

University Honors Program



(Disputation of the Holy Sacrament, Vatican City)

Spring 2026 Course and Advising Guide for Students

Advising Guide

General Information

All Honors students who plan to take Honors courses are required to meet with Dr. Paxton or a graduate fellow. Please see below for specific instructions for each class level.

Prepare:

- Review the course catalog and our Spring 2026 listings in this guide. What would you like to take?
- Look at the UHP course equivalency sheet (next page) to see how your UHP courses fulfill major and distribution requirements.
 - Be sure to use the correct one for your graduation year.
- If you have a declared major, try to meet with your major advisor before your Honors advising meeting.
- Be on time. If you need to cancel, please let us know in advance.
- Dr. Paxton or the graduate fellows can grant permission for you to enroll in Honors courses selected during your meeting.

Dates:

- **Middle of October:** Advising appointments begin
- **Tuesday, November 4 (7am):** Class Registration begins for ALL Honors Students

Definitions:

- **Permissions:** There is an important distinction between **holds** and **permissions**. Certain courses at CUA, including all Honors courses, require **permission** to enroll. We will grant you permission to enroll in Honors courses after we have discussed which courses are right for you. Course permissions are assigned only after appointments, and on a first come, first served basis. Permission will not be assigned nor will class spots be held via email, unless a student is studying abroad.
 - **Holds:** Holds **prevent** you from registering for **any** classes. There are many types of holds imposed by various offices that might prevent you from registering. These holds mean that there is something that you need to fix. Types of holds include financial (you have an outstanding balance), health (you have not submitted your immunization records), and judicial (you have an outstanding disciplinary infraction). Check Cardinal Station to see if you have any of these holds on your account. **Your academic advisor can remove some holds, so please consult with them before registering for courses. Make sure to have all holds on your account removed by the appropriate office or you will not be able to register for classes.**
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All students

All students who plan to register for Honors courses must meet with a member of the Honors program staff (Dr. Paxton, Sasha Jernakoff, Kate Plunkett, Lauren Touey) to receive permission to enroll in an Honors course. Please try to meet with your major advisor first, but when in doubt, please come see us! For course permissions only, please drop in to the Honors Lounge Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, to meet with a graduate fellow. For more complicated questions, please schedule an appointment with Dr. Paxton. You should receive a message from Cardinal Success prompting you to do so if needed. If you do NOT receive this message, please contact Dr. Paxton: paxton@cua.edu.

Seniors

If you are a Senior planning on taking the Capstone seminar, you must meet with Dr. Paxton.

We look forward to seeing you for advising!

Honors Course Equivalencies

Philosophy

Course	Major requirements: School of Philosophy	General Education Curriculum Requirement
HSPH 101/ PHIL 211	Replaces PHIL 331A (PHIL 331A substitutes for HSPH101 for students who join the Honors Program after arriving at Catholic)	Classical Philosophy
HSPH 102/ PHIL 212	Replaces PHIL 309A (PHIL 331A substitutes for HSPH102 for students who join the Honors Program after arriving at Catholic)	Modern Philosophy
HSPH 203	Replaces PHIL 313A	Philosophy Elective
HSPH 204*	Replaces PHIL 355	Philosophy Elective

*The HSPH track (or PHIL 211, PHIL 212, HSPH 203, and HSPH 204) fulfills 4 courses of the 6-course requirement for a Minor in PHIL. The two remaining courses must be taken from a list of philosophy electives found [here](#)

The Environment, Energy, and Policy

Course	Major Requirements	General Education Curriculum Requirement
HSEV 101		Natural Science
HSEV 102	200-Level TRS Elective	Theology Elective
HSEV 203		Social Science
HSEV 204	POL Elective	

Social Science

Course	Major Requirements	General Education Curriculum Requirement
HSSS 101	POL Elective ("Theory Track" Sub) ANTH Elective SOC Elective	Social Science
HSSS 102	POL Elective ECON 102 SOC Elective	Social Science
HSSS 203	Replaces PSY 322 or ECON 223 or BUS 223 SOC Elective	Mathematics
HSSS 204	SOC Elective	Social Science

Humanities

Course	Major Requirements	General Education Curriculum Requirement
HSU 101	MDVL elective HIST Elective, Pre-1800	History or Politics
HSU 102	ENG Elective, Pre-1800 HIST Elective, Pre-1800 MDVL Elective	History or Politics
HSU 203	ENG Elective, Pre-1800 HIST Elective, Pre-1800	Literature
HSU 204	HIST Elective SPAN LIT (SIS Major) GER LIT & CIV, FREN LIT & CIV	History or Politics

This track fulfils 4 courses of the 6 course requirement for the minor in History.

