



## HONORS PROGRAM

*Illinois State University*

# STATE

YOUR HONORS.



**Advanced Honors Seminars** are courses grounded in one or more of the Dimensions of Honors Learning that address special topics and facilitate the development of the Honors community. Seminars are created by instructors to explore various Dimensions and their applications across disciplines.

Honors students may take an Advanced Honors Seminar after successfully completing HON 102A17: Honors Mindset Seminar, which is designed to inspire and equip students to develop an “Honors Mindset.”

### 200 level seminars are:

- one of the six types of Honors Learning Experiences.
- one credit hour.
- limited to 25 Honors students from any major.
- typically offered as eight week classes during the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the semester, meeting for 50 minutes twice per week.
- sometimes offered as full semester classes, meeting for 50 minutes once per week.
- awarded a letter grade. Readings and assignments are based on the estimated workload for one credit hour classes. There is generally no final exam for Honors Seminars; a capstone or culminating project is encouraged.

### Learning Outcomes

Each of the Advanced Honors Seminars share four learning outcomes. Individual seminars also have additional learning outcomes unique to the content of the particular seminar.

1. Apply discipline specific knowledge to explore interdisciplinary learning
2. Learn terminology and apply concepts associated with an interdisciplinary topic
3. Critically evaluate information from a variety of sources
4. Communicate (written and oral) in a clear and professional manner in formal and informal settings

### HON 205: Interdisciplinary Investigations

In this seminar, instructors draw from their research and/or passions to explore a topic or theme, which will be studied across disciplines to highlight the importance of understanding issues from a variety of perspectives.

### Additional Learning Outcome:

1. Develop an interdisciplinary approach to a topic and synthesize information from multiple fields

### Examples of Previous Topics:

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|--|---|
| • Civic Engagement for Life                    | • Our Nation of Incarceration                               |
| • Deliberation for Democracy                   | • Plagues, Pandemics, and People                            |
| • Family Dynamics: Divorce as a Phenomenon?    | • Renaissance Florence                                      |
| • Insects as Food and Feed                     | • Studentification of Normal                                |
| • Marks of Civilization: Cultures of Tattooing | • Surveillance and Society                                  |
|  | • Understanding Horror: Why would anyone love to be scared? |

## **HON 206: Innovation and Inquiry**

This seminar challenges students to study and explore inquiry from several perspectives. Critical inquiry as an academic pursuit, inquiry involved in traditional and novel research methods, problem-solving, and innovative questioning will be explored. Students apply these perspectives by exploring real-life problems and developing solutions.

### **Additional Learning Outcome:**

1. Develop skills in problem solving and inquiry

### **Examples of Previous Topics:**

- The Psychology of Spontaneity in Performance and Everyday Life
- Communication Through Images – Learning Visual Literacy
- Questioning and the Paradox of Creativity

## **HON 207: Leadership in Action**

The goal of this seminar is to encourage students to identify and analyze effective qualities of successful leaders as well as to participate in an applied leadership experience.

### **Additional Learning Outcome:**

1. Understand and reflect on personal leadership style and skills

### **Examples of Previous Topics:**

- Pathways to Leadership
- To be a great leader, be a coach
- Project Management Leadership in a Diverse and International Work Environment

## **HON 208: Culture, Context, and Identity**

The goal of this seminar is to understand how culture and context influence people's worldviews, experiences, and identity.

### **Additional Learning Outcomes:**

1. Be able to reflect on and evaluate personal beliefs and biases
2. Identify and reflect on interrelations within and among global and/or cross-cultural communities

### **Examples of Previous topics:**

- Cultures of Play: Leisure, Learning, and Formations of Identity
- "We Are Still Here:" Modern Indigeneity in Popular Arts and Media
- Diversity in Digital Platforms and Equitable Virtual Environments
- Psychological Basis of Cultural Empathy

## **Dimensions of Honors Learning**

The Dimensions of Honors Learning are the six marketable skills students strengthen through their participation in the Honors Program. Instructors are encouraged to include connections to as many of these skills as possible.

- Critical Thinking: Go beyond your initial understanding to evaluate and make your own conclusions about what you are learning.

- Interdisciplinary Learning: Discover how what you are learning relates to other fields and the world around you.
- Information Fluency: Gain skills in evaluating, creating, and utilizing information and technology across various formats and platforms.
- Creative Productivity: Show your understanding by creating something unique. Go outside the box to make your ideas a reality.
- Leadership Development: Identify and enhance your leadership skills through collaboration with others to make a difference.
- Cultural Intelligence: Understand how culture and context influence people's views and learn to value, adapt to, and interact with diverse populations.

## **Syllabus Statements**

Please include the following statements on the seminar syllabus:

This seminar is an Honors Learning Experience. Successful completion of this seminar, defined as earning a "C" or better, will fulfill your Honors Program participation requirement for the semester.

Please refer to the [Center for Integrated Professional Development](#) for guidelines on syllabus structure, including both required and suggested syllabus statements.

*Examples of past syllabi are available upon request.*