



University Honors Program

Fall 2025 Classes

First Year Honors Humanities Seminar, WRTR 2305

What do we know? How do we know? What complicates our efforts to know things directly, and what structures the ways we actually do “know” things? This course poses fundamental questions about how we understand the physical, conceptual, political, emotional, and social worlds we inhabit. We will read, discuss, and write about texts (from a range of disciplines, including literature, psychology, politics, linguistics, and science) that ask us to think twice about the nature, limits, and possibilities of knowledge. The goal of the course is to think and write clearly about even those matters that remain uncertain, and to take pleasure in the process of discovery.

Required of all First Year UHP Students

Section	Instructor	Meeting Time	Location
001	Joan Arbery	MWF 9:00-9:50 AM	G16 Clements Hall
002	Joan Arbery	MWF 10:00-10:50 AM	G16 Clements Hall
003	Lydia Allen	MWF 1:00-1:50 PM	343 Dallas Hall
004	Gerald Barr	MWF 1:00-1:50 PM	126 Armstrong Commons
005	Gerald Barr	MWF 2:00-2:50 PM	126 Armstrong Commons
006	Gerald Barr	MWF 3:00-3:50 PM	126 Armstrong Commons
007	Gerald Barr	MWF 4:00-4:50 PM	126 Armstrong Commons
008	Madhavi Biswas	TuTh 8:00-9:20 AM	G16 Clements Hall
009	Madhavi Biswas	TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM	G16 Clements Hall
010	Madhavi Biswas	TuTh 11:00 AM-12:20 PM	G16 Clements Hall
011	Bruce Levy	TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM	142 Dallas Hall
012	Madhavi Biswas	TuTh 12:30-1:50 PM	G16 Clements Hall

013	Russell McConnell	TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM	221 Prothro Hall
014	Russell McConnell	TuTh 11:00 AM-12:20 PM	221 Prothro Hall
015	Russell McConnell	TuTh 12:30-1:50 PM	206 Prothro Hall
016	Russell McConnell	TuTh 2:00-3:20 PM	206 Prothro Hall

Interdisciplinary Courses

UHP 2367: The Greater Dallas Experience

001H: David D. Doyle, Jr. | MWF 12:00-12:50 PM | Annette Simmons Hall, 138

002H: Joan Arbery | MWF 12:00-12:50 PM | Two locations – see below:

MW: Annette Simmons Hall, 138 | F: Clements Hall, G16

CC - Literary Analysis and Interpretation

CC - Writing

This course will introduce students to the Greater Dallas environment and to the different ways in which a city and a region can be studied. The major objective is to develop students' knowledge of the peoples, institutions, and places in Greater Dallas and know how these are related to one another. The course will introduce students to multiple disciplinary perspectives and how these can be used to develop a sophisticated and complex understanding of a single metropolitan area. At the end of the course, students will demonstrate their grasp of at least two disciplinary approaches to understanding the city. Through weekly classroom discussion, written assignments, examinations, and group projects, students will demonstrate their abilities to read, write, and speak carefully and critically as well as to conduct primary research.

Readings include: Hazel, Michael, *Dallas: A History of Big D* (1997); Phillips, Michael, *White Metropolis: Race, Ethnicity, and Collin Yarbrough, Paved A Way: Infrastructure, Policy and Racism in an American City* (2021). Multiple other scholarly and popular articles and primary materials will be assigned—all will be available on Canvas.

UHP 3300: Honors Second Year Seminar: The American Citizen Across Time and Place

001H: Laurence Winnie | MWF 1:00-1:50 PM | Dallas Hall, 137

002H: Laurence Winnie | MWF 2:00-2:50 PM | Dallas Hall, 137

CC - Literary Analysis and Interpretation

CC - Writing

Examines the chronology of American history through an interdisciplinary lens with the question of “who is an American” as a thematic focus. Students learn about important moments in American history and begin to understand the basic chronology of the country, as well as how these key events were understood and experienced by some of the country’s most creative and probing minds. The organizing theme of who is an American itself is an important examination of when and where the human rights of the country’s inhabitants have been respected—or not respected—over the decades.

