

Call for Proposals for Second Introductory Seminar for Honors Students (Spring 2016)

Curricular changes for the Honors Program were approved through the campus governance process in Spring 2011. One of the approved curricular changes is an additional introductory seminar for students who enter the Honors Program as first-year students. HON 201 The Individual and Society (3 credits) fulfills the Humanities (HUM) General Education (GE) requirement. A subcommittee of the Honors Advisory Council met to develop guidelines for the additional introductory seminar. The subcommittee agreed that the two common courses should complement each other.

The theme for the second common introductory course is “Contemporary Debates.” The Honors Advisory Council invites you to submit special topics proposals for seminars to run under the theme of “Contemporary Debates.”

“Contemporary Debates” as a theme for the second seminar has the following advantages:

- It offers potential for creative, high impact learning.
- Topics (such as The Body or Global Warming) can bridge gaps between Humanities and Sciences.
- The course on Contemporary Debates will emphasize research. This enhances the Honors Program because The Individual and Society doesn’t emphasize research.
- Policy debates offer the potential to bridge gaps between disciplines.
- Possibilities exist for interdisciplinary work and team taught courses by faculty in the Humanities, Business, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and the Arts.
- Historical contexts will serve as backdrops for discussions of contemporary conflicts.
- The course will include a project completed outside the class room setting.

Learning outcomes for “Contemporary Debates”:

- Read and understand specialized literature (e.g., scientific papers).
- Understand different approaches to solving problems.
- Answer questions from disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.
- Analyze data.

Additionally, “Contemporary Debates” will be designed to meet a GE requirement. Because HON 201 meets the Humanities (HUM) requirement, “Contemporary Debates” will be designed to meet a different GE requirement. A significant number of students who enter the Honors Program have satisfied the Social Science (SSCI) and United States Studies (USST) GE requirements. The Honors Advisory Council especially seeks proposals for “Contemporary Debates” that have the potential to meet GE requirement for Western Civilizations (WEST) Arts (ART), World Civilizations and Cultures (WRLD), Natural Science (NSCI), or Diversity (DIVR).

Submissions should be designed to fulfill a GE requirement and the syllabus must include learning outcomes to correspond with the designated GE category. The seminar will be reviewed by the Honors Advisory Council and then go through the usual governance procedures, including review by the GE Board, the Curriculum Committee, Academic Senate, and the Faculty.

“CONTEMPORARY DEBATES” HONORS SPECIAL TOPICS SEMINAR PROPOSAL FORM

DEPARTMENT CHAIR: _____
Signature Date

INSTRUCTOR (S):

SPECIAL TOPICS HON COURSE TITLE:

DEPARTMENT:

SCHOOL OR DIVISION:

DESCRIPTION:

- Attach a brief narrative (not to exceed one page) describing how the course fits the criteria for “Contemporary Debates.”
- Attach a syllabus (including learning outcomes for “Contemporary Debates” and General Education based on category and competency).
- Attach a sample assignment or project.
- Provide your chairperson with the above documents so he or she can submit the proposal to the Honors Advisory Council.

Submit to Pat Sullivan, The Honors Program, CHH-111