

## UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2025

### **BOB DYLAN'S ART OF SELF-INVENTION**

**Thursday, 11:20 am-12:15 pm (Section 301, CRN 82068)**

**Antonio de Velasco, Communication and Film**

What does it mean to be a self in the world? Throughout his career, Dylan's music and identity have gone through multiple changes. From folk to rock, from "Robert Allen Zimmerman" to "Bob Dylan," from being bar mitzvahed in the 1950s to being re-born as a Christian in the 1980s, Dylan offers us a dynamic figure of constant reinvention. Drawing from a combination of sound recordings, videos, and written bio and autobiography, the course will ask freshman to consider Dylan's many changes in contrast to our ordinary conceptions of what it means to be an authentic, consistent "self" at all. At the core of the course is an invitation to see Dylan as a rhetoric of identity, in which the "self" is constantly rediscovering its fundamental relation to others, to truth, and to the past. Particular areas of emphasis will include key songs, poetic and musical influences on Dylan's art (from Rimbaud to Woody Guthrie), the social and political context of the 1960s, and fictional accounts of Dylan's life.

### **MEMPHIS SOUL MUSIC FROM THE 60'S**

**Wednesday, 9:10 am – 10:05 am (Section 302, CRN 82072)**

**Joel Roberts, Music Librarian Assistant Professor, University Libraries**

While soul music might not be the genre of music most frequently associated with Memphis, the music that was issued on the Stax, Hi, and Goldwax record labels is some of the best and most respected music of the genre. Alone, Stax Records is an iconic piece of Memphis music history, as well as a key component of the Memphis tourism industry. The museum is one of the more recognizable Memphis landmarks, and Stax has recently attracted new interest by way of the HBO documentary *Stax: Soulsville USA*. As a result of this film series, people who were previously unaware of the record label's history have become interested in its history and music. But Hi Records and Goldwax Records are also key examples of Southern soul music. As part of this Honors Forum section, we will learn about the history of all three of these record labels, in addition to some of the artists who issued records on them. The goal of this class is to familiarize students with artists who are mostly new to them and representative of one of Memphis's most important musical contributions.

### **SOCIAL PHOTO: THE SELF AND SOCIETY**

**Monday, 9:10-10:05 (Section 303, CRN 86960)**

**David Horan, Associate Professor of Practice, Photography**

Since the mid-19th century, photography has been shaping the way we see our culture, our society and ourselves. Yet, it has become so prolific that we often lose sight of its power to inform and transform the world around us. From the earliest documentary photographs, to portraiture, self-portraiture, to contemporary conceptual work, this course will examine and explore the photographs ability to both inform and deceive. Students will engage the photographic medium by both studying the work done by others, and by making photographs of their own that explore contemporary issues.

### **TIGERS WITHOUT BORDERS**

**Wednesday, 1:00 pm-1:55 pm (Section 304, CRN 86802)**

**William Thompson, World Languages and Literatures**

In this forum students will explore the world today through a discussion of major global events and issues, and through an examination of cultural phenomena from a variety of regions across the planet. The course encourages students to discover new aspects of their world and to become more engaged global citizens. Each week we will find out what is going on in the world and focus on unique cultural

## UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2025

practices, with students encouraged to explore topics that they find personally relevant.

### **PUZZLES, GAMES, AND REASONING**

**Thursday, 2:40 pm – 3:35 pm (Section 306, CRN 89943)**

**William Alexander, Chemistry**

This Honors Forum invites students to investigate connections between mathematical ideas and concepts, logical frameworks and reasoning, and the structures and patterns found in games and puzzles. We will examine the concepts of proof, evidence, truth, and theory in various disciplinary contexts to build a foundation for inquiry. Through analysis of the most popular portals for wide access to puzzles, such as the New York Times (US), the Guardian (UK), LogicMastersDeutschland (Germany), Logic Masters India, and nikoli (Japan), learners will investigate why particular puzzles rise to prominence in different cultures and historical backgrounds. With a particular focus on the Crossword (American vs. Cryptic), Sudoku, and Wordle, as well as various logic and pencil puzzle genres popular worldwide, learners will come discover the intricate logical structures in these puzzle games. While the classic Sudoku logic puzzle tasks solvers with the simple task of placing digits into a grid while obeying certain other rules, such as not repeating a digit within a row or column. In this course we will explore the expanding world of modern "variant" sudoku puzzles which expand the potential rulesets and logic that can be embedded into the grid. The central focus of this course is on students creating their own puzzles in a variety of genres, eventually creating puzzles with rules they make up themselves. No previous puzzle solving experience is necessary.