Readings include: Susan Faludi, *The Terror Dream: Fear and Fantasy in Post 9/11 America*

(2007); David Walker, *An Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World* (1829); Drew Gilpin Faust, *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* (2008); Henry James, *The Bostonians* (1886); Mark Twain, *Puddenhed Wilson* (1894); Willa Cather, *My Antonia* (1918); Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow* (2010); Amy Ellis Nutt, *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family* (2015)

UHP 4100-002H: Honors Tutorial: The Most Important Texts in U.S. History

Brian Franklin | Th 4:00-4:50 PM | Clements Hall, G16

Everyone has an opinion on the most important moments in American history. And yet, very few people have *actually read* the most important texts in American history. Even fewer have really, deeply engaged with these texts that have shaped the United States. This course is all about bridging this gap. Each week, students will prepare for class by reading one (or more) of the most important texts in American history. In class, we will focus our time on close discussions of these readings and explore their implications for today. In addition, each student will choose one week for which they will do extra reading and prepare to help lead the discussion.

Readings include (subject to change): *The Declaration of Independence* and *The United States Constitution*. Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Martin Luther King Jr, *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, Selected short texts available via Canvas

UHP 4100-701H: Honors Tutorial: Putin's Russia

Brandon Miller | W 5:00-5:50 PM | Clements Hall, G16

Since his appointment to the presidency on the first day of 2000, Vladimir Putin has been seen in many guises: reformer, modernizer, national savior, strongman, and war criminal. Ordinary people also have experienced the last 25 years in a multitude of ways, including relative stability and prosperity for some and deepening poverty and marginalization for others. This seminar examines lives in contemporary Russia through the eyes of both local writers and Western journalists. When the history of this moment is written, these stories will be crucial in its telling.

Humanities Courses

ARHS 3355-001H: Exhibiting Cultures: Curating and Interpreting the Arts of the Global South

Elyan Hill | TuTh 11:00 AM-12:20 PM | Greer Garson Theater, 3515

CC: Creativity and Aesthetics

Explores ways that audiences and curators co-create the poetics and practices of exhibition display, with a particular emphasis on the arts and cultures of the Global South (especially Africa and the Afro-Atlantic). Students discuss, interpret, and research cultural objects and the histories of colonialism, cultural exchange, and ethnographic research that underpin the ways that curators conduct their work. Analyzes how museums place the sacred and precious objects of cultural groups within an exhibition context, and considers how exhibition design determines the

improvisational possibilities for visitors to position their bodies in relation to these objects. Discusses the importance of text and visuality in curating, and how exhibitions “perform” even as they evoke the previous lives of objects in relation to the experiences of the viewing public. Students learn skills and best practices for curating and interpreting the arts of the Global South in ethical, accessible, and culturally respectful ways.

ENGL 2311-001H: Poetry – Finding the Greatest Inventors

Emma Wilson | TuTh 8:00-9:20 AM | Dallas Hall, 101

CC: Literary Analysis and Interpretation

CC: Writing

What does it mean to invent something? To “be creative”? In classical rhetoric, the first part of the creative process was called “invention” which derives from the Latin word meaning “to find something” - - in this course, we’ll be encountering our poets as they “invent” their poems, catching them mid-flight during their writing processes to understand how and why they crafted their words into never-before-seen shapes and ideas. Today the word “inventors” conjures images of scientists in laboratories or computer scientists writing mind-bending code, but in this course we’ll be seeing how poets, too, play a crucial role in inventing our universe, giving us new ways of seeing, imagining, and interacting with our world.

