

Examples of Honors Projects

This document is a compilation of past Honors Projects from a variety of classes. They are organized based upon the school the class falls into (see below). Click on the blue link to visit that school's example page. Or you can use CTRL + F to search for a specific class. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us!

★ [School of Liberal Arts](#)

- American Sign Language, Anthropology, Child Development, Economics, Education, English, History, Music, Photography, Political Science, Spanish, Theatre

★ [School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics \(STEM\)](#)

- Biology, Chemistry, Computer Information Systems, Geoscience, Math, Physics, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work

★ [School of Health Sciences](#)

- Exercise Science

★ [School of Business & Industry](#)

- Architecture, Business, Culinary Arts, Interior Design

School of Liberal Arts

Below are examples of honors projects facilitated in courses housed within the School of Liberal Arts.

ASL 171 - American Sign Language I

- **Interview** with a deaf person completely in ASL.
- **Write a reflection paper** about the thoughts and insights found after the interview.

AN 210 - Introduction to Anthropology

- The student will gain experience reading peer reviewed literature and the critical thinking skills involved in synthesizing information from multiple sources.
- The student will **prepare a set of annotated bibliographies** on the Anthropology of Religion. Rather than focus on the subject of Religious belief, the Anthropology of Religion focuses on how religion intersects with other practices embedded in social life.
- These annotated bibliographies will be collections of peer reviewed articles organized by sub-topic. Each sub-topic will typically have 3 articles and a 200-400 word summary prepared that discusses how the set of articles work together to define a body of anthropological knowledge.

AN 280 - Native American Culture

- The goal is to develop both a body of disciplinary theory (medical anthropology) and practice an important critical thinking skill (applying disciplinary thinking to analyze the world we live in).
- **Prepare a research paper** that applies a medical anthropology framework to analyzing the contemporary issue of COVID-19 infections affecting Native American Communities.
- This paper is expected to be a formal research paper drawing upon both peer reviewed literature and contemporary news accounts.

CD 230 - Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education and Inclusion

- **Research** common and best practices around suspension and expulsion for the Early Childhood population.
- **Interview** (3) professionals in the field of Early Childhood and to glean their insight as to the causes of suspension/expulsion and what their strategies are to reduce these incidences.
- **Create a powerpoint presentation for educators** explaining the negative impacts of suspension and expulsion for the Early Childhood population.

EC 252 - Principles of Microeconomics

- **Research different businesses in your community** and learn firsthand how covid affected them.
Focus should be:
 - inflation and its impact on buying inventory
 - how did covid mandates or regulations impact their business
 - their personal belief on the economic being in a recession
- The overall focus is on learning how local small businesses survived the pandemic and its outcomes.

EN 247 - Creative Writing I

- This project will involve **creating a small, handwritten poetry booklet** of one or more finished poems written for this class's assignments. Each poem will be accompanied by a small piece of art at the top, depicting an image from the poem.
- The project will highlight the line breaks, stanza groupings, and concrete imagery that are so central to the poetry aspect of this course.
- The final piece of the project will be a short (approximately one-page) written reflection on the process of creating the work.

EDU 118 - Human Growth and Development I

- Spend 8-12 weeks **working one on one with children** in the ECLL on campus.
- After getting to know the class, **lead an activity** such as a circle time or an art activity.

EDU 120 - Adult Development

- **Read the article** titled "Caregivers Burnout Syndrome: Support Yourself While Caring for a Loved One".
- Use Canva.com, take the information from this article and **create an infographic** highlighting the key points.
- This infographic can be hung in the hallway of Cook Hall for nursing and OTA students who may be providing care for a loved one.

EN 248 - Creative Writing II

- **Write** three short stories and/or a collection of five poems.
- Upon completing my creative works **use AI to generate** works that have the same intent and subject matter as my own.
- **Compare** these and **write a 1-2 page analysis** on my experience and further exploring how AI is used and its application in creative expression.

EN 278 - Introduction to Women's Literature

- Gain a deeper understanding of how writings by women have evolved over time and how certain aspects hold true across generations.
- **Read Little Women** by Lousia May Alcott and compare it to at least three required reading selections for the class.
- Meet with your professor regularly to discuss what you have read at that point and how it applies to society today or what you are learning in class. Prepare an MLA style annotated bibliography with a minimum of ten peer reviewed articles about Little Women.
- Finally, **create a visual presentation**, a powerpoint, to present to your class during the last week of the semester.

HU 210 - Introduction to the Humanities

- **Write a series of poems** describing common emotions (grief, heartbreak, depression, love, and happiness).
- Each of these poems will be **accompanied with a cinematic video** representing a short film of that poem.
- The overall goal of this project is to demonstrate how our emotions convey aesthetics and art to be able to feel these emotions through words and visuals.

