

HONORS CLASSES

Fall
2009

All students who wish to graduate as Honors Program Scholars must take at least 18 hours of Honors courses, including at least one semester of a Core Seminar and two Honors courses while maintaining a 3.25 GPA. Up to six (6) credit hours of Honors Contract courses may be used to complete the 18 hours necessary to graduate as an Honors Program Scholar.

ELIGIBILITY

To be admitted to Honors at Oakton, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- ACT score of 25 or SAT of 1200;
- Graduation in the top 20 percent of H.S. class;
- GED of 300 or higher;
- GPA of 3.5 at Oakton or another college;
- GPA of 3.25 with a faculty recommendation;
- Bachelor's Degree (this alone is adequate for admission).

APPLICATIONS

For additional information or to receive an application for Honors at Oakton, visit www.oakton.edu and click on the "Honors at Oakton" link, or contact Richard Stacewicz, coordinator, at 847-635-1915 or rstacewi@oakton.edu. All classes held at Des Plaines campus unless otherwise noted.

Oakton Community College, Honors, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016-1268

CORE SEMINARS

Introduction to Global Studies (CRN 31898)

SSC 201 0H1, Tue./Thu., 9:30-10:45 a.m., Room 2735

3 credit hours

Instructor: Richard Stacewicz

Ethics (CRN 31899)

PHL 106 0H1, Tue./Thu., 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Room 2735

3 credit hours

Instructor: Holly Graff

Our world today faces an unprecedented array of social and economic crises. The situation is unlike earlier crises because of the realities of globalization. At the same time, we also are facing an unprecedented environmental crisis brought about by realities such as climate change. This seminar encourages students to debate the causes of these intertwined crises and to consider solutions that are both practical and just.

In the social science portion of the course, students will be introduced to the history of the global economic system and the various social scientists and theorists who have not only studied, but also influenced its development. In philosophy, students will be introduced to and asked to evaluate theories of distributive justice and to select one theory with which to evaluate the ethics of the global economic system.

Over the past few decades, people across the globe have awakened to environmental problems and threats that face the global community. We will explore the history of how humans have impacted the environment and how environmental changes impact human societies, economies, and politics. We also will examine how perceptions of human relationships to the environment have changed over time and space, and how different philosophers define environmental ethics.

This seminar gives students an opportunity to develop the ability to develop, clearly articulate, and defend their own views on crucial issues. We look forward to a lively and deeply relevant seminar.

Richard Stacewicz holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Hollace Graff holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Composition I (CRN 31896)

EGL 101 0H1, Mon./Wed., 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Room 2735

3 credit hours

Instructor: Sylvia Stacey

Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology (CRN 31897)

ANT 202 0H1, Mon./Wed., 12:30-1:45 p.m., Room 2735

3 credit hours

Instructor: Victoria Giambrone

Note: Maximum 20 students for ANT 202.

Students this seminar will be introduced to a variety of cultures around the world, with a particular emphasis on the written analyses of cultural systems of indigenous people. Students will read and evaluate ethnographic studies of non-Western cultures and explore and write about various anthropological concepts (such as subsistence, language, kinship, and religion). The essays students produce for Composition I will be based on an analysis of course readings, personal experience, and other sources, as assigned. These essays will be developed using inductive and deductive reasoning, rhetorical modes, and other forms of organization. In addition, students will demonstrate an awareness of audience and purpose for each essay, through appropriate diction, syntax, and voice. This tandem course will focus on critical thinking, comparison, arguing a position, explaining concepts, and understanding the challenges required for writing in different disciplines.

Sylvia Stacey holds a MA in English from Loyola University, Chicago.

Victoria Giambrone holds a MA in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

HONORS COURSES

Composition I (CRN 30380)

3 credit hours

EGL 101 0H2, Tue./Thu., 12:30-1:45 p.m., Room 2735

Instructor: Madhuri Deshmukh

Whether recounting and sharing personal experiences or responding to the creative work of others, writing is a form of self-definition. In this course, we will explore the concept of “self” by reading important reflections on the topic by diverse writers. We will explore the importance of ethics, politics, culture, race, religion, and history to the making of diverse concepts of selfhood. As we read and discuss professional writers, you will be working on writing the story of your own “self” in essays about your personal experiences, observations, memories, and responses to the readings.

