will zero in particularly in historical moments when the two have become intertwined in interesting ways. For this spring, that means three moments: jazz and poetry during World War II, during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, and jazz alongside the emergence of rap and hip-hop in the 1980s. Students will write short papers that mix self-exploration with research and analysis.

Art and Film of the Holocaust

Instructors: Professors Anna Zook and Aaron Zook

Course Details: HNRS 337.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday and Wednesday, 12 to 1:15pm

LE Attributes: K3 and S3

Art and Film of the Holocaust is a study of the history of the Holocaust and its implications for human life as it has been dramatized and interpreted in film, prose, dance, and static art. Though it is virtually impossible to try to accurately simulate a daily life saturated with fear, hunger, disease, unfathomable loss, and the unrelenting threat of abject brutality and death, artists of every media have struggled to do so, while also finding appropriate methods for providing images of those horrors while examining the foundational moral issues associated with the Holocaust. This course will use a review of the history of the Holocaust, reading assignments in texts and collateral materials, group discussions, creative projects and the weekly study of Holocaust related films to develop an understanding of the major events of the Holocaust within their historical context as well as the fundamental societal and moral issues from which the Holocaust developed and the effects of the events of the Holocaust on subsequent societal and moral cosmologies. Students can anticipate spending 2-3 hours outside of class each week reading course materials, watching assigned films, and writing responses.

Musical Exoticism

Instructor: Dr. Gretchen Peters

Course Details: HNRS 349.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9 to 9:50am

LE Attributes: K4 and R1DD

This course will focus on musical exoticism, which is evoking through music a place or social group that is not that of the composer. Examples of musical exoticism are prevalent throughout history and across the globe, and they have been steeped in the power dynamics of colonial settings. We will ask what the social and political subtexts of musical exoticism are? How do issues of colonialism, stereotyping, globalization, cultural appropriation, and authenticity fit into this discussion? How have musical traditions been part of the process of creating, defining, and controlling the “Other” throughout history? How have members of the exoticized culture responded to this practice? Select examples will be drawn from popular and Classical music traditions, and the examples exoticize a wide array of cultures, including Middle Eastern, Romani, Puerto Rican, and Native American. Students will have the opportunity to work with primary sources drawn from multiple national archives. Each student will develop a research project and provide a presentation at the end of the semester. Students can expect to spend 5-6 hours per week on average throughout the semester for all work related to the course. No prior knowledge of music is assumed.

Credit Cards and Beyond

Instructor: Professor John Magliocco

Course Details: HNRS 353.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday and Wednesday, 3:30 to 4:45 pm

LE Attributes: S1 and R2

This course will equip students with a strong understanding of the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) industry, the different card products that we interact with every day, the ways in which these products are utilized based on consumer needs, risk, and security. Historical, legal, banking, merchant, and product perspectives will be examined to take this knowledge and apply it to real-world applications and current events. Students learn and develop methodologies to create financial budgets and will gain an understanding of how to use the different card products in the management of their own personal finances. The course serves to develop students' critical thinking related to the card industry and cardholders' behavior, with attention both to students' own daily lives and to cultural contexts around the world. Students will gain experience in analyzing information, evaluating information, and explaining complex concepts related to the EFT industry. Students will also formulate impact analysis on how world events can influence the EFT industry and understand the ripple effects of other markets. We'll consider questions such as: You may not have thought too much about the credit card industry, but do you understand how it operates—from your local merchant to your bank? Have you wondered why you receive unsolicited credit card applications in the mail? You likely know someone who's had their credit card compromised due to fraud. How does this happen and what can you do to protect yourself when it does?

The Lasso Way

Instructor: Professor Ashlee LeGear

Course Details: HNRS 358.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11 to 11:50 am

LE Attributes: S1 and I1

This class taken in spring 2026, with this instructor and topic, will also count for HNRS 400.

In this course, you will develop a strong foundation in leadership concepts and practices by examining the leadership themes presented in Ted Lasso, a show widely recognized for its insightful and relatable examples of modern leadership. The series highlights that great leadership is not about titles or authority, but about empowering others, fostering trust, and creating an environment where everyone can thrive. You will have the opportunity to observe and analyze different approaches to team management and personal growth, while also reflecting on your own experiences and the type of leader you aspire to become. Since this course focuses on the knowledge and skills essential for success in graduate school and your future career, it also fulfills the HNRS 400 requirement. Students should expect about 3-4 hours of work outside of class each week, most of which will be watching episodes of Ted Lasso to prepare for class discussions around leadership. There will be some smaller assignments for reflection and personal connection as well as a group presentation addressing how to effectively manage leadership challenges.