HS 121 - World History Since 1500 CE

- For this honors project, the student will gain a deeper understanding of World History since 1500 by examining the effects of colonization in Latin America focusing especially on the Nahuas people.
- This is a research project, and the student will collaborate with the professor at a variety of stages throughout the project, which will **result in a final research paper**.
- This project will allow the student to enhance their research, communication, and collaboration skills.
- Additionally, the professor will expose the student to a variety of **scholars in the field**.
- The student will compile a list of sources to be used and will use GRCC Library (where applicable) resources to search and access scholarly articles, books, and book chapters.
- The student will meet with the professor regularly to discuss their findings and will collaborate with the professor on how what they have found applies to different time periods the student is learning in class. This will all be incorporated into the final research paper.

MUS 110 - Appreciation of World and Western Music

- **Research** a modern music genre not included in the course
- **Interview** a local artist of that style of music
- **Complete a written summary** on the topic
- **Present** your findings to the class

PO 101 - Photography I

- **Research** a famous photographer
- **Emulate** their work with your own perspective

PO 101 - Photography I

- **Research** copyright laws in fine art photography and the issues behind them.
- **Write** an APA-formatted essay with the findings of your research

PS 110 - American Government and Politics

- **Research** the proposal, debate, and editing of a recent piece of legislation introduced and passed by Congress.
- **Contact** the office of a Congressman who was involved in creating the bill and also represents the district or state.
- **Write** a full-length term paper
- The goal of this project is to better understand the development of legislation in Congress.

SP 231 - Intermediate Spanish I

- This project will entail several different sections, designed to incorporate all four aspects of language learning --reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It will also provide further exposure to Hispanic culture and traditional symbolism.
- The first part of the project will involve **researching traditional Hispanic symbolism** and styles of art, both through reading articles and by doing a recorded interview with a native language speaker from Mexico. This step will utilize skills in reading, speaking, and listening.
- After gathering a collection of research, the next step will be to incorporate that research and symbolism into a **small painting**. The painting will be accompanied by an artist's statement in Spanish, which will challenge and expand learned writing and vocabulary.

- The final step of the project will be a short **written reflection in Spanish**, discussing the process, challenges, surprises, etc., that were encountered through the time spent completing the project.

SP 232 - Intermediate Spanish II

- **Research** the local Spanish-speaking population in Grand Rapids to learn about the resources this population has access to or not have access to.
- **Volunteer** at a nonprofit organization to assist Spanish-speaking clients.
- Prepare a **written summary** of your results.

TH 248 - Introduction to Theater

- Read three scripts that are being considered for future productions at GRCC.
- **Write a paper** that discusses both the challenges of staging these shows, as well as the opportunities for students, both working on and watching these shows.
- Finish with a consideration of the topics you raise in the paper-not so much as a defense, but as a collaborative problem solving discussion.

School of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

Below are examples of honors projects facilitated in courses housed within the School of STEM.

AS 102 - Introductory Astronomy

- **Create a star chart** showing the constellations we can see for each season (fall, winter, spring, summer) from Grand Rapids Michigan. Draw it out and color with watercolor. Include the constellation names, direction we are facing, the equator, the horizon, and the time we are looking.

BI 101 - General Biology

- **Read the book**, "Some Assembly Required" and then meet with me to discuss the various topics in the book.
- Type a 1-2 pages paper outlining your favorite part about the book and explain why it was your favorite.

BI 101 - General Biology

- **Research and present a powerpoint on climate change.**
 - The presentation will include aspects such as:
 - a) How scientists measured carbon dioxide and temperature levels in the past?
 - b) What evidence indicates the current climate change is human induced?
 - c) How climate change is currently affecting various parts of earth?
 - d) What effects does climate change
 - e) How bad is climate change expected to be given the projected rate of carbon dioxide release?
 - f) Realistically, what can be done to slow the rate of climate change?
 - g) Is drastic climate change inevitable, or is there hope that we can still slow (or even stop?) it?
- The presentation will include a minimum of 10 reputable, scientific sources with no less than 20 slides.

BI 110 - Biology in Society

- The student will **read the book** "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot. If possible, the student will form a book club with the professor and will have zoom meetings several times during the semester to discuss what they have read.
- The student will also be required to answer questions about the lecture as well as complete a reflection component at the end.

BI 121 - Anatomy and Physiology I

- **Create** 2 infographic/poster-style displays.
- **Research** the background, influential figures, biomedical ethics, and potential medical applications of CRISPR technologies.
- **Develop a display** would include my research displayed in an organized and easy-to-understand manner as well as visual aids to make the information more aesthetically pleasing.

BI 121 - Anatomy and Physiology I

- **Research and create a timeline** about lobotomy and the changes in this procedure through time.
- This timeline would include why the procedure was performed, different methods of performing it and how it affected people that survived. I would be meeting with my professor once at the beginning of the month each month for check ins on my project.