Madhuri Deshmukh holds a Ph.D. in English from Loyola University, Chicago.

United States History Since 1945 (CRN 31885)

3 credit hours

HIS 120 0H1, Friday, 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Room 2735

Instructor: Richard Stacewicz

The United States rose to global dominance at the end of World War II and maintained its economic, political, and cultural supremacy for the remainder of the century. During that time, the Gross Domestic Product of the nation grew from \$300,000 in 1950 to approximately \$14 trillion today. While the U.S. was expanding its political, economic, and cultural influence across the globe, movements for social, political, and economic justice also were exploding across the world. We will study how these developments impacted each other and the people of the U.S. and the rest of the world. At the same time we will study the historiography of these events. Historians do not always agree. We argue about the importance and meanings of historical events because each individual has a unique world view that shapes how we perceive the past and present. The range of interpretations about a specific topic makes up the historiography. We will spend a good deal of time exploring the underlying philosophical positions of differing interpretations of events, and how these can lead to very different conclusions.

Richard Stacewicz holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Elementary Statistics (CRN 31900)

3 credit hours

MAT 131 0H1, Mon./Wed., 8:30-10:20 a.m., Room 2735

Instructor: Jennifer Strehler

This course introduces statistics for the physical, biological, and social sciences. Topics include frequency distributions; measures of central tendency and variation; elements of probability theory; statistical inference; sampling techniques and correlation; and regression.

Prerequisite: MAT 120 with minimum grade of C or appropriate score on Mathematics Placement Test, and MAT 053 or geometry proficiency.

Jennifer Strehler holds a MS from the University of Tennessee.

World Religions (CRN 32037)

PHL 205 0H1, Tue./Thu., 2-3:15 p.m., Room 2735

3 credit hours

Instructor: Mohammed Mehdi

Every religion provides its adherents with an overarching world view. This in turn helps to develop a moral philosophy (about how we should live, what is right and wrong); a cosmology (how the world came to be and how it works); a theology (an account of the divine); and a sense of aesthetics (a set of views about what is beautiful). At different times in human history, the world views provided by various religions have proven to be either stifling or liberating for the human spirit. In this class, we will look at a number of religious traditions from various parts of the world and different historical periods. Our special interest will be in seeing how these traditions have been developed, innovated, challenged from within, and reformed in response to changing political realities. We'll also look at how these traditions allow human beings to seek freedom – not only in the individual spiritual sense, but also collectively – from prevailing systems of social and political domination, which also might be religious in nature. Rather than provide a systematic survey of major religions, we will develop the above theme by looking at only a few of the many rich traditions that have sprung up within broader religious movements. Our aim will be to look at the ways in which religious outlooks have developed in response to political and social conditions both in their inception, and in the contemporary period. In doing so, we will have occasion to look at a range of interesting themes, for example: asceticism and political action; spiritual responses to empire and exile; different approaches to transcendence; religion and artistic expression; resistance to injustice; religion and secularism; the contrast between doctrine and way of life; oral and written traditions; religious narrative and historical truth; the effect of modernity on religious belief; feminism and religious belief; religious violence; and many others.

Mohamed Mehdi holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from McGill University.

INTERDISCIPLINARY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SEMINAR

2 total credit hours

CHM 240 0H1 (CRN 31020) and BIO 240 0H1 (CRN 31019)

Monday, 12:30-1:45 p.m., Room 2222 (Lab)

Friday, 12:30-3:15 p.m., Room 1240 (Lecture)

Instructors: Science Faculty Team

Developed by members of the science faculty, the Undergraduate Research Seminar offers a hands-on approach to learning science while doing science. This is a challenging interdisciplinary course that follows guidelines for inquiry-based learning.