From epic tales from ancient worlds to Instagram poets reimagining the relationship which poetry can forge between words and images, war poets whose words changed the course of history, songwriters creating new antiheroes and poets at the start of the scientific revolution experimenting with new empirical knowledge in verse, we will encounter a whole world of inventors imagining and creating beautiful, bewitching, challenging and sometimes confrontational words, and we will find new ways to interact with all of that creative output.

Poetry can sometimes seem bewildering or, indeed, purposefully abstruse and difficult – and it can be! But by understanding our poems as “inventions” that are created with specific technical tools and techniques, and learning how to identify those tools and techniques and to talk about them, over the course of the semester we will become comfortable and familiar with our poets and the things they have invented for us – we will get to know these inventors, to understand and appreciate their ingenuity and their methods and to revel in the pleasure that great poetry (or sometimes even bad poetry!) can bring.

Today’s inventors live largely in the digital environment, so to add in some workplace skills we will be creating an exhibition about “Inventing Poetry”. I look forward to finding the inventors with you this semester (that means learning to read lots of interesting poems with you!).

ENGL 2390-006H: Introduction to Creative Writing – Notice how you Notice: Poetry Workshop

Katie Condon | TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM | Dallas Hall, 106

CC: Creativity and Aesthetics

CC: Writing

Writing poetry renders our attention to the world more acute. This poetry workshop will teach you to notice how you notice the world, as well as the essential craft tools needed to translate your perceptions to the page. To learn these tools, we will read and discuss the work of poets who have

mastered them, focusing on how their formal decisions communicate something fundamental about the ways we perceive our world.

Course assignments include creative in-class and homework assignments, reading responses, and a final portfolio. All reading supplied on Canvas.

HIST 3310-001H: Problems in American History – Nativism & Racial Nationalism

Neil Foley | TuTh 12:30-1:50 PM | Owen Fine Arts Center, 1040

CC: Historical Contexts

CC: Writing

Explores historical issues or trends in U.S. history will be explored using a case study or comparative format.

PHIL 1305-001H: Introduction to Philosophy

Philippe Chuard | TuTh 2:00-3:20 PM | Umphrey Lee, 244

CC: Philosophical, Religious, & Ethical Inquiry

A general introduction to the central questions of philosophy. We will discuss topics from such areas as the theory of knowledge, philosophy of religion, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, ethics, and political philosophy. Typical questions might include: Can we know the world outside our minds? Is it rational to believe in a God who allows evil to exist? Do the laws of physics allow for human freedom? Is morality more than a matter of opinion? Can there be unequal wealth in a just society? Readings will include classical authors such as Plato, Descartes, Locke, Hume, and Mill, as well as contemporary philosophers. The focus of the course will be on arguments for and against proposed solutions to key problems of philosophy.

Recommended course for first-year UHP students.

PHIL 1316-001H: Introduction to Ethics

Luke Robinson | TuTh 2:00-3:20 PM | Clements Hall, 334

CC: Philosophical, Religious, & Ethical Inquiry

An introduction to philosophical ethics focusing on questions in ethical theory. Topics may include: What makes a life good for the person living it? What makes an action right or wrong? What makes someone a good or bad person? What, if anything, justifies punishing wrongdoers? What constitutes a just society? Are there natural or human rights? The course focuses on arguments for and against proposed solutions to philosophical problems like these.

Recommended course for first-year UHP students.

WL 2355: Literature and Theology – Catholic Thought from Augustine to the Present

Denise Dupont & Bruce Marshall | TuTh 2:00-3:20 PM | Dallas Hall, 156

CC: Philosophical, Religious, & Ethical Inquiry

CC: Writing

Studies the Catholic vision of God and humanity in its development from antiquity to the present, through autobiographies, novels, poetry, film, and theology.

Math & Physical Sciences Courses

ANTH 3399-001H: In Search of Ice Age Americans

David Meltzer | TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM | Dallas Hall, 137

CC: Exploring Science

The peopling of America during the Ice Age, reconstructed by various disciplines (e.g., archaeology, linguistics, and molecular biology), and what that reconstruction reveals about how people adapted to a truly new world.