### **ACTING TRADECRAFT FOR PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING**

**Wednesday, 10:20 am-11:15 am (Section 305, CRN 89944)**

**Gregory Boller, Marketing**

Elevate your professional speaking skills with the artistry and skill of an actor. Drawing from the world of theatre and film, we will work on voicing, movement, expressions and gestures, staging, characterization, audience engagement, and empathy. Learn how to turn your public speaking opportunities into vibrant, memorable performances through the art of enacted storytelling. Designed for those without previous acting experience and all majors are enthusiastically welcome.

### **THE CASE AGAINST SUGAR**

**Thursday, 2:40 pm - 3:35 pm (Section 307, CRN 91504)**

**Jeffrey Berman, Psychology**

This course uses the book by Gary Taubes, *The Case Against Sugar*, as a means of exploring the social context of scientific knowledge and its interplay with medicine, public health policy, political pressures, and commercial interests. In addition to reading and discussing the book, students will read critical reaction to it and the author's responses. Emphasis is placed on viewing the account of research on sugar as an example of potential social pressures and biases that can occur in any area of scientific inquiry.

### **SURVIVAL**

**Monday, 10:20 am – 11:15 am (Section 308, CRN 89946)**

**Ryan Parish, Earth Sciences**

Survival is a class that will showcase the adaptability of the human mind, body and spirit in situations that might be scary because in them we are deprived of the modern-day comforts that our culture affords. Survivalist skills such as constructing shelter, making fire, finding and accessing potable water, acquiring food, land navigation, first aid, and "street smarts" are skills taught through hands on

## UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2025

activities. Do you have a phobia of bugs, the outdoors, downtown Memphis? The course is designed to teach you some skills and an appreciation for environments and situations outside of your day-to-day life. The greatest human adaptation is our mind, will and spirit to thrive in some of the harshest conditions and situations. This class is geared to the study of us embracing these moments.

### **A TICKET TO FRANCE: FRENCH CULTURE THROUGH ITS MONUMENTS**

**Monday, 12:40 pm – 1:40 pm (Section 309, CRN 89947)**

**Denis D Gr  l  , World Languages and Literatures**

France is one of the most visited countries in the world. Tourists go see Notre Dame; they stop by the Louvre to see the *Mona Lisa* (which the French call *La Joconde*); they get their picture taken on the esplanade of the Trocadero with the Eiffel tower in the background. If they have time, they may spend a day in the Loire Valley to see all the fairy tale castles. But do these monuments appeal to people of diverse cultures? Why do so many people feel the need to go see those places? Are they some sort of archetype? And what do those monuments mean to the French? Every week, we will look at one monument and explore its history, construction, and significance. We will explore how those monuments, beyond their beauty, speak to us. They are testaments to the history of one of the most contested regions of the world but also symbols (and not only for the French).

Most class sessions will have two parts: a) a presentation of the monument with its history and architecture b) a discussion focusing on the significance of the monument presented for the French and what they might mean to other visitors. You will also be encouraged to investigate other French monuments that are not presented in this course but that are personally relevant to you.

### **WICKED WOMEN, WITCHES, & MONSTERS – ANCIENT & MODERN**

**Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 310, CRN 89948)**

**Chrystal Goudsouzian, History**

Wicked women, witches, and female monsters abound in ancient Greek myth. These women and feminine creatures were sinister, dangerous, and unnatural. Their plights and punishments served as cautionary tales for women in the ancient Mediterranean, pushing them to comply and conform to societal norms. This class seeks to explore these ancient, wicked women and monsters and use them as a lens to discuss and understand negative perceptions of women in our society today. Our readings will include ancient Greek myths along with modern mythic retellings and short essays from prominent feminist novelists and writers. Our ancient, monstrous characters will teach us how to better see ourselves and, perhaps, to find power in the past. For students who are interested in the topic, you can also register for the companion Honors general education history course, HIST 1110: Women, Gender, and Family in the Ancient World. HIST 1110 will meet MWF at 10:20am in Mitchell Hall 223, Prof. C. Goudsouzian.

