

Summer 2026: University Honors Program UHON 351 Seminars

Interested in a Summer Honors seminar or an Honors study abroad experience?

Email honors@siu.edu to reserve a spot or to find out more information.

351O - Social Science

001	Future of Space Exploration	TR 11:30 – 12:45	Morris 722	Lefticariu
002	Why people who have a different opinion than your own are dumb, or maybe not?	TR 10:00 – 11:15	Morris 722	Eichholz

351S1 – Science 1 (Physical)

001	Future of Space Exploration	TR 11:30 – 12:45	Morris 722	Lefticariu
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351S2 – Science 2 (Life)

001	Why people who have a different opinion than your own are dumb, or maybe not?	TR 10:00 – 11:15	Morris 722	Eichholz
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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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

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
(Fulfills: Social Science or Science 2)**

Future of Space Exploration

In this seminar, students will learn about the past, ongoing, and future space exploration missions led by NASA, ESA, and other space agencies as well as by private companies or mixed state-private endeavors. Themes discussed include: The physical exploration of space by unmanned robotic space probes, human flight in space, and the movements of the planets, moons, and asteroids in the Solar System. This seminar will provide a general overview of the origin of the solar system, the composition of the planets and moons of the Solar System, and the variety of extra-terrestrial objects that are potentially a major source of natural resources. We will discuss the latest technologies to be employed for the colonization of the Moon and Mars, such as extraterrestrial water and mineral mining, soil augmentation and food production, and technologies developed for solar and other forms of energy. Additional discussion will include the legal and political aspects associated with space exploration. The 21st Century is the century of space exploration and colonization of new planets! Students will learn all about it! This is a rigorous academic experience during which the students will develop both theoretical and practical skills, like critical thinking and practical application, which will further help them in their work life as well as personal life.

- **Liliana Lefticariu, Professor, Geology, College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences
(Fulfills: Social Science or Science 1)**