BIOL 4133: Bioethics Seminar

Eva Oberdoerster | 001H - M 1:00-1:50 PM; 002H - Tu 12:30-1:20 PM; 003H - W 1:00-1:50 PM | Dedman Life Science Building, 130

CC: Civic and Individual Ethics (pending approval)

The goal of this course is to prepare you (the student) to be an engaged member of your community by serving as a “Citizen-Scientist” in the field of Biology. As people around you realize that you have a degree in Biology, they will oftentimes ask you questions about the latest science item they saw on the news, including ‘is this possible’ and ‘should we embrace this technology’. Bioethics Seminar will give you the tools to read lay scientific papers and present a cogent analysis using the information you have learned during your undergraduate career at SMU. The emphasis will be on Bioethics.

Prerequisites: C- or better in BIOL 3304 and BIOL 3350. Restricted to biology, biochemistry, chemistry, or physics majors only.

BIOL 4480-L01H: Gene Editing Lab

Alejandro D’Brot | TuTh 2:00-4:50 PM | Dedman Life Science Building, 128

A project-based course in which students learn how to use CRISPR-Cas9 to edit genes in model organisms and read and discuss research articles focused on how CRISPR-Cas9 is being used to treat genetic diseases. This 4-credit hour course includes a lab component. Prerequisites: C- or better in BIOL 3304 and BIOL 3350. Restricted to Honors students. Students are expected to have basic laboratory research experience. Non-honors students may enroll with the permission of the instructor if they possess competence in basic laboratory research techniques.

DS 1300-805: A Practical Introduction to Data Science

Peter Moore | TuTh 8:00-9:20 AM Lecture, N51 (W 2:00-3:20 PM) or N52 (W 3:30-4:50 PM) Lab | Lecture Location TBD, Lab - Harold Simmons Hall, 107

CC: Technological Advances and Society

CC: Quantitative Applications

Provides a first introduction to the exciting field of data science using applications and case studies from various domains (e.g., social media, marketing, sociology, engineering, digital humanities). Introduces data-centric thinking, including a discussion of how data is acquired, managed, manipulated, visualized, and used, to support problem-solving. The fundamental practical skills necessary are taught in class, and each step is illustrated with small examples. Tools presented in this course include SQL and Excel, along with other state-of-the-art tools. No prior knowledge of statistics, math, or programming is necessary.

MATH 3302-001H: Calculus III

Staff | MWF 11:00-11:50 AM | Umphrey Lee, 244

Partial differentiation, multiple integrals, parametrization, line and surface integrals. Vector Calculus, including vector fields, divergence, curl, and the divergence and Stokes' theorems. Prerequisites: C- or higher in MATH 1338 or MATH 1340

PHYS 1010-701H: Honors Introductory Physics Lab

Staff | M 6:00-7:30 PM | Fondren Science Building, 152

Students will engage in a semester long “Grand Challenge” problem-solving exercise. This will define the arc of the semester, setting the tone for planning our classroom activities and eventually defining the deliverable at the end of the course. In between class periods relevant to the development of solutions to the Grand Challenge Problem, the students will be engaged in demonstrations of physics principles and exercises to explore these demonstrations. These class periods will follow a pattern consistent with the scientific method: observation of a physical phenomenon, hypothesis building to explain the phenomenon, and calculation and testing to assess the hypothesis.

Recommended course for first-year Honors students (must be taken in conjunction with PHYS 1303, 1304, 1307, 1308).

Social Science Courses

APSM 3343-001: Health Promotion Practice

Laura Robinson-Doyle | MWF 11:00-11:50 AM | Annette Simmons Hall, 208

Focuses on understanding, influencing, and modifying health status and behaviors in populations. Explores the assessment, planning, execution, and evaluation of health promotion programming, as well as different applications and delivery methods of health promotion.