BI 151 - Introduction to Cells, Molecules, and Genes

- The project will be a slideshow presentation **comparing and contrasting two forms of ocular cancer:** retinoblastoma and uveal melanoma. Working with these two conditions, the student will tie in information related to course material in genetics as well as the cell cycle, mitosis, and cancer.
- **Present your findings** to your classmates.

BI 117 - General Human Anatomy and Physiology

- **Create a 3D model of a human skull** (sculpted in 3ds Max.) The finished project will include multiple 3D renders of the skull (labeled and unlabeled), a time-lapse of me making the skull, and possibly a link to an interactive version of the model that can be rotated with the mouse.
- This project will allow the student to learn about the different bones of the skull while also advancing their skills as a digital 3D artist.

BI 153 - Plant Biology

- Study the differences between human and plant proteins that perform the same function.
- This project will include **creating a pamphlet** discussing 5 proteins found in both animal and plant cells, and 10 3d printed models of the proteins.
- Active sites and any significant structural deviations will be shown with coloration on the models, and in the images on the pamphlet.

CHM 120 - Survey of General Chemistry

- **Create multiple tutorial videos** on a variety of different lab pipettes that students struggle to use and collect data with.
- These videos will be used for future generations of chemistry students.

CHM 130 - General Chemistry 1

- **Create (4) educational videos on topics chemistry** students tend to find are difficult.
- Video topics: explain the concepts and provide examples for net ionic equations, quantum numbers, colligative properties, and valence bond theory.
- The amount of videos and their content may be adapted throughout the semester as I navigate the video-making process.

CHM 140 - General Chemistry II

- Applying knowledge and information from class, **perform an at home experiment focused on the process of making cheese.**
- The student will record the experiment, providing a brief explanation and overview.

CHM 260 - Organic Chemistry I

- **Create a poster** to be displayed in the science building discussing the chemistry of the persistent organo pollutant perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, also known as PFOS.

CIS 123 - Computer Science I

- **Complete** the in class assignment on coding in python.
- Then **create a tutorial video** on the assignment that can be shown to other students.
- **Describe** the code that I used, the goal of the project, and how I incorporated OpenAI and other sources into my project.

CIS 127 - C++ Programming I

- **Research OpenGL** to recreate the retro game Pong, multiplayer with two players using a single keyboard.

CIS 132 - Linux I

- **Create a video tutorial** on how to install Ubuntu Linux inside of a virtual machine and onto the actual computer to dual boot operating systems.
 - Explain the step-by-step process on how to configure an Ubuntu virtual machine inside of VirtualBox, the settings to choose, and how to install the operating system.
 - Explain the process on how to install Ubuntu on the computer's hard drive and dual-boot between Windows and Linux.
 - Explain how to load the OS onto a USB, partition the disk, install the OS, and to switch between Linux and Windows, and how to remove the Linux installation.

CIS 178 - Principles of Info Security

- **Set up and configure a virtual environment** using AWS through the tools provided by AWS Cyber Range including but not limited to Command Center (c2) and Docker.

GL 101 - Introduction to Geology

- **Research** the contamination of PFAS in the groundwater in Michigan and/or the Grand Rapids Area.
- **Create** an informational poster with all the findings to post around campus.

GL 106 - Environmental Geoscience

- **Research** the importance of the prairie ecosystem.
- **Volunteer** with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan at the Saul Lake Bog Nature Preserve to collect prairie seeds for use in expanding the prairie there and planting native species at other preserves managed by the Land Conservancy.

MA 98 - Elementary Algebra

- **Investigate the mathematics** involved in determining amortization tables and costs of loans.
- Determine the effects of paying extra each month on a loan.
- Determine the differences in loan costs based on interest rates, and see how credit scores can affect interest rates.
- **Interview a loan officer** about the overall process of applying for a home mortgage.
- Write a **written summary** of your experience.

MA 110 - College Algebra

- **Develop a research project** researching the relationship between mental health and incarceration rates and how splitting state budgets toward both those issues impact them.
- **Create a linear regression project** that shows if there is a linear relationships between these two subjects using a scatter plot and an online graphing website called Desmos.

MA 134 - Calculus with Analytic Geometry II

- **Complete a job shadow** with an engineering firm to see real world examples and the day to day work of an engineer.
- After shadowing, **write a paper** on what you experienced during your job shadow and how it relates to my current major and what you learned from said engineer.

MA 134 - Calculus with Analytic Geometry II

- **Write a paper** exploring proofs involving group theory and permutations.
- Topics will include what a mathematical proof is, how to read and understand one, and a breakdown of at least 3 proofs of increasing complexity.

MA 211 - Basic Geometry

- Explore the Common Core Math standard for 1st graders as it relates to the topics of geometry and shapes.
- Using the selected standard, the student will **develop up to 3 day's worth of lesson plans** for 1st graders.