### **GHOSTS AND HAUNTINGS**

**Tuesday, 11:20 am – 12:15 pm (Section 311, CRN 89949)**

**Ted Maclin, Anthropology**

Ghosts are culturally universal. They haunt our houses, our fields, our parks, and our dreams. Anthropologists studying hauntings have found repeating patterns as well as unique threads. In this course we will explore ghosts, ghost stories, and hauntings from an anthropological perspective. We will focus on the ways that stories (including ghost stories) shape our lives, the effects of hauntings on people's wellbeing, and the ways that ghosts are accepted and rejected culturally. Readings, podcasts,

## **UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2025**

and videos will draw from anthropology, philosophy, popular culture, and current events. Along the way we will look for traces of hauntings in our own communities, our technology, and ourselves.

### **GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**Tuesday, 2:40 pm – 3:35 pm (Section 312, CRN 91511)**

**Ryan Crews, Kemmons Wilson School of Hospitality**

This course will explore the science of happiness and how it can be applied to the workplace and to individual careers. We will learn about the factors that contribute to happiness at work, such as job satisfaction, relationships with coworkers, and work-life balance. We will also explore ways of finding our purpose in work and translating that into career exploration. Together we will discover and apply strategies for increasing our own happiness at work and in life, as well as how to have a more impact on others.

### **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEMPHIS**

**Thursday, 11:20 am – 12:15 pm (Section 313, CRN 89951)**

**Deborah Thompson, Hospitality & Resort Management**

For newcomers and native Memphians alike, this course provides all the destination knowledge you'll need to know if you want to deliver Authentic Memphis Hospitality like a pro. Explore iconic Memphis attractions and history, discover neighborhood-based amenities, and learn all the ways you can have fun when you're visiting Memphis! Along the way, you'll develop your own list of personal recommendations and Memphis facts to impress your guests. For this honors forum, students will study the First Impressions and Insiders Recommend training series developed by Welcome to Memphis for hospitality industry professionals.

### **EARTHQUAKES IN HOLLYWOOD**

**Thursday, 2:40 pm – 3:35 pm (Section 314, CRN 89952)**

**Thomas Goebel, Center for Earthquake Research and Information**

This Honors Forum will focus on plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes and how science is depicted in disaster movies. Disaster movies have a long tradition in Hollywood filmmaking; and although special effects significantly improved much of the science remains flawed even in present day films. You will learn to critically evaluate movies in light of basic scientific theory. For instance, we will discuss the mechanisms that lead to the formation of ocean tsunamis and contrast these with the depicted tsunami in the film "San Andreas (2015)". Other films that will be discussed are "Earthquake (1974)", "Volcano (1997)", "The Core (2003);, and "2012 (2009)".

### **STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN THE HERFF COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING**

**Friday, 9:10 am – 10:05 am (Section 315, CRN 89953)**

**Isaiah Surbrook and Betsy Loe, Herff College of Engineering**

Becoming a successful engineering student is something every student should strive for in the Herff College of Engineering. The goal of this forum is to empower students with the skills needed to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom. We will review study strategies, test taking strategies, and note taking tactics to help you become a better student. We will look at career assessment tools, personality types, leadership styles, and conflict management skills in an effort to prepare you for life after graduation. In addition, we will encourage you to "be your own brand" by exploring personal values, interests, and skills while reviewing comprehensive career development tools in order to help you make informed career decisions and find post-graduation success.

## UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2025

### BEING A FAN OF DISNEY

**Wednesday, 11:30 am –12:25 pm (Section 316, 89954)**

**Cody Havard, Sport & Leisure Commerce**

In this forum, we will discuss what it means to be a fan of the Walt Disney brand. Discussions will focus on the history, technology, and innovation of Walt Disney and the Walt Disney Organization, and how the global brand fits into contemporary society.

### AI AND BIG DATA IN CANCER BIOLOGY

**Wednesday, 10:20 am –11:15am (Section 317, 93994)**

**Yongmei Wang, Chemistry**

Course Description: This honor's forum will explore how artificial intelligence (AI) and big data revolutionize cancer research and treatment. Designed for freshmen interested in biology, biochemistry, medicine, or medical technology, the course introduces fundamental concepts in cancer biology, next-generation sequencing, and the analysis of publicly available genomic and transcriptomic data for independent research in cancer biology. No prior programming or advanced biology knowledge is required —just curiosity and a willingness to explore how data-driven approaches are transforming and shaping the future of cancer treatment.

### DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS: AN ACADEMIC ADVENTURE

**Wednesday 12:40 pm – 1:35 pm (Section 322, CRN 93987)**

**Will Robertson, Anthropology**

(Experience with roleplaying games is not a requirement for the course.) The table-top roleplaying game *Dungeons & Dragons* (D&D) has recently surged in popularity and is increasingly becoming an object of academic interest. D&D involves a group of people engaging in cooperative storytelling guided by the luck of rolling dice to shape the direction and outcome of player actions, sometimes moving the story in surprising directions. While D&D is a lot of fun to play, it's also an excellent opportunity for thinking about and studying human relationships and social structures. In this course, we will use D&D as a tool for exploring several topics of interest in the social sciences and humanities by considering D&D as both a producer and product of culture and using it to consider what it means to be human.

### FOOD CULTURE AND ITALIAN IDENTITY

**Wednesday, 2:20 pm – 3:15 pm (Section 323, CRN 89961)**

**Cosetta Gaudenzi, World Languages and Literatures**

How did spaghetti and meatballs become the symbol of Italian cuisine in the United States? Is it true that pasta was not invented in Italy? How did a cookbook contribute to the creation of Italian national identity? Could abolishing *pastasciutta* make Italians more optimistic?

The production and consumption of food shapes our world, our culture, and ultimately our identities. Images of food and dinner tables pervade Italian art and literature, celebrating pleasures or projecting desires, passing on traditions or stirring revolutions. In this course we will examine how eating and cooking habits intersect with material and cultural changes in Italy at various times, ranging from the Middle Ages to the present. We will investigate how issues of personal, regional, and national identity are shaped and expressed by food habits. The basis for class discussion and for writing assignments will be provided by fictional and non-fictional writings, including recipes; by documentary films and commercial movies; and by television shows and advertisements.

## UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2025

### **FANTASY FOOTBALL: PREDICTIONS, PROJECTIONS AND PIGSKIN PROBABILITIES**

**Tuesday, 1:00 pm – 1:55 pm (Section 325, CRN 89963)**

**Tim Ryan, Sports and Leisure Commerce**

In this forum, we will see how managing a fantasy football team is a unique way to understand various strategic decision-making concepts, including basic types of research and statistical tools. This class welcomes both experienced players and those who have never played fantasy football as information is shared about the fantasy sports and gaming industry, an industry with over 60 million participants, including an estimated 12 million women.

### **AGRICULTURE IN THE MID-SOUTH AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER CORRIDOR**

**Monday, 2:20 pm – 3:45 pm (Section 328, CRN 92043)**

**Leah Windsor, Institute for Intelligent Systems**

The goal of this class is to explore the history, current status, and future prospects for renewable, regenerative agriculture in the Mid-South (TN-AR-MS-KY-MO) and Mississippi River corridor. This interdisciplinary course will cover issues of soil health, regenerative practices like cover cropping and no-till, biobased products, workforce development, the Farm Bill, water and resource management, and farmer perspectives on challenges and opportunities given a rapidly changing seasonal environment. Students will hear from local, regional, national, and international experts in the field of renewable, regenerative, and sustainable agriculture to gain a perspective on the issues that farmers, growers, and ranchers face at these different levels. This class will offer interdisciplinary perspectives across the physical and social sciences, business, engineering, and humanities including the fields of Biology, Earth Sciences, Chemistry, English, Anthropology, Supply Chain Management, Marketing, Public Health, Urban Affairs and Public Policy, and many others.

### **IT'S ALL GREEK (AND LATIN) TO ME!**

**Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section 339, CRN 93993)**

**Rita Pasqui, World Languages and Literatures**

Why is hamburger called *hamburger* if there is no ham in it? Why do we call one trillion bytes a *TERAbyte*? What features does a *leiotrichous* person have? Through this course, you will learn how to “break the secret code” to understand the meaning of “difficult” words in computer science, business, medicine, education, law, music, art history, psychology, and other subjects.

You will expand your knowledge of English words and word families, especially those derived from Latin and Greek, two languages that make up 60% of the English vocabulary. You will be able to guess the meanings of unknown English words by examining prefixes, stems, and suffixes from Greek and Latