Descriptions of the Nine Regular DHI Courses

**BECOMING HUMAN: LOVE, POWER, JUSTICE: HONS 109 - 3 CREDIT HOURS**
This course gives students the opportunity to think together about what it means to become a human being by considering the three big questions of love, power, and justice. If love is the reunion of that which is separated, power is the quest of the free individual for understanding and action that shapes the self, and justice tends to the structuring of life in such a way that power’s questing can eventuate in love – then these three big ideas each play an essential role in the process of individuals becoming full human beings. This course also serves as an orientation to college life, to the Dietrich Honors Institute, and to participating in a seminar. (WIC)

**COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY: GRAMMAR, DIALECTIC, RHETORIC: HONS 113 - 3 CREDIT HOURS**
The “trivium” of the classical liberal arts includes grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric, which deal respectively with language, reasoning, and persuasion. The art of grammar teaches the student to speak and write well. The student learns about dialectic or logic or reasoning by engaging in the give and take with other students and the teacher and reflecting on the process of thinking through discussion, debate, argumentation, and questioning. In rhetoric the student learns the science of communication and the art of persuasive writing and speech. (WIC)

**CREATING CULTURE: ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL, MODERN: HONS 114 - 3 CREDIT HOURS**
Students are introduced to highlights in the history, literature, art, music, philosophy, and religion of western humanities. Greece and Rome are emphasized in the ancient period; civilization and thought of the Mediterranean area and Europe are stressed in the medieval period, culminating in the Renaissance; and the Reformation and early modern developments are underscored up until 1789 or the beginning of the French Revolution. Big ideas and major people are lifted up for each period, with connections being drawn from one period to the next. (WIC)

**INTERPRETING SCRIPTURES: JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, ISLAMIC: HONS 128 - 3 CREDIT HOURS**
In religious communities writings can take on a sacred aura and serve important functions for adherents of the given faith. This is surely the case within the three major monotheistic traditions of the western world. This course uses historical-critical methods to examine the Hebrew Bible of Judaism (the Old Testament of Christians), the New Testament of Christianity, and The Qur’an of Islam. In learning the way to interpret these texts, the focus falls on their meaning for life in the contemporary world. (WIC)

**COMPOSING CONTEXTUALLY: ENLIGHTENMENT, ROMANTICISM, POSTMODERNISM: HONS 126 - 3 CREDIT HOURS**
This course continues two other Honors courses, namely, HON 113, the composition course Communicating Effectively: Grammar, Dialectic, Logic, and HON 114, the course in the history of western humanities entitled Creating Culture: Ancient, Medieval, Modern. While covering the history of western humanities from the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789 to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the course also allows students to develop further their composition skills in the context of studying these two fascinating centuries of creating culture. Highlighted will be three major cultural configurations: first, the Enlightenment, with its emphasis on reason, universality, and form; second, the backlash against the Enlightenment in Romanticism with its stress on emotion, individuality, and freedom; and third, the revolt against the Enlightenment and Romanticism trajectories of modernity in postmodernism, which accentuates relativism, pluralism, and fragmentation. (WIC)

**EMERGING REALITY: UNIVERSE, LIFE, MIND - HONS 127 - 3 CREDIT HOURS**
The notion of emergence has been gaining currency in various disciplines over the past few decades. This course studies three major moments of our evolving universe. Physics, chemistry, biology, psychology, and neuroscience will give us insights into these three. (WIC)

**EMERGING REALITY LAB – HONS 137 - 1 CREDIT HOUR**
This laboratory course, Emerging Reality Lab, HON 137, is a supplement to the course Emerging Reality: Universe, Life, Mind, HON 127. It serves as an introduction to the natural sciences in general and supports the basic content of the Emerging Reality course, which centers on the coming to be of the universe in the Big Bang together with the emergence of life and the emergence of mind or human self-consciousness. Four labs will be related to each of these three major moments of our evolving universe. No sophisticated level of mathematical proficiency will be assumed in the course. Those students majoring in one of the sciences are exempted from taking this lab course that accompanies Emerging Reality, HON 127. (WIC)

**UNDERSTANDING GLOBALIZATION: MARKETS, IMAGES, SUSTAINABILITY: HONS 230 - 3 CREDIT HOURS**
The notion of globalization took on new meaning after the era of exploration and discovery in the 16th century. But the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989 was an exceptional event in world history that ushered in a new era of globalization. After that event many countries made the transition to democracy and market economies. Over the past two decades markets have been increasingly shaped by the power of images to influence consumers to purchase goods. Global economic forces sometimes threaten earth processes that are needed for sustaining life. Called for today is thoughtful reflection concerning how economic prosperity can occur while at the same time honoring the sustainability of the Earth. (WIC)

**APPRCIATING CREATIVITY: ARTISTIC, SCIENTIFIC, SOCIETAL: HONS 240 - 3 CREDIT HOURS**
Creativity is alive in nature; as creatures embedded in the natural world, human beings participate in the creative advance of the universe. This course gives students the opportunity to gain an appreciation for the multi-faceted reality of creativity. Many types of human creativity are investigated with the intent of identifying ways in which these creative forms differ from one another and yet are the same. The comparison of creativity as manifested in the world of artists, of scientists, and of societies will contribute to appreciating this fundamental human characteristic. The course will set the stage for the senior capstone course to be taken in the following year, during which each student will present their creative project. (WIC)

**CONTRIBUTING CULTURALLY: RESEARCHING, CREATING, PRESENTING: HONS 340 - 3 CREDIT HOURS**
For this course, students will engage in a senior capstone seminar, with the experience culminating in the presenting of a significant research and/or creative achievement. The “thesis” for the course may assume many different forms, depending on the type of project, from traditional library research paper to artistic dance performance or sculpture show. Students will conceive, plan, and execute a high-quality project in the appropriate disciplinary or multi-disciplinary context. If situated in a department that already has a senior capstone expectation, the student may choose to work cooperatively with departmental professors to ensure that those expectations as well as those of the DHI are met. The public presentation is either at event on the Thiel College campus or at an off-campus conference. (WIC)

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