Theology

Course	Major Requirements	General Education Curriculum Requirement
HSTR 101	200 Level TRS	Foundations in Theology 1
HSTR 102	200 Level TRS (Liturgy/Sacrament)	Foundations in Theology 2 Theology Elective
HSTR 203	300 Level TRS	Foundations in Theology 2 Theology Elective
HSTR 204	300 Level TRS (Moral)	Foundations in Theology 2 Theology Elective

Additional Honors Courses

Course	Major Requirements	General Education Curriculum Requirement
HSLS 205		History or Politics
HSLS 351		History or Politics
HSLS 353	SPAN Elective	Literature
HSMS 230		Mathematics
HSMS 330		Mathematics
ECON 103	ECON 101 or SRES 102 (in BUS)	Social Science
ECON 104	ECON 102 or SRES 101 (in BUS)	Social Science

Description of Courses

Philosophy

HSPH 102 – Human Action and Government

Available to the Class of 2029 only

Freshman Learning Community Course

Section 51: Dr. Nathaniel Taylor	MWF	9:10 - 10:00 am
Section 52: Dr. Nathaniel Taylor	MWF	10:10 - 11:00 am
Section 53: Dr. Joseph Wood	MWF	9:10 - 10:00 am
Section 54: Dr. Joseph Wood	MWF	10:10 - 11:00 am
Section 55: Dr. Jonathan Buttaci	MWF	9:10 - 10:00 am
Section 56: Dr. Giacomo Fornasieri	MWF	10:10 - 11:00 am

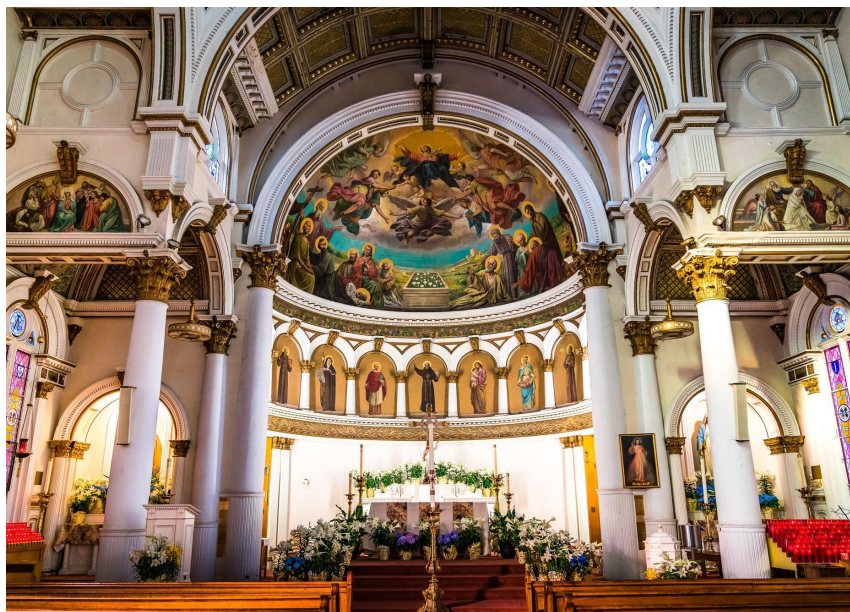
An introduction to moral and political philosophy with emphasis on the concepts of right reason and right action as developed in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Politics*. This course focuses on the perfection of the soul through intellectual and moral virtues and the function of these virtues in the larger human context, along with an explanation of Aristotle's praxis.