PH 125 - College Physics I

- **Participate in a book club** around "The Physics of Super Heroes" by James Kakalios.

PY 201 - Introduction to Psychology

- **Read (8) articles** from the book, "Forty Studies That Changed Psychology" and submit written summaries of each article.

PY 201 - Introduction to Psychology

- **Paint a piece of artwork to represent a mental disorder.** Specifically the disorder known as dissociative identity disorder.

PY 260 - Social Psychology

- **Read and summarize two books in the field of social psychology** as well as conducting my own research and analysis (Grit by Angela Duckworth and Willpower by John Tierney and Roy Baumeister).
- Create a 4-page summary for the readings.
- Conduct a research study relating to the topics of the books and the GPAs of GRCC peers.
- Formalize an analysis of the findings.

SO 254 - Social Problems

- The student will **write a reflection paper** for Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond (2016).
- The reflection paper will provide a concise summary, critical discussion, and compelling reflection of the text from a sociological perspective while making connections to the topics covered in the course.
- To supplement the reflection paper, the student will also give a presentation to the class based on the research paper. The presentation should provide a brief overview of the main components of the research paper, with a special focus on how the reading connects to other topics in the class and the lessons learned.
- The student will meet with the faculty member early in the semester to discuss the project and throughout the semester as needed. It is recommended that a brief outline be submitted by the midpoint of the semester. The expected length of the reflection paper is 8-10 pages.

SW 150 - Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare

- **Research** common issues inmates have when seeking social work services.
- **Perform a job shadow experience** with a social worker at both the Allegan and Kent County Jail.
- **Interview** the social workers to understand the roles, values, services, etc. that are offered by the social workers and what they think should be offered to better serve the inmates.
- Create a powerpoint presentation **summarizing your research**, your job shadow and answers from both social workers.
- Record a video of the presentation and **share it with your classmates**.

School of Health Sciences

Below are examples of honors projects facilitated in courses housed within the School of Health Sciences.

EXS 156 - CPR/AED/First Aid for Professional Rescuer

- **Produce a video** with content to highlight Heart Disease and Basic Hands Only CPR.
- **Present** the video around campus to staff and students.

EXS 184 - Introduction to Exercise Science

- **Read the book** "Sports Nutrition Guidebook" and write a report focusing on specific areas of the book.

EXS 189 - Healthy Living

- **Create a video** including the following topics from a college student's perspective:
 - Compare and contrast alternate perspectives about the following: Your health and your community's health, mental health, stress, social connections, sleep, nutrition, fitness, body image, alcohol and tobacco, alternative medicine, reproductive choices and infectious disease.
- You can add more to this and brainstorm using your own ideas, or we could discuss this more in depth. (You could incorporate short videos about each topic in your google drive or you could create short videos only around each topic).

School of Business & Industry

Below are examples of honors projects facilitated in courses housed within the School of Business & Industry.

AR 105 - Construction Materials I

- The student will **research the history on the Farnsworth House** by Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe, create a 3D model of the as well as sketch a 3D model of the house.
- For the physical 3D model, the student will use a variety of different materials to get the best result.

BA 103 - Introduction to Business

- **Create a business plan** that will be an official non-profit foundation of the business I plan for class. I fully intend on bringing this non-profit to life after obtaining my bachelor's degree.

BA 207 - Business Law I

- **Conduct research** on the following question based on the topic of "Criminal Law", "Why is it important AND necessary to apply the law equally to an individual from ANY race without distinction?"
- When the student has complied with the research, they will **write a reflection paper** that will answer the above question. They will document their research with proper links/citations.

BA 256 - Principles of Accounting I

- **Research** the requirements for becoming a CPA in the state of Michigan and maintaining the license.
- **Prepare a PowerPoint presentation** summarizing your research.
- **Email** your presentation to your instructor and work with them to make changes if necessary.
- **Present your research** to your class. Work with your instructor to pick a date."

BA 270 - Marketing

- **Select a business and learn** the marketing environment and the 4 P's of marketing.
- **Complete** an environmental scan, SWOT analysis, and determine how a business can improve its marketing based on observations and data collected through the scan.

CA 115 - Table Service

- **Create a Front-of-the-House Layout and Tabletop Design.** This will include creating the layout for the restaurant, all exterior and interior designs, how each table will be set, hours and times

of the restaurant, uniforms for the staff, and costing all aspects of the restaurant. It will also have detailed descriptions of each aspect of the project and be complete with pictures.

INT 101 - Interior Design Studio I

- **Research a local designer** and gain knowledge about their designs, experience, and field of work, as well as styles and potential questions.
- Perform a job shadow experience with the local designer, and interview the designer to gain knowledge and insight into their career and field of interior design.
- Complete a written summary of the shadow experience, takeaways, and things learned.