

SMU University Honors Program

Spring 2026 Classes

UHP 2306: First-Year Honors Humanities Seminar II

Required for all first-year Honors students.

Note: This is the same course as WRTR 2306, but with a new course prefix.

This course moves from the fall semester's problems of knowledge over to questions of citizenship in the spring, asking how we act rightly in a civil society. Tracing definitions of citizenship from the ancients to the early moderns, from Enlightenment thinkers to America's founders, from cultural critics to novelists, the course looks at works of film, literature, history, philosophy, politics, psychology, and rhetoric. Additionally, this Critical Reasoning course studies how citizenship often involves understanding arguments, identifying biases and fallacies, and reaching logical conclusions. In this way, the course argues that to be a thoughtful citizen means questioning critically and answering reasonably.

Section	Instructor	Meeting Time	Location
001	Joan Arbery	MWF 10:00-10:50 AM	G16 Clements Hall
002	Joan Arbery	MWF 11:00-11:50 AM	G16 Clements Hall
003	Joan Arbery	MWF 12:00-12:50 PM	G16 Clements Hall
004	Gerald Barr	MWF 11:00-11:50 AM	TBD
005	Gerald Barr	MWF 1:00-1:50 PM	G16 Clements Hall
006	Gerald Barr	MWF 2:00-2:50 PM	G16 Clements Hall
007	Gerald Barr	MWF 3:00-3:50 PM	G16 Clements Hall
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	Madhavi Biswas	TuTh 12:30-1:50 PM	G16 Clements Hall
012	Russell McConnell	TuTh 12:30-1:50 PM	120 Dallas Hall
013	Russell McConnell	TuTh 2:00-3:20 PM	120 Dallas Hall

[Travel Courses](#)

JOUR 3380-802H/N20H: Global Media Projects: Covering Extremism

Charlie Scudder | Lecture - MW 1:00-2:20 PM, Lab N20H – W 2:30-3:50 PM | Umphrey Lee 278

CC: Global Perspectives

Nearly a century ago, journalists worldwide faced a critical dilemma of how to cover the rising power of an extreme political party gaining traction in post-WWI Germany: the Nazis. Now, journalists face similar conflicts of how to report on growing movements of populism, fascism and political violence worldwide. This course will equip students with the reporting tools and skills to cover extremist groups and viewpoints by studying the work of journalists past and present. Over spring break, we'll travel to Germany to see the dire consequences of a censored press in an age of extremism, and how today's journalists are covering extremist groups in Europe.

Prerequisites: JOUR 2312 or instructor approval

MDVL 3351-801H/N10H: The Medieval Pilgrimage

Bonnie Wheeler | TuTh 11:00 AM-12:20 PM | Tu – Dallas Hall, 306; Th – Prothro Hall 223

CC: Literary Analysis and Interpretation

CC: Writing

An interdisciplinary look at the medieval world through one of its own literal and metaphorical images, investigating the music, art, monuments, and literature of pilgrimage during the Middle Ages. Experience the study of art, literature, history, religion, music, places, and monuments. **Special this semester: Optional Spring Break trip to Italy in Rome and Sicily.**

PLSC 4332-001H: Supreme Court Seminar

Joseph Kobylka | TuTh 2:00-3:20 PM | Heroy Hall 129

CC: None

The centerpiece of this course is a research trip to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., over Spring Break to research in the papers of the Justices of the Supreme Court housed there. The costs of this trip, absent personal expenses, will be paid for by a Richter Foundation grant made to the Honors Program. To enroll in/complete/pass the course, the student must commit to, and make, this research trip. The research trip to the Library of Congress will bisect the course temporally and substantively. The first portion of the class will combine an intense survey of American constitutionally history as seen through select decisions of the Supreme Court and examination of scholarly literature on the strategies of judicial decision making on a collegial court. From these bases, students will frame research questions and design individual research projects, informed by class readings and student-selected readings relevant to their topics and research question. These research designs will guide their research in the papers of the Justices. The second half of the class will continue its focus on constitutional history and judicial decision making, but it will be more topical, with emphasis placed on the Justices and issues that the students explore in the course of their research in the papers of the Justices and the secondary literature they investigate and apply

to answering their research questions. It will entail case reading, discussion, and presentation of research in a seminar setting. This will culminate in a 25-30 page thesis.