HSPH 204 – Ultimate Questions

Available to the Classes of 2028, 2027, and 2026

Section 01: Dr. Michael Gorman	MW	12:40 - 1:55 pm
Section 02: Dr. Kevin White	TuTh	11:10 am - 12:25 pm

Aristotle's *Metaphysics* and Aquinas' *Summae Theologia* provide the basis for the examination of the transition from the study of being as being to a natural theology and the subsequent modern embrace of rationalism. "Ultimates" to be questioned include: Being, Truth, and the Good. Readings complemented by texts of David Hume and Immanuel Kant.



St. Leonard of Port Maurice Parish (North End, Boston)

Humanities

HSHU 102 – Charlemagne to Chaucer: Christian Life in the Middle Ages

Dr. Jennifer Davis

TuTh 11:10 am - 12:25 pm

This course is the second of four courses in the Honors Humanities Sequence which aims to provide basic knowledge of major topics, figures, problems and developments of medieval Europe. Designed in a thematic rather than chronological format, the course explores the role and influence of medieval Christian institutions, thought, spirituality and religious practices within the context of social, political and economic institutions. In addition to weekly lectures, our discussions analyze primary sources drawn from a wide variety of genres and historical circumstances, which aid each participant to develop the critical skills for analysis. In addition to looking at pivotal figures such as St. Francis, Dante, Abelard and Heloise, topics include: church and state; war and peace; varieties of Christian experience; Jews, Christians, and Muslims; the Crusades; and the built environment.

HSHU 204 – Christian Culture in a Secular Age

Dr. Árpád von Klimó

MW 3:40 - 4:55 pm

This course explores the conflict between Christian thought and the secular age, from 1750 to the present. Beginning with Pietism and the Enlightenment of the 18th century, it concludes with a living defender of the Enlightenment, Jürgen Habermas, in dialogue with Joseph Ratzinger, shortly before he became Benedict XVI. This course does not propose a linear reading of Western culture. Instead, it traces the tension between Christianity and Secularism through several distinct historical phases: the pre-history of the French Revolution and the Revolution; the early 19th century, with its abiding revolutionary energy, which engendered enthusiasm and antipathy; the late 19th century, as shaped by the anti-Christian Nietzsche, the proto-Christian Wagner and the Christian Dostoevsky; the early 20th century and its revolutions (Nazi, Bolshevik and Freudian); and the later half of the 20th century, traumatized by Holocaust and Gulag, though alive with cultural radicalism, spiritual striving and its own version of the struggle between secular and Christian norms.

This course is the final course of the Honors Christian Tradition sequence and part of the Liberal Arts Program. It counts for majors such as English or History.



Basilica of St. Paul Outside of the Walls (Rome)

Social Science

HSSS 101 – The Concept of the Person in the Social Sciences

Dr. Matthew Green

TuTh 9:40 - 10:55 am

This course offers an intensive introduction to the basic principles and approaches to the social sciences. The course mixes readings from 19th century classics in social science literature along with more recent applications, case studies, and even novels. The course is organized around a consideration of the idea of the human person, a foundational concept for all the social sciences.

SOC 358H – Aesthetics and Society (Honors)

Dr. Brandon Vaidyanathan

W 2:10 - 4:40 pm

This course examines the complex relationship between aesthetic phenomena and social structures. Through a methodical exploration grounded in sociology, anthropology, and psychology, we aim to uncover the underlying mechanisms by which aesthetic values are formed, negotiated, and perpetuated within various cultural and social contexts around the world. This section is for Honors students only and will require additional assignments as designated by the instructor.

This course can be substituted for other courses in the HSSS track.

Environmental Studies

HSEV 102 – Religion, Ethics, and Ecology

Dr. William Barbieri

TuTh 11:10 am - 12:25 pm

This course examines a number of interrelated issues on religion, ethics and the environment. Topics include religious views of nature; theologies of creation; religious perspectives on consumerism, sustainability, animal concerns, bio-technology and environmental justice; the role of religion in promoting new forms of community; and paradigms of ecological spirituality.

