

Purdue University Honors Courses

UHP students will have the opportunity to enroll in interdisciplinary seminars, HONR courses, which are taught by top-notch faculty members who have been recognized for teaching excellence. Typically, five to six HONR courses will be offered during Fall and Spring Semesters.

Additionally, several schools/colleges offer honors course divisions. UHP students also may take honors course divisions in order to fulfill honors diploma requirements.

Fall Semester 2005: HONR Courses

HONR 199A "Lincoln and the Civil War Era"

Professor Robert May

Credit Hours: 3

What did Lincoln stand for, and what made him great? Have historians and the mass media glossed over flaws that he surely must have had? Do we romanticize Lincoln simply because of his emancipation proclamation and way with words? How do we reconcile our image of Lincoln as the great proponent of freedom with his own racialism and the very real constriction of civil liberties that occurred in the North during the Civil War? What precisely did he do to manage the North's war effort that justifies how history exalts him? How can we better understand our national character and past by coming to terms with Lincoln?

These are just some of the issues that this course will address.

HONR 199C "Should the History of Science be X-rated? (An Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Science)"

Professor George Bodner

Credit Hours: 3

The course will begin with an analysis of the arguments Brush raises in his *Science* paper. It will turn to a discussion of whether there is a difference between art and science in which the instructor examines evidence for more or less simultaneous changes in world view within the two fields from the 5th century B.C. to the middle of the 20th century. It will then examine several selections from the *Harvard Case Histories in Experimental Science*, to introduce students to the product of historians of science and the process by which they work. The goal of this section of the course is to help students understand the difference between what Brush calls "the context of discovery" and the "context of justification." We will then address the question: What should be the role of the philosophy of science? Should it describe the process by which scientists *could or should work*? Or should it describe the way they *do work*? In other words, should it be capable of surviving the test of being mapped onto the work of practicing scientists? The bulk of the course will involve readings from some of the philosophers of science, including Karl Popper, Imre Lakatos, Thomas Kuhn and Paul Feyerabend. Throughout the course of the semester we will digress to discuss issues such as "creation science" or "animal rights" that come up in the news.

HONR 199D "Human Genetics: New Hopes and New Dilemmas"

Professor Anna Berkovitz

Credit Hours: 2

The purpose of this course is to enable students from all disciplines to critically evaluate what they read about genetics in the popular press, to be able to distinguish scientific validity from hype and to bring attention to the ethical and moral dilemmas created by the application of these new technologies.

HONR 1990 "Politics, Race, and the Media"

Professor Rosalee A. Clawson

Credit Hours: 3

This will be an introductory course that assumes no prior knowledge of the research on race and the media. The course will be conducted as a discussion-based seminar. The discussion will be driven by course readings and occasional lectures and video clips. An interdisciplinary approach will be taken, drawing on research from across the social sciences and humanities. Students will work either individually or in groups (their choice) to conduct an original research project.

Throughout the semester, students will work on chunks of the project by completing written assignments. These assignments will culminate in a polished research paper to be presented near the end of the term. Students will do extensive reading, writing, and research for this course.

HONR 199R "Aviation Safety: Chaos and Complexity as an Exploratory Model" Professor

Denver Lopp

Credit Hours: 3

The course will take a parallel approach in studying aviation safety issues, exploring the various actions involved in conducting aviation operations and the theories of chaos and complexity as an approach in reducing error occurrences. Since this class will take on a non-traditional approach in studying new concepts of safety research, the course will allow flexibility and self-direction to be encouraged and developed during the semester. Students will have the opportunity to interact and present their findings to high level officials involved in aviation safety either by having aviation experts visiting Purdue or through a voluntary field trip to Washington DC.