Instructor permission required to enroll.

Interdisciplinary Courses

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

001H: Laurence Winnie | MWF 1:00-1:50 PM | Dallas Hall 138

CC: Literary Analysis and Interpretation

CC: Human Diversity

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, *Puddenhead 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 3304: Honors Second Year Seminar: Great Books

001H: Russell McConnell | TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM | Dallas Hall 137

002H: Russell McConnell | TuTh 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM | Dallas Hall 137

CC: Literary Analysis and Interpretation (pending approval)

CC: Writing (pending approval)

What are Great Books? And why might we want to read them? Although the phrase “Great Books” dates back only to 1920, the project of identifying the most important and valuable books of all time and advocating for the teaching and study of them is at least two thousand years old. Through centuries of debate and discussion, a fairly stable list of several hundred Great Books has gradually emerged, and many people regard these texts as deeply important to the cultural traditions of the vast and diverse body of peoples and nations that go under the misleadingly simple label, “Western Civilization.” In this course, students will become acquainted with a range of views on what Great Books are and why they should (or should not) be studied. They will also read a varied selection of texts that are traditionally regarded as “Great.” These texts may be literary, philosophical, historical, political, scientific,

or mathematical. Each iteration of the course may have a different theme, and therefore a different set of readings semester to semester. By the end of the course, students will be better read in Western (or global) cultural tradition, and will have a better understanding of why some books do and do not receive the coveted label of “Great.”

UHP 3100-701H: Honors Junior Seminar: Fellowship Applications

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

CC: None

The purpose of this course is to guide Honors students through the fellowship application process and help students best prepare for fellowship and graduate school applications. The course will introduce students to the post-graduate fellowship opportunities available in all fields, prepare students for the application process, assist in creating complete portfolios for at least two national fellowships, and facilitate interview opportunities to prepare for potential in-person interviews. By preparing national fellowship applications in the spring of the junior year, students will have more time to work on the fellowship application process, enhancing the quality of the applications. National fellowship applications for post-graduate studies/experiences often include personal statements, leadership statements, statements of grant purpose, Curriculum Vitae, and a complete list of recommenders who are prepared to write recommendations for the fall application cycle. Although this is a one-credit course, it is also an Honors course, so the expectations are high. Attendance and participation are mandatory, and at minimum, required to succeed in the class.

If you intend to apply for Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright, NSF GRFP, or other major postgraduate awards in your senior year, you should enroll in this course.

UHP 4100-001H: Honors Tutorial: Franz Kafka's Worlds

Alan Itkin | M 4:00-4:50 PM | Clements Hall G16

CC: None

Note: Students cannot count more than one UHP 4100 course for honors credit.

In his lifetime, Franz Kafka (1883-1924) published only a few stories to little fanfare. Over the course of the twentieth and twenty-first century, though, he has become the quintessential “world author,” read and celebrated all over the world. In this class, we will explore the question of how this came to be, by examining the different worlds Kafka constructs in his stories, as well as the many worlds he inhabited in his life. Kafka was a member of a small German-speaking minority and of a large cosmopolitan society in Central Europe; a committed writer and a busy office worker; a member of a tight-knit family and of progressive literary and artistic circles in Prague and Berlin. These different worlds he moved between are reflected in the many, often bewildering worlds his protagonists navigate in his strange and disturbing stories. In this class, we will read Kafka's stories together with literary criticism about them and a graphic novel by David Zane Mairowitz and R. Crumb about Kafka's life

and writing.

Humanities Courses

ARHS 3345-001H: Animals in Art

Amy Freund | TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM | Greer Garson Theater

CC: Creativity and Aesthetics

Offers a broad overview of the representation of animals in the visual traditions of Europe and the Americas. Explores the history of the human impulse to picture animals, and the parallel history of visual analogies between human and animal bodies and minds. Familiarizes students with key works, artists, and artistic styles and movements of different periods.

ENGL 2311-003H: Introduction to Poetry

David Caplan | MWF 11:00-11:50 AM | Dallas Hall 157

CC: Literary Analysis and Interpretation

CC: Writing

Analysis, interpretation, and appreciation of poetry, with attention to terms and issues relevant to the genre.

ENGL 3363-001H: Chicana/Chicano Literature

Jason Sae-Saue | MWF 2:00-2:50 PM | Dallas Hall 157

CC: Literary Analysis and Interpretation

CC: Human Diversity

CC: Writing

A broad examination of major 20th century Mexican-American writers and their works in the context of various social, geographic, political, and historical influences. Some knowledge of Spanish is helpful to students but is not a prerequisite for the course.

HIST 1321-001H: North American West in Myth & History

Andrew Graybill | W 10:00 AM-12:50 PM | Umphrey Lee 203

CC: Historical Contexts

CC: Human Diversity

CC: Writing

Even before the historian Frederick Jackson Turner declared the closing of the frontier in 1893, the mythologization of the American West had begun; it has endured ever since as a source of U.S. national identity as well as an ideology that has shaped the region's settlement. This seminar explores the myth of the West by examining its many cultural icons, including Anglo pioneers and overland emigration; cowboys and the open range cattle industry; outlaws and regenerative violence; and conflict between Indigenous people and the U.S. military. In our study, we will use a broad range of materials—dime novels, historical literature, fiction, movies, television, and biography. The course will emphasize close reading, classroom discussion, and expository writing.

HIST 2306-001H: The Kids are All Right

Crista DeLuzio & Bruce Levy | TuTh 12:30-1:50 PM | Dallas Hall 152

CC: Historical Contexts

CC: Writing

The Kids are All Right examines from historical, literary, and other disciplinary perspectives key issues associated with American youth. The course explores childhood and adolescence as flexible social constructs that reflect – and respond to – larger forces of historical change. Among the questions we will seek to answer are these: At any given historical moment, what were the prevailing expectations for girls and boys growing up and how did those expectations resonate with broader cultural hopes, longings, and anxieties? How were young people shaped by prevailing expectations for growing up and how did they play a role in shaping those expectations and the wider society in return? We will consider children and adolescents in a variety of contexts: in the family, at school, at work, at play, as consumers, and as cultural icons. Throughout the course, we will pay close attention to the multiple paths of growing up in the United States, especially to the ways in which experiences and representations of childhood and adolescence have been shaped by the categories of gender, race, ethnicity, and class.

HIST 2337-001H: History of Sports in the United States

Alexis McCrossen | TuTh 2:00-3:20 PM | Dallas Hall 102

CC: Historical Contexts

CC: Human Diversity

The social, cultural, and business history of sport in the U.S. Focus on the cultural meaning and ethical components of sports in the 19th and 20th centuries.

HIST 3316-001H: History of Sex in America

David D. Doyle, Jr. | TuTh 5:00-6:20 PM | Clements Hall G16

CC: Historical Contexts

CC: Human Diversity

CC: Writing

Within the last generation, writers and scholars have worked extensively to understand how the two categories of gender and sexuality have changed over time or remained constant. Although often conflated, this course will emphasize how gender and sexuality are two separate, if occasionally overlapping, categories. After establishing a basic timeline of the topic across American history, the course will then delve more deeply into selected periods, allowing an exploration of recent historiographical literature. These areas this semester will be native American societies, the colonial and revolutionary periods, and finally the 1960s and 1970s.