HSEV 204 – Environmental Politics and Policy

Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love

TuTh 9:40 - 10:55 am

An introduction to environmental ideology, politics and public policy. Emphasizes the political and social implications of competing approaches to environmental and energy policy, and how policy preferences are pursued through politics, law and the administrative process.

Theology

HSTR 101 – God’s Word in Human Words

Available to the Class of 2029 only

Freshman Learning Community Course

Section 51: *Dr. Michael Francis*

MWF 10:10 - 11:00 am

Section 52: *Dr. Michael Francis*

MWF 9:10 - 10:00 am

An examination of the concept of God's self-revelation as disclosed in the story of Israel, Jesus, and the Church. The course will consider the nature of Sacred Scripture and study select texts from the Old and New Testaments that reveal how God's Word is disclosed in human words.

HSTR 102, 203, and 204 are only open to students who are sophomores or above. If you are interested in registering for a course, check your email for the link to the google form to add your name to the interest list. If you cannot find the link, email the graduate fellows (cua-honorsprogram@cua.edu) and they will send it to you. Students on the waitlist who have at least 3.5 GPA will receive priority permission, as will seniors who must take a specific course in order to complete the track. Note that, though you must complete the Google form in advance to put your name on the waiting list for these courses, you must also make an advising appointment – the form will not take the place of an actual advising session.

Available to the Classes of 2028, 2027, and 2026 by Reservation

HSTR 102 – Liturgy and the Christian Life

Dr. Elias Haslwanter

TuTh 11:10 am - 12:25 pm

This course is an examination of the relationship between liturgy and the Christian life. The course engages students in doing liturgical theology and considers such topics as the ecclesial and ritual nature of liturgy, the sacramental roots of the Christian life, the role of scripture in the liturgy, and liturgy as a cultural reality.

HSTR 203 – The Church: Community and Institution

Dr. Christopher Ruddy

WF 2:10 - 3:25 pm

Why is the Christian life essentially one of community, and what kind of institutional organization is appropriate for this particular community? These were central questions addressed by Vatican II in its constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, and they remain central questions in ecumenical dialogue seeking the unity of the Church today. This course will consider the life and shape of the Church at various points in its history, and the flourishing of study of the Church or 'ecclesiology' in the 20th century. It will closely examine the teaching of the Council itself and issues that have arisen in ecumenical discussion in recent decades on this topic.

HSTR 204 – The Church in Dialogue with Contemporary Culture

Dr. Angela Franks

TuTh 2:10 - 3:25 pm

This course is an examination of the Church in light of its dialogue with the contemporary world in which believers live. The course will consider questions of spirituality, social ethics, and interreligious dialogue.