CCPA 3328-002H: Political Persuasion

Rita Kirk & Julie Radford | TuTh 9:30 AM-10:50 AM | Umphrey Lee, 228

Assesses techniques of persuasion and personal influence through the force of ethos that resides in the personality and reputation of the speaker. Develops skills through case analysis, examples, and exercises to develop awareness of the power, ethics, and effectiveness of persuasion.

ECO 1311-001H: Principles of Microeconomics

Staff | TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM | Umphrey Lee, 303

CC: Quantitative Applications

This course studies the production of the entire economy, dealing with such issues as the general price level, the national employment rate, government spending, and the nation's money supply. Important to these issues is the definition and measurement of macroeconomic aggregates such as gross domestic product, consumer price index, the unemployment rate, and the government surplus and deficit. The course looks at the determinants of inflation and the relationship between inflation and other factors, including interest rates, the money supply, and unemployment.

Students must have background in calculus to enroll in this course.

Recommended course for first-year Honors students.

PLSC 1380-004H: Introduction to International Relations

Hiroki Takeuchi | MW 4:00-5:20 PM | Dallas Hall, 116

CC: Social and Behavioral Sciences

A basic survey of the elements of international relations, including the nation-state system, international organizations, international law, diplomacy, foreign policy, and various nonstate actors such as multinational corporations.

Recommended course for first-year Honors students.

PLSC 3330-002H: Law, Politics, and the Supreme Court

Joseph Kobylka | TuTh 2:00-3:20 PM | Harold Simmons Hall, 117

CC: Social and Behavioral Sciences

CC: Writing

An introduction to the uniquely political and legal role played by the Supreme Court in elaborating the scope of governmental power and defining individual rights and liberties.

PLSC 3352-002H: Chinese Politics

Hiroki Takeuchi | MW 6:30-7:50 PM | Dallas Hall, 116

CC: Writing

A survey of Chinese political history since the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and the major challenges confronting the PRC today, evaluating the positive and negative aspects of China's socialist experiment by using a working knowledge of Chinese politics.

SOCI 1300-005H: Introduction to Sociology

Daniel Bolger | TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM | Dallas Hall, 357

CC: Social and Behavioral Sciences

This course will provide an introduction to sociological theories, methods, and debates. In the first section of the course we will focus on *what sociology is and how it can help us understand the*

world around us. In particular, we will focus on defining sociology and understanding how sociologists think about the social world, a task that will involve examining foundational sociological theories, influential thinkers, and social scientific methods. In the second section of the course we will focus on what sociology can tell us about the major systems, institutions, and organizations within society. These social systems—including gender, race, immigration, the labor market, families, culture, social networks, and religion—are the main objects of sociological investigation and will provide us with an overarching framework for understanding how the social world “works.” In the final section of the course we will focus on *current debates* in the field of sociology. While this course is introductory in that it will provide a broad overview of sociological thinking, we will also delve into many contemporary debates about the current state of the social world.

Recommended course for first-year Honors students.

Cox School of Business Courses

FINA 4332-001H: Practicum in Asset and Wealth Management

Donald Shelly | Th 2:00-4:50 PM | Location TBD

Offers practical experience in investments through management of the Ann Rife Cox Investment Fund. Economic and industry analysis and determining how that analysis affects investment decisions. Topics include money and capital market forecasts, selection of individual securities, development of a portfolio strategy, and additional topics in asset and wealth management.

Prerequisites: FINA 4325, FINA 4125, FINA 4326, FINA 4126. By application.

MNO 3370-007H: Management

Scott Hensley | MW 3:00-4:20 PM | Location TBD

Develops skills in managerial behavior that facilitate high performance and satisfaction as well as continued self-development for all organization members. Prerequisite: Restricted to Cox majors, minors in business fall 2021 and beyond, BBA Scholars or Business Direct entering SMU fall 2020 and beyond, or CXMN intent to declare the minor in business.