Knot Theory and Its Application

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Otto

Course Details: HNRS 368.501

Course Days/ Times: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 to 10:50 am

LE Attributes: S2 and I1

Pre-requisite: MATH 114 Calculus I

This course serves as an introduction to knot theory, the mathematical study of knots. Knots are simple closed curves in 3-space and links are collections of knots. The course will start with a discussion on the inception and relevance of the history of knot theory, from its beginning in chemistry and physics. We will discuss the basic theoretical properties and invariants of knots as well as the application of this work to different scientific disciplines. Specifically, students will learn how to apply the theoretical world of knots to other mathematical fields as well as to real-world applications in chemistry and biology. If time allows, other applications may be selected from Graph Theory, Physics, and/or Art. **Pre-requisite: Calculus 1 / MATH 114.**

(Re)Thinking Authoritarianism: Historical Foundations and Contemporary Geographies

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan McCombs

Course Details: HNRS 387.501

Course Days/ Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 11am to 12:15 pm

LE Attributes: R2 and R3

Over the past decade, countries around the globe have moved increasingly toward authoritarian forms of government. This class aims to think through authoritarianism in service of better understanding this new political reality. One of the key insights that I hope to draw out through this course is that authoritarianism has been a constituent component of modern forms of government, where authoritarian forms of rule have been directed primarily at colonized, racialized, and queer (non)citizens. This course aims to examine the philosophical approaches to thinking through authoritarianism, historical processes that lead to authoritarianism, and contemporary geographies of authoritarianism with a focus on how authoritarianism has been resisted. With these insights, the goal is to (re)think authoritarianism anew. To this end, we will engage a wide range of disciplines from philosophy, history, political science, and geography. This course will proceed as a reading-intensive seminar. Students will be tasked with reading at least one academic journal article per class and will be assigned regular writing assignments as assessments.

Seminars & Special Experiences

HNRS 100: First-Year Honors Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Sean Weidman and honors mentors

Course Details: 1 credit, does not count for LE

The First-Year Honors Seminar will help you to develop connections and roots within the Honors Program, at the university, and in Eau Claire. In this one-credit course, you will learn about what Honors can do for you, become part of the Honors community, and make plans to get the most out of Honors and UWEC.

Sections Offered:

- 501: Monday 12:00 to 12:50 pm
- 502: Tuesday 8:30 to 9:20 am
- 504: Friday 12:00 to 12:50 pm

HNRS 400: Senior Honors Seminar

Instructors: Dr. Sean Weidman, Dr. Heather Fielding, and Professor Avonlea Hanson

Course Details: 1 credit, does not count for LE, does not count as an upper-division Honors Credit

Prerequisite: Senior standing or department consent required

HNRS 400, the Honors Senior Seminar, is a capstone course that aims to give you space and opportunity to reflect on your university experiences and on what you want the next stage of your life to look like, within and beyond your career. As you discuss your reflections with other honors students, you will learn how to frame your experiences in a way that will have maximum impact in professional situations—with employers, admission committees, application reviewers, and future colleagues.

Sections Offered:

- 501: Wednesday, 12 to 12:50 pm
- 502: Thursday, 8:30-9:20 am
- 581: on-line, asynchronous, \$50 online course fee

HNRS 420: Tutoring in Honors

Instructor: various

Course Details: 1 credit, fulfills Service/Community Engaged Learning, open to juniors and seniors by application.

LE attributes: Service/Community Engaged Learning

Honors tutors assist a professor in teaching an honors course. Generally, tutors collaborate on honors courses in which they have previously excelled. Tutors gain valuable experience in leadership and communication, learn about pedagogy, and get the opportunity to dig even deeper into the course's topics. If you are interested in tutoring an honors course being offered this spring, please reach out to the instructor and/or to honors staff.

Note: HNRS 420 is a one-credit course that reduces (by 2) the number of credit hours required to graduate with University Honors. Rising juniors and seniors are eligible to apply.

Application: Students must apply, enrollment is by permission. For more information, read the [Tutoring information on the Honors SharePoint site](#). **Tutoring applications for spring 2026 are due by January 10, 2026.**

HNRS 430: Leadership in Honors

Instructor: Dr. Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Course Details: 1 credit, open to juniors and seniors

Section Offered: 501: Tuesday, 12:30 to 1:45 PM

LE attributes: this course does not automatically count for service learning, but students who pursue a service-based leadership project may petition it to count toward the service-learning requirement

Course Video

What does it mean to be a leader? Is leadership about authority or something else? HNRS 430 strives to demonstrate that leadership is not a position but is an activity that requires mobilizing people to confront difficult challenges. This course is designed to equip you with the essential tools and frameworks needed to navigate uncertainty and lead effectively in dynamic environments.

You will explore the principles of adaptive leadership, a model that emphasizes flexibility, creativity, and the ability to galvanize people to tackle tough challenges. Most importantly you will explore these activities while actively using the class itself as a case study to practice leadership and develop your own competency.

This class is also designed to support you in tackling a leadership project related to your work in an on- or off-campus organization, broadly defined (including student orgs, sports teams, residence halls, and much more). As we explore leadership tools together, you will define and begin your project, and then reflect on challenges and successes with the support of the group. Students do not need to have a project before the class begins.

Note: Like HNRS 410 (Mentoring in Honors) and HNRS 420 (Tutoring in Honors), this is a 1-credit course that will reduce the number of credits required to graduate with University Honors by 2.

HNRS 490: Honors Thesis

Instructor: various

Course Details: variable 1 to 6 credits, open to seniors by permission

The Honors Thesis is a special opportunity to complete an advanced, independent project in any field. Research-focused, creative, or applied projects are all possible. The thesis process begins with a proposal that is submitted by eform before the semester begins. To learn more, see the [Honors Thesis Guidelines on the Honors SharePoint](#) site. If you are interested in pursuing an honors thesis in spring or fall 2026, [please talk to Dr. Fielding](#).