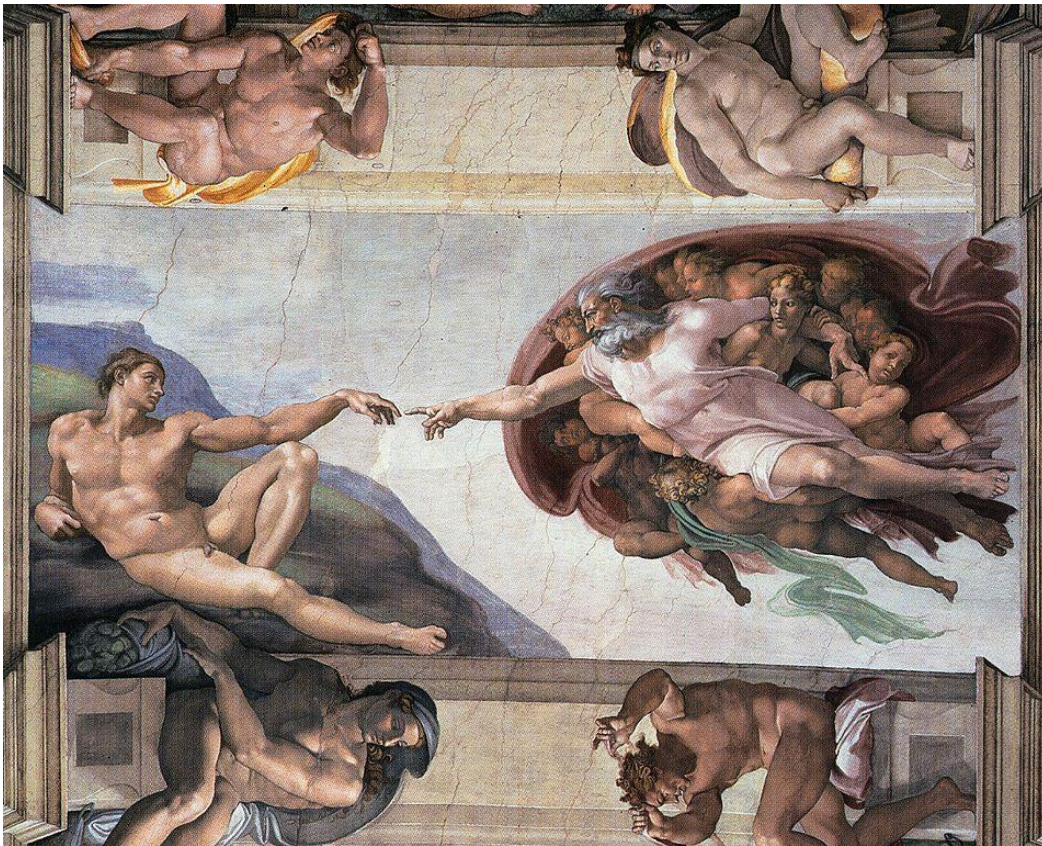
English Learning Community Courses

ENG101H – Honors Writing and Rhetoric

Available to the Class of 2029 only

Section 53: <i>Dr. Beth Ooi</i>	MWF 10:10 am - 11:00 am
Section 54: <i>Dr. Beth Ooi</i>	MWF 9:10 am - 10:00 am
Section 55: <i>Dr. Kevin Rulo</i>	MWF 10:10 am - 11:00 am
Section 56: <i>Dr. Seth Smith</i>	MWF 9:10 am - 10:00 am

ENG 101H offers students opportunities to improve as writers through critical reading and careful composition. Students will be introduced to methods of rhetorical and textual analysis as well as of invention, organization, and revision. The course is designed to help students develop their ability to think analytically and creatively, to articulate their ideas clearly, and to craft optimally persuasive communications. Emphasis will also be placed on information literacy and appropriate practices of scholarly writing and research. The purpose of this course is to help students develop as writers by practicing different forms of writing as well as revision, by learning and applying the rudiments of grammar and style, and by analyzing good writing.



The Creation of Adam (Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel, Vatican City)

University Honors Program Series Courses

HSLs 328 – Undergraduate Research Journal Production – Inventio (bound with UGS 328)

Dr. Taryn Okuma

F 8:10 - 10:40 am

A seminar-style course that examines the academic and professional practices that inform the publication of research journals. Over the course of the semester, students will receive training and experience in publication as they work to produce the annual issue of *Inventio: The Undergraduate Research Journal of The Catholic University of America*. Requires additional time for staff meetings in addition to class meetings. Open only to students selected for the *Inventio* Student Editorial Board. Prerequisites: ENG101. Open only to the classes of 2027, 2026, and 2025. This course is for first time students.

HSLs 354 – A Capital History: Washington, D.C. as City and Symbol

Dr. Stephen West

M 2:20 - 4:40 pm

In this course, students get to know the history of their adopted hometown, and the nation's capital, through field trips, lectures, and discussion of original documents from the past. We venture back in time to explore two centuries of the District's history and its unique role under the U.S. Constitution as the "Seat of the Government of the United States." And we venture outside the classroom to explore Washington as a living city of neighborhoods and a symbolic city of monuments, museums, and government buildings.

This course can be substituted for other courses in the Humanities track.

HSLs 120 – University Honors Program Spring Break Trip (London)

Dr. Jennifer Paxton

Spring Break

This 1-credit course accompanies the Honors Program's spring break trips. Students will complete assignments tailored to the destination of the trip that may include journal entries and individual and group presentations about specific sites.

