

Fall 2023: University Honors Program UHON 351 Seminars

- One of the perks of being an Honors student is that you get to register early for classes.
- To take an Honors seminar, you must reserve a spot or join the waitlist during the **March 28 - 30 online reservation process**. Look out for details on 411.
- **Early registration for all classes begins on Monday, April 3rd**. Registration must be completed using Saluki-Net. To register you must get the RUN# from your academic advisor.
- Students must meet with their Honors mentor at least once prior to reserving or registering for an Honors seminar.
- To learn more about the seminars, meet the faculty teaching these seminars at the **Honors Faculty Roundtable, Monday March 27th from 4-5:30 pm in the Honors Lounge**.

The Honors cluster theme this year is *Cosmos and Culture*. The courses in this cluster are **marked in red**.

351F- Fine Arts

002	Earthling Ethics: Philosophy in Action	TR 9:00-10:30	Library 174	Anthony
003	Yoga and Sound Healing	M 11:20-1:50	Altgeld 116	Johnson
004	SALUKI-XR: Producing & Sharing Space Among the Stars	W 1:00-4:00	Comm 0009A	Mercer
005	The Maternal in Movement	TR 11-12:30	Library 174	Clark
007	Making Math Fun for Children: Design Literacies, STEM education & Community Engagement	MW 9:00-10:30	Library 174	Miller and Bu
008	What could we become? Understanding our species through speculative fiction	W 4:30 -5:45 pm F 1:00 – 2:15	Library 174	Sutton
950	Imagining the cosmos: How the aesthetic impulse makes us human?	W 6:00-9:00 pm	Virtual	Kapur and Ruckh

351L- Human Health

001	Yoga and Sound Healing	M 11:20-1:50	Altgeld 116	Johnson
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351M-Multicultural

001	Yoga and Sound Healing	M 11:20-1:50	Altgeld 116	Johnson
002	The Maternal in Movement	TR 11:00-12:30	Library 174	Clark
003	Earthling Ethics: Philosophy in Action	TR 9:00-10:30	Library 174	Anthony
950	Imagining the cosmos: How the aesthetic impulse makes us human?	W 6:00-9:00 pm	Virtual	Kapur and Ruckh

351O-Social Science

002	Why People Who Have a Different Opinion Than Your Own are Dumb, or Maybe Not	WF 11:00-12:30	Library 174	Eichholz
004	Arithmetic en Route to Cosmos	M 2:00-5:00	Library 174	Choiy
005	Guide to a Good Life: Stoic Philosophy and the Good Life	R 1:00-4:00	Library 174	Punske
006	Making Math Fun for Children: Design Literacies, STEM education & Community Engagement	MW 9:00-10:30	Library 174	Miller and Bu
007	What could we become? Understanding our species through speculative fiction	W 4:30 -5:45 pm F 1:00 – 2:15	Library 174	Sutton
950	Imagining the cosmos: How the aesthetic impulse makes us human?	W 6:00-9:00 pm	Virtual	Kapur and Ruckh

351S1-Science 1

001	Arithmetic en Route to the Cosmos	M 2:00-5:00	Library 174	Choiy
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351S2-Science 2

001	Why People Who Have a Different Opinion Than Your Own are Dumb, or Maybe Not	WF 11:00-12:30	Library 174	Eichholz
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351U-Humanities

001	Arithmetic en Route to the Cosmos	M 2:00-5:00	Library 174	Choiy
002	Earthling Ethics: Philosophy in Action	TR 9:00-10:30	Library 174	Anthony
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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Earthling Ethics: Philosophy in Action– New!

How can philosophy help us navigate the uncertainties of our time? In the era of climate change and its attendant difficulties, can philosophy provide consolation as well as concrete, clear guidance? Can we, to paraphrase philosopher Will MacAskill, be "doing good better"? This course explores the role of ethics in contemporary environmental advocacy, policy and grass-roots action. Our reading will guide investigations into three main environmental issues of contemporary life on Earth: the exploitation, loss and suffering of *fauna* (animals); the loss, division and degradation of *flora* (plants and soil); and climate change. Because philosophy provides us with ideas about how to live - and because moral philosophy in particular suggests ways we *ought* to live - we will experiment with applied ethics. Students will design a project that is guided by a particular ethical approach (or combination of approaches); ideally, the project will be informed by the students' respective chosen academic disciplines or interests. We will use the SIUC campus as our laboratory and seek out faculty as mentors for guidance. We will use the abundant resources on campus to create ways to care for our world - here and now.

-Erin Anthony, Lecturer, School of Literature, Writing and Digital Humanities

Arithmetic en route to Cosmos – New!

The vastness of the cosmos bewilders us. Through human history, we have asked - why is it the way it is, how did it all start, where do we come from, and what are we moving towards? The wonder of the cosmos has been expressed in our arts and in our sciences, in the patterns humans have sought in the universe, and in ways we have attempted to grasp infinity. This course invites students to see the ways in which arithmetic and physics have converged in the effort to understand our place in the cosmos. How have the various branches of mathematics such as Geometry, Algebra, and Topology held the key to solving the mystery of the cosmos?

-Kwangho Choiy, Associate Professor of the School of Mathematical and Statistical Science

The Maternal in Movement

Dance as one of our earliest art forms honors the sacred and the maternal, many forms originating in the celebration of fertility and even as birth dances. This course explores the portrayal of the idea of mother through iconic works of choreography by artists such as Alvin Ailey, Pina Bausch, Vaslav Nijinsky, and Isadora Duncan, to name a few. The works that will be discussed will not only be contextualized in the era in which they were produced, they will also be discussed in relation to ongoing advances in modern psychology.

-Darryl Clark, Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre and Dance

Why people who have a different opinion than your own are dumb, or maybe not? - New!

