

HONORS PROGRAM

Location: CH-H 111

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About

The Honors Program is not just about academics, though that is certainly its focus. We are interested in creating an experience that is both challenging and rewarding. Therefore, in addition to offering seminars attended by interested students and enthusiastic professors, we offer camaraderie and a venue for rest and relaxation. The Honors Program allows you to join a network of students and professors who are committed to the life of the mind but are also interested in different and active ways of learning. Being an honors student is about being motivated and involved in multiple facets of the college life.

The Honors Program consists of around 320 students. Once admitted to the program, students take special Honors seminars, which are interdisciplinary and small in size (usually around 15 students). Unlike traditional lecture courses, Honors seminars emphasize dialogue and non-lecture based learning; students are expected to come to class with something to say and to actively participate in debate and discussion.

Mission

The mission of the Honors Program is to provide an enhanced intellectual experience in a climate conducive to interaction among highly motivated students and faculty. This experience will seek to develop and intensify skills from a conceptual point of view in a diverse, multidisciplinary analytical environment that nurtures independent thinking, creativity, respect and social responsibility.

Goals and Outcomes

Goals

- To build and sustain a diverse community that reflects the student body of the campus.
- To integrate this scholarly community within the larger campus.
- To promote deep engagement with ideas through innovative pedagogy and creative, interdisciplinary curriculum.
- To nurture intellectual leadership as well as a sense of social responsibility and civic engagement - on campus, in the village, within the state, or, ideally, internationally.

Learning Outcomes

- To demonstrate excellence in analysis and problem solving skills.
- To demonstrate an ability to theorize using interdisciplinary processes.
- To develop communication skills (oral, written, collaborative).
- To develop skills to communicate with general and specialized audiences.
- To practice and reflect on civic engagement.

Program Requirements

Honors students must:

- Maintain a GPA of 3.3 in order to stay in the program.
- Complete 40 hours of community service before graduation.
- Take the introductory course HON201 The Individual and Society (required for first-year students entering the program).
- Take at least 4 Honors seminars before graduation.
- Complete a Senior Thesis or Project and present it in a public forum.

Seminar/Course Requirements and Schedule Planning

Honors Program seminar requirements vary based on when a student is accepted into the program. Beyond HON201 The Individual and Society (the mandatory seminar for first-year students entering the program), the Honors Program offers students the flexibility to take their seminars when it is conducive to their schedule. Interdisciplinary seminars change every semester, and most fulfill General Education requirements. Enrollment in Honors seminars is limited to 15 students to ensure direct and regular interaction with professors and engage in active discussion during class sessions.

Honors-designated major courses are meant to engage Honors students with the course material on a deeper level. Honors students in these courses do additional work to receive Honors Program credit.

Below is a breakdown of how many seminars each class is required to take and the ways in which they can complete this requirement.

Incoming Freshmen

Four seminars are required:

- Mandatory seminar, HON201 The Individual and Society
- The remaining three classes may be taken as follows:
 - 3 additional Honors seminars or
 - 1 Honors Seminar & 2 Honors Designated Courses¹ or
 - 2 Honors Seminars & 1 Honors Designated Course or
 - 2 Honors Seminars & Study Abroad or
 - 1 Honors Seminar, 1 Honors Designated Course & Study Abroad

2nd-Semester Freshmen and 1st-Semester Sophomores

Four seminars are required and may be taken as follows:

- 4 Honors Seminars or
- 3 Honors Seminars & 1 Honors Designated Course¹ or
- 2 Honors Seminars & 2 Honors Designated Courses or
- 3 Honors Seminars & Study Abroad or
- 2 Honors Seminars, 1 Honors Designated Course & Study Abroad

2nd-Semester Sophomores

Three seminars are required and may be taken as follows:

- 3 Honors Seminars or
- 2 Honors Seminars & 1 Honors Designated Course¹ or
- 2 Honors Seminars & Study Abroad or
- 1 Honors Seminar, 1 Honors Designated Course & Study Abroad

Juniors

Two seminars are required and may be taken as follows:

- 2 Honors Seminars or
- 1 Honors Seminar & 1 Honors Designated Course¹ or
- 1 Honors Seminar & Study Abroad

¹ The correct section number must be taken for the class to count.

Learn More

Visit the [Honors Program website](#), or email or call to arrange a [visit to the Honors Center](#).

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 Alicia Ivan, Administrative Assistant (ivana@newpaltz.edu): (845) 257-3933

HON201. The Individual and Society. 3 Credits.

Investigates the relationship between the individual and society through discussion of the philosophic, literary, and historical aspects of major texts.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Effective Expression/Oral
- Effective Expression/Written
- GE3: HUM
- GE4: Humanities
- GE5: Humanities
- Liberal Arts

May be repeated for credit

HON202. Work. 3 Credits.

Learning to do a job is one thing; learning to appropriate and affirm meaningful work for oneself is another. A focus on the broad concept of work invites consideration of a range of conceptual and policy-related questions.

Attributes:

- Honors
- GE4: DIVR
- GE3: DIVR
- Effective Expression/Written
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate

May not be repeated for credit

HON203. What Causes Cancer?. 3 Credits.

There is no simple answer to the question of what causes cancer. Cancer is not a single thing; it manifests itself differently in each individual. After an introduction to the basic science necessary for understanding the development of cancer, a series of popularly held beliefs regarding cancer causation will be critically analyzed. With these examples as a foundation, students will research and report on a topic on their own choice.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Information Literacy (GE3)
- Liberal Arts
- GE4: Natural Science Course
- GE5: Natural Science Course
- GE3: NSCI

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate

May not be repeated for credit

HON293. Selected Topics Honors. 1-12 Credits.

Selected topics courses are regularly scheduled courses that focus on a particular topic of interest. Descriptions are printed in the Schedule of Classes each semester. Selected topics courses may be used as elective credit and may be repeated for credit, provided that the topic of the course changes.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Liberal Arts

May be repeated for credit

HON295. Honors Indep Study. 1-12 Credits.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Liberal Arts

May be repeated for credit

HON303. Education and Poverty. 3 Credits.

This course offers an interdisciplinary exploration of poverty -- its causes, consequences, representation in public discourse, and complicated relationship to schooling.

Attributes:

- Honors
- GE4: DIVR
- GE3: DIVR
- Effective Expression/Oral
- Effective Expression/Written
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON309. 20th Century Word and Image. 3 Credits.

Approaches the "sister arts" of poetry and painting from a variety of angles asking how poets and artists make meaning in language and in visual form.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Effective Expression/Oral
- Effective Expression/Written
- GE3: HUM
- GE4: Humanities
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON315. Modern Self and Society. 3 Credits.

An exploration of the origins, evolution, and contemporary significance of modern intellectual thought, from the triumph of classical liberalism in the nineteenth century to challenges of postmodernism in the mid-twentieth century. Borrowing from the fields of Literature, Philosophy, History, and Psychology, the seminar will provide a chronological examination of major works that both construct and critique the modern self and society.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Effective Expression/Written
- GE3: HUM
- GE4: Humanities
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON316. Debates in U.S. History. 3 Credits.

An exploration of selected and pivotal topics in the history of the United States from the colonial period through today. Politics, economics, society, and culture will be examined focusing on primary source documents and images.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Ethical Reflection
- Liberal Arts
- GE3: USST
- GE4: United States Studies
- GE5: US History Civic Engmnt

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON317. Modern Western Aesthetic Theory. 3 Credits.

Investigates the nature of aesthetic experience and its historical, philosophical, phenomenological and psychological underpinnings. Explores the concepts of taste, quality and value in works of art and for cultures at large.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Effective Expression/Written
- GE3: HUM
- GE4: Humanities
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON318. Racism and the Social Sciences. 3 Credits.

An investigation of the history of race and racism within the social sciences, with a focus on the varied theories of race, racial construction and racial formation as used within social science literature.

Attributes:

- Honors
- GE4: DIVR
- GE3: DIVR
- Effective Expression/Written
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON323. West African History and Perspectives. 3 Credits.

Discussions and texts will introduce students to theories that inform interpretations of Ghanaian history and culture, identify the most convincing sources and accounts of history, and propose ways to inform citizens about African history.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Effective Expression/Written
- Liberal Arts
- GE4: World Civilizations
- GE3: WRLD

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON325. Origins of "Evil Incarnate: The Grim Adventure". 3 Credits.

Students will explore how major writers of the Western tradition have considered the role of evil in human experience. Specifically, students will study how our understanding of evil has shaped philosophical, theological, and artistic thinking throughout the ages and across cultures.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Effective Expression/Written
- Liberal Arts
- GE3: WEST
- GE4: Western Civilization

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

HON371. Education Across Borders. 3 Credits.

Exploration of the culture and history of selected non-Western countries - initially, China, South Africa, and Afghanistan - and of how the cultural/historical context affects schooling in these countries, past and present.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Effective Expression/Written
- Liberal Arts
- Writing Intensive
- GE4: World Civilizations
- GE3: WRLD

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

HON372. U.S. Drug Education and Policy. 3 Credits.

Explores historical, psychological, sociological, legal, and moral perspectives on drug education and policy in the U.S. Develops critical, international, and comparative perspectives on racial, gendered, class-based, and ethnic inequalities in drug policy and enforcement.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Effective Expression/Written
- Liberal Arts
- GE3: USST
- GE4: United States Studies

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON374. The Materials of History, Thought, and Art. 3 Credits.

An interdisciplinary seminar in material cultural studies, this course examines how human interactions with objects and the lived environment have shaped culture and intellectual endeavor through time.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Information Literacy (GE3)
- Liberal Arts
- Systematic Inquiry
- GE3: WEST
- GE4: Western Civilization
- GE5: World History Global Aw

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

Prerequisites:

- ENG 180 Minimum Grade of D- or ENG206 Minimum Grade of D- or ENG207 Minimum Grade of D- or ENG170 Minimum Grade of D- or ENG 002 Minimum Grade of (D-)

May not be repeated for credit

HON375. Doing Race and Gender. 3 Credits.

Using feminist and critical racial theories we will analyze how gender, race, and class oppression shape the experiences of poor white women and women of color, and how we, as agents of social change, can translate these theoretical insights into methodological strategies to create a more just society.

Attributes:

- Honors
- GE4: DIVR
- GE3: DIVR
- GE5: DEISJ
- Effective Expression/Written
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON376. Indigenous Ways of Knowing. 3 Credits.

Discussions and texts will introduce students to indigenous perspectives on contemporary social issues, global indigenous knowledge systems, and indigenous critiques of Western thought.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Effective Expression/Written
- Ethical Reflection
- Liberal Arts
- GE4: World Civilizations
- GE3: WRLD

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON377. Cigarettes and Nylons - Postwar Realities in Occupied Germany after World War II. 3 Credits.

Scholars from various disciplines seek to reevaluate neglected discourses on the Nazi past. The suffering of women as victims of rape, hunger and prostitution has become a contemporary focus in World War II studies. Students must be members of the Honors Program. Students outside the Honors Program may enroll if the class does not fill and at the discretion of the professor.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Effective Expression/Written
- GE3: HUM
- GE4: Humanities
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON378. Humans at Play. 3 Credits.

An exploration of play across the human lifespan in all of its myriad forms, including play's possible functions, subjective experiences, communities, and the influence of culture and technology.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

HON379. Love and Heartbreak. 3 Credits.

Romantic love is one of the most fundamental aspects – perhaps the most fundamental aspect – of being human. We will explore love and heartbreak as media and literary narratives, psychological phenomena, and lived experience.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON380. Cherokee History, Politics, and Culture. 3 Credits.

This course examines the history of the Cherokee nations before colonization through the present moment. It will focus on cultural, social, and political history to understand the contemporary issues that confront citizen Cherokees. Particular attention will be given sovereignty, citizenship, gender, and race.

Attributes:

- Honors
- GE4: DIVR
- GE3: DIVR
- GE5: DEISJ
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON381. Ethical Fashion. 3 Credits.

An interdisciplinary seminar in material culture studies and object-based research through the lens of textiles, dress and the fashion system. This course examines the ethics and sustainability of apparel, consumerism and social responsibility from the personal to the global.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON382. Introduction to Sustainability. 3 Credits.

An exploration of regenerative, just and sustainable strategies for the environment and society.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON383. Human Ecology: Humans and Nature in a New Millennium. 3 Credits.

In this course, students will combine scientific knowledge and methods, field experiences, philosophical arguments, social theories, and their own disciplinary expertise and creativity to explore contemporary and perennial questions about humans and nature.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Liberal Arts
- GE4: Natural Science Course
- GE5: Natural Science Course
- GE3: NSCI

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

HON393. Selected Topics Honors. 3-12 Credits.

Selected topics courses are regularly scheduled courses that focus on a particular topic of interest. Descriptions are printed in the Schedule of Classes each semester. Selected topics courses may be used as elective credit and may be repeated for credit, provided that the topic of the course changes.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Liberal Arts

May be repeated for credit

HON399. Honors Module. 1 Credit.

Attributes:

- Honors

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May be repeated for credit

HON494. Fieldwork in Honors. 1-12 Credits.

Fieldwork in Honors.

Attributes:

- Honors

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May be repeated for credit

HON495. Honors Program Thesis Independent Study. 1-4 Credits.

Writing of a thesis under faculty supervision on a topic selected by the student in consultation with the faculty.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May be repeated for credit

HON496. Honors Program Independent Study. 1-4 Credits.

Independent study requires a student to pursue in-depth a particular area of interest not covered in the regular curriculum.

Attributes:

- Honors
- Liberal Arts

Restrictions:

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May be repeated for credit