Honors Capstone Seminar

HSCP 490 – Honors Capstone Seminar: Utopia and Dystopia

Dr. Jennifer Paxton

TBD

This year's Capstone Seminar will explore the dichotomy between Utopia and Dystopia. Why do human beings conceive of worlds that are either much more harmonious or much more dysfunctional than their own? What happens when people try to create a literal utopia? We will study this dichotomy in many forms, from literary explorations of the ideal society (and its opposite) to political, religious, and social movements that have arisen in a variety of times and places. Readings will range widely, from the Bible to Greek philosophy to modern political philosophy and dystopian fiction, and we will also make use of video, film, and video games. Assignments will include weekly responses to course materials, a class presentation, and a final paper/honors thesis, and of course regular participation in class discussions.

Priority will be given to students who are intending to complete the requirements for University Scholar, but if there is room, we may be able to accommodate other students. Please let me know if you are considering taking the class so that we can compile a list of interested students. The course will be scheduled during the evening on the day of the week that suits the largest number of students.

The Capstone is open to seniors, and is required for students intending to be recognized as University Scholars. The seminar will be scheduled around the schedules of the participants. Please contact Dr. Paxton (paxton@cua.edu) if you are interested.



St. Paul's Cathedral (London)

Additional Courses

HSIN 495 – Honors Internship

The Honors internship is intended for students who wish to earn internship credit *outside of their major*. Students must be sophomores or above. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Paxton (paxton@cua.edu).

ARPL 232H – Honors Environmental Design I

Dr. Patricia Andrasik

TuTh 12:40 - 1:55 pm

This course teaches students the foundations of integrating passive environmental controls and ethical imperatives into the practice of sustainable architectural design. Students will analyze how climatic and site conditions are used to calculate and inform massing, daylight design, solar shading, natural ventilation, thermally efficient wall sections and water capture. This section of the class is designed for Honors students. It meets concurrently with ARPL 232 with the addition of several breakout sessions with the instructor and additional assignments.

CHEM 104H – General Chemistry II (Honors)

Dr. Gregory Brewer

Lecture: MWF 11:10 am - 12:00 pm

Lab: F 3:40 - 4:30 pm

The second half of a two-semester modern introductory chemistry course designed to fulfill the chemistry requirements for science students and to lay the foundation for further course work in chemistry. Topics include atomic theory, periodic properties, stoichiometry, nomenclature, bonding, physical properties of states of matter, solutions, kinetics, equilibrium, acid-base reactions, metathesis reactions, redox reactions, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, and chemical properties of selected classes of compounds. Corequisite: CHEM 114.

ENGR 222H – Engineering Mathematics I (Honors)

Dr. Charles Nguyen

Lecture: MW 11:10 am - 12:25 pm

Lab: F 11:10 am - 12:00 pm

Differential equations is the language of engineers and is an important tool for formulating mathematical models of physical problems encountered in everyday engineering practice. In this class, you will be taught various tools for formulating, solving, analyzing, and interpreting mathematical models of physical problems. Analysis of 1st & 2nd order differential equations using analytical, numerical, and graphical techniques will be taught. Lectures will be complemented by weekly computer laboratory sessions teaching and using Matlab for solving real-world problems in engineering.

NURS 257H – Nutrition and Health (Honors)

Section 01: TBA

W 9:40 am - 12:10 pm

Section 03: TBA

MW 12:40 - 1:55 pm

Focuses on nutrition and the physiological, social, economic, and lifestyle factors that influence nutrition throughout the developmental life span.

PHYS 215H – University Physics I (Honors)

Dr. Vadim Uritsky

Lecture: TuTh 9:40 - 10:55 am

Discussion: F 12:40 - 2:00 pm

An intensive calculus-based course in mechanics, heat and sound. Although intended primarily for mathematics, science, and engineering students, open to all qualified students.