HIST 3341-001H: Soviet and Post-Soviet Society and Politics, 1917 to the Present

Brandon Miller | MWF 1:00-1:50 PM | Dallas Hall 156

CC: Historical Contexts

CC: Global Perspectives

This course looks at the interactions between the state, society, and culture across the 20th century to understand Soviet history as a lived experience. More directly, this course probes the question of what it meant to be “Soviet” and how this vision of socialism developed in the lands of the former Russian empire. To accomplish this task, we will examine the formation of the Soviet Union and trace the development and transformation of ideas, structures, and practices forged in a revolutionary climate through its demise and into the present moment. Topics to be considered include: the causes and course of revolution; the creation and lifeworld of the “New Soviet Man”; the building of Stalinism; the place of the Gulag in the Soviet system; the Second World War and its subsequent reshaping of Soviet life; post-Stalinist reforms; and the difficulties of post-Soviet transitions.

PHIL 1305-001H: Introduction to Philosophy

Eric Barnes | TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM | Dallas Hall 157

CC: Philosophical, Religious, and 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.

RELI 3304-001H: Christian Theology

Marie Purcell | TuTh 11:00 AM-12:20 PM | Junkins Building 203

CC: Philosophical, Religious, and Ethical Inquiry

An exploration of such theological problems as the authority of the Bible, the reality of God, the meaning of Christ, the nature of humanity, and the end of history in light of the biblical heritage and contemporary thought.

WL 3386-002H: Mary in the Christian Tradition

Denise DuPont and Bruce Marshall | TuTh 2:00 PM-3:20 PM | TBD

CC: Literary Analysis and Interpretation

An examination of the religious and cultural significance of the Virgin Mary from the bible to the present through literature, art, and theology. In this course, we will engage in close reading and critical analysis of religious texts in a wide variety of genres aimed at different audiences, including Christians and non-Christians, and learned or elite as well as popular classes. Most of our readings will be texts in translation, and will be philosophical, theological, devotional (popular or learned), and historical sources.

Math & Physical Sciences Courses

BIOL 3303-001H: Evolution

Alejandro D'Brot | TuTh 11:00 AM-12:20 PM | Harold Simmons Hall 101D

CC: None

A study of the principles of biological evolution. Includes natural selection, adaptation, molecular evolution, the formation of new species, the fossil record, biogeography, and principles of classification. Includes 3 hours of lecture each week.

Prerequisites: BIOL 1301/BIOL 1101 and C- or better in BIOL 3304

BIOL 4133: Bioethics Seminar

Eva Oberdoerster | 001H - M 11:00-11:50 AM; 002H – W 12:00-12:50 PM | Dedman Life Science Building 130

CC: Civic and Individual Ethics

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.

DS 1300-806H: A Practical Introduction to Data Science

Peter Moore | TuTh 8:00-9:20 AM Lecture, N61H Lab (F 8:00-9:20 AM) | Lecture Location Moody School 125, Lab Location Fondren Science Building 157

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 3304-003H: Introduction to Linear Algebra

Staff | MWF 12:00-12:50 PM | Umphrey Lee 243

CC: None

Matrices and linear equations, Gaussian elimination, determinants, rank, geometrical notions, eigenvalue problems, coordinate transformations, norms, inner products, orthogonal projections, and Gram-Schmidt and least squares. Includes computational exercises related to these topics.

Prerequisites: C- or higher in MATH 1338 or MATH 134

PHYS 1010-701H: Honors Introductory Physics Lab

Staff | M 6:00-7:30 PM | Fondren Science Building 123

CC: None

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

ANTH 3350-001H: Good Eats: Culture, Food, and the Global Grocery Market

Matthew Abel | MWF 9:00-9:50 AM | Location TBD

CC: Social and Behavioral Sciences

CC: Community Engagement

CC: Human Diversity

Offers bio-cultural perspective on food that blends biological and medical information about human nutrition and development with an exploration of the global markets and cultures of eating.

ANTH 4345-702H/APSM 4355-702H: Global & Public Health Impact

Eric Bing | Th 5:00-7:50 PM | Annette Simmons Hall 138

CC: Community Engagement

CC: Global Perspectives

CC: Human Diversity

Interdisciplinary approach to creating sustainable impact in global, public, and population health. Taught by engaging discussions, case studies, and helping local health organizations solve difficult institutional and community challenges.

Note: This course requires departmental consent to enroll. Please contact Professor Bing or Tiffany Powell (tapowell@smu.edu) to request permission to enroll in this class.

CCPA 3300-002H: Free Speech and the First Amendment

Christopher Salinas | MWF 11:00-11:50 AM | Annette Simmons Hall 144

CC: None

Examines the philosophy, cases, and issues relevant to the First Amendment right to free expression, with a focus on internal security, obscenity, pornography, slander, and the regulation of communication. Also, the foundations of legal argumentation.

Prerequisites: C or better in WRTR 1312 or an equivalent transfer course; or a C or better in CCPA 1301; or law and legal reasoning minor; or departmental permission.

Note: This course requires departmental consent to enroll. Please contact Professor Salinas or Melissa Austin (mkeene@smu.edu) to request permission to enroll in this class.

ECO 1312-001H: Principles of Macroeconomics

Staff | TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM | Prothro Hall 209

CC: None

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.

Prerequisites: C- or higher in ECO 1311

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

PLSC 3389-702H: International Political Economy

Hiroki Takeuchi | MW 4:00-5:20 PM | Dallas Hall 115

CC: Social and Behavioral Sciences

CC: Writing

Introduces the study of international political economy, including the indicators of a new interdependence and globalization: the growth in trade, the expansion of foreign direct investment, and the increase in international migration. Also, the ways nation-states respond to globalization and manage international economic relations.

SOCI 1300-007H: Introduction to Sociology

Daniel Bolger | TuTh 11:00 AM-12:20 PM | Clements Hall 120

CC: Social and Behavioral Sciences

This course presents the sociological approach to understanding human behavior. Sociology considers how particular life experiences, attitudes, and values are shaped by membership in ascribed and achieved social categories such as social class, race/ethnicity, sex, sexuality, and nationality.

SOCI 2377-003H: Introduction to Markets and Culture

Matthew Keller | TuTh 9:30-10:50 AM | Heroy Hall 129

CC: None

General introduction to economic sociology, examining the effects of culture and social relations on shaping production, distribution, and consumption in domestic and global markets

Prerequisite: Must have access to Microsoft Excel. Recommended to take after completing WRTR 2305.

Cox School of Business Courses

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

Donald Shelly | Th 2:00-4:50 PM | David B Miller Quadrangle 0005

CC: None

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.

ITOM 3306-004H: Operations Management

Nils Van den Steen | TuTh 12:30-1:50 PM | David B Miller Quadrangle 0156

CC: None

Introduces concepts, principles, problems, and practices of operations management, and discusses methods for building business analytics models to solve operational business problems effectively. Topics include decision analysis, optimization (particularly linear programming) and sensitivity analysis, time-series analysis and forecasting, inventory control, simulation, and project scheduling.

Prerequisites: ACCT 2301; ECO 1311 and ECO 1312; ITOM 2308; MATH 1309 or MATH 1337; and one from the following: CS 4340, OREM 3340, STAT 2331, STAT 4340. Restricted to Cox majors only with a 3.5 minimum GPA.

MKTG 4345-001H: Honors Marketing Project

Mili Mormann | TuTh 2:00-3:20 PM | David B Miller Quadrangle 1315

CC: None

Designed to help students develop their own research project, from the initial idea to presentation of the key findings. Includes identifying interesting research questions, designing and implementing surveys, analyzing data, documenting procedures, and communicating results. The class is highly interactive and consists of lectures, discussions, workshops, and short student presentations.

Department Consent Required. By application only. Reserved for Cox majors