Many perceive the current level of discord in politics and throughout our society to be unnecessarily high. A primary contributor to this disagreement is likely our ability to silo ourselves by communicating with only like-thinking individuals, both in person and virtual socializing. This partitioning often leads us to vilify people with differing opinions than our own. What most people don't recognize is that thoughts and opinions are a chemical response to an external stimulus, creating a reflexive reaction based almost exclusively on our past experiences and memories. To be better at accepting people with differing opinions than our own and form consensus among and within groups, we first must understand the basics of how opinions are formed, then understand how past experiences can lead to very different, but valid opinions. In this seminar, students will learn that an opinion is at first a response to an external stimulus over which we have very little control. Additionally, our response to that stimulus (our opinion) can change with additional experience and memories i.e., rational or emotional reasoning. Acquiring a better understanding of how and why these special interests and opinions form can help us work better and achieve consensus within and among group members.

-Mike Eichholz, Professor of Zoology, College of Biological Sciences

Yoga and Sound Healing

This course provides introductions to both yoga and to the healing science of sound. While learning basic alignment principles and core poses of yoga, students will experience first-hand yoga's health benefits and the healing effects of sound/vibration on brain and body. How can yoga and sound practices help foster clearer thinking, emotional equilibrium, a sense of peace and well-being, balance, flow and ease in navigating your life? How can yoga and sound practices facilitate greater awareness, compassion, empathy, presence, and deeper interpersonal communication? How can practices of yoga and sound create safe spaces that nurture internal processes and a sense of feeling at home in your body while fostering a sense of community and belonging? This course challenges the student not only to think across disciplinary divides but also to integrate the creative and the scholarly, the embodied practices of yoga and sound with the scientific principles and concepts behind them.

-Maria V. Johnson, Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology, School of Music

Imagining the cosmos: How the aesthetic impulse makes us human?

From the famous paleolithic cave paintings, from approximately 35,000 to 40,000 years ago, humans have been making art, that is both representing the world and inventing other worlds. This drive is one of the definitive features of our species, of who we are and how we think. It seems an unavoidable necessity—the reason why we can be described both as *homo faber* (as makers) and *homo ludens* (as playful). Is the artistic impulse an impulse to preserve or to play, to waste or to wonder? Is it how we grasp the reality of our existence or how we delude ourselves away from it? Is the artistic impulse liberatory or does it socialize us into structures of exploitation? In this seminar, we ask: why do humans make art and how art makes us human?

**-Jyotsna Kapur, Professor, Cinema and Media Studies & Director University Honors Program, SIUC
and Eric Ruckh, Associate Professor, History & Director University Honors Program, SIUE**

SALUKI-XR: Producing & Sharing Space Among the Stars- Student Generated! New!

SALUKI-XR is a VR workshop during which students will design and build a shared virtual reality research outpost on an uncharted planet. Within this space, students will investigate the ethical implications of space travel and colonization while building physical and digital collections of objects that communicate a collective history on a new world. What might our own Saluki outpost look like? How would it be designed so that we advance human understanding while seeking to avoid the problematic past of humans on earth? How might we better understand and discuss humankind's call to expand beyond our own planet given its history with colonialism? How might we shape space and culture simultaneously, though virtually, in the small sandbox environment of SALUKI-XR? This seminar is developed in collaboration with Gavin Melton, a first-year Honors student.

-Kevin Mercer, Assistant Professor, Radio, Television and Media Arts, College of Arts and Media

Making Math Fun for Children: Design Literacies, STEM education & Community Engagement

Creativity matters. So does community engagement. In this seminar, students will learn about a basic concept in design thinking, i.e., Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and how it may be used in freeing the creativity of children and making the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fun for elementary school children. In this theory-practice seminar, students will study the history, development, and curricula related to Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and try out what they have learned with children. We will design toys and exercises to make these subjects fun and meaningful, in the process, discover the joys of both learning and teaching. This seminar brings together some of the best Saluki traditions, i.e., the legacy of Buckminster Fuller's contributions to design thinking and the SIUC commitment to enriching the local community.

-Grant Miller, Associate Professor & Lingguo Bu, Associate Professor, School of Education

The Guide to a Good Life: Stoic Philosophy and the Philosophy of Life – New!

Somewhere around 300 BCE, a merchant suffered a shipwreck. Alive but now bereft of his possessions, he stumbled into a bookstore where he first learned of the philosopher Socrates. This merchant would go on to found one of the major schools of Ancient Greek Philosophy—Stoicism.

According to Penguin Random House, e-copies of the Roman politician and philosopher Seneca's *Letters from a Stoic* increased 356% during the pandemic year of 2020. What makes an ancient philosophy so compelling today?

In this seminar, we will examine the fundamental concepts of Stoicism from ancient times to modern interpretations and receptions. We will trace the influence of Stoic Philosophy from Christian Theology to Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. The primary goal of the class is for each student to develop their own philosophy of life through the study of Stoicism (this philosophy need not be Stoic!).

-Jeffrey Punske, Associate Professor, School of Languages and Linguistics

What could we become? Understanding our species through speculative fiction- New!

The theme for this year's Honors Program classes asks us to explore "the cultural imagination of the universe and the specific histories and forms of knowledge that give it birth." This course does that through examining how concepts and research in the field of cultural anthropology—which takes a cross-cultural approach to knowledge and understanding—can be explored and enhanced through works of science fiction and fantasy. The course will draw on anthropological understandings of gender, language, human nature, social organization, and time to explore specific themes in current fiction including our relationship to technology, genetic modification and genetic engineering and the future of food. How do science fiction and anthropology both call on the imagination to critique the present and possible futures? These themes will be explored through a selection of short stories, novels and films.

-David Sutton, Professor, School of Anthropology