SPAN 208H – Advanced Spanish for Healthcare II (Honors)

Section 1: *Dr. Miguel Rodriguez*

TuTh 5:10 - 6:25 pm

Section 2: *Dr. Anastasiya Stoyneva*

MW 3:40 - 4:55 pm

This course is a continuation of Span 207 Advanced Spanish for Healthcare I which emphasizes oral communication, medical terminology, and cross-cultural awareness for students whose profession requires a working knowledge of Spanish. Students learn to communicate in Spanish effectively with patients and families through active listening, nonverbal and presentation skills. Emphasis is placed on understanding the various language barriers that may occur with Spanish speaking patients and their effect on health care. Various reading and multimedia materials are used as a starting point for conversation related to Hispanic cultural traditions, health beliefs and values, including traditional, complementary and alternative medicine (TCAM). Also included are role-playing exercises, video and audio assignments, and a service learning experience. Designed for students in nursing, psychology, biomedical engineering, biology, and social work; previous experience with Spanish is required. Satisfies Humanity or Free Elective requirement. Prerequisite: SPAN 207 or consent of instructor. Honors students will complete additional assignments.

SPAN 277H – Cultural Competence in Healthcare (Honors)

Dr. Anastasiya Stoyneva

Online Asynchronous

This course stresses sensitivity to and respect for cultural, ethnic and spiritual diversity in a health care setting. The objective of this online course is to develop cultural awareness and sensitivity skills that will help students provide competent and compassionate care to Hispanic populations. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the manner in which Hispanics/Latinos perceive health and illness and respond to various symptoms, diseases and treatments through journal entries, projects, and discussions with their professor and peers. This includes considering the patient's education, financial resources and alternative or complementary medical practices factors on patient care. This is a weekly online asynchronous course where students proceed through the material at their own pace within defined time limits. The course is taught in English and there will be nuances of Spanish to better explain the cultural material.

SPAN 495BH – Spanish for Healthcare Internship (Honors)

Dr. Anastasiya Stoyneva

Online Asynchronous

This health specific internship is designed for students to apply their knowledge of Medical Spanish and cultural competence learned in the classroom with practical application in a professional health care setting. Students undertake a minimum of 100-hours of fully immersed experiential learning, typically with a hospital, clinic, non-profit, bilingual school or community-based organization where Spanish is used. Students gain valuable applied experience and insight into a professional career path, while at the same time offer a valuable service to the community. This internship experience will provide opportunities for personal and professional growth. Instructional methods include: bi-monthly meetings with faculty advisor, journals, reports, dossier, presentation, and a reaction paper. Advanced level Spanish required. Satisfies Humanity or Free Elective requirement. Prerequisite: consent of the Director of Spanish for Health Care.

SRES 102H – Markets and Prosperity

Section 1: <i>Dr. Michael Pakaluk</i>	TuTh 12:40 - 1:55 pm
Section 9: <i>Dr. Erik Matson</i>	MW 11:10 am - 12:25 pm
Section 10: <i>Dr. Erik Matson</i>	MW 12:40 - 1:55 pm

A blend of economic ideas and history of economic thought, this course is the second part of a complete introduction to the elements of economics. The course employs natural language texts and non-technical materials to emphasize habits of mind, salutary intuitions, and historical knowledge for success in business and entrepreneurship. With no loss of rigor, the course takes a liberal arts approach to the foundations of economic thought, substituting critical annotation of text for traditional problem solving, and structured class discussion for traditional lectures. Course materials are chosen with a view to helping students "into the seat of Adam Smith," a world of economic inquiry replete with surprise, wonder, and admiration, in pursuit of the causes and consequences of the wealth of nations. Topics covered include: economics of the firm and managerial economics; national economy, GDP, and modern economic growth; business cycles and fluctuations in economic activity; government spending, federal budget, national debt, and taxes; monetary policy under monopoly currency issuance; monetary and financial alternatives; capital markets, interest rates, savings, investment, stocks, bonds and finance; labor markets, wages, productivity, and human capital; special issues in labor markets, including minimum wages, gender pay, and discrimination; global markets, trade, immigration, and currency exchange; markets for education, housing and healthcare; markets and poverty, inequality, and economic mobility; markets and the environment, population and resources; government and markets, democracy and freedom. This section is reserved for Honors students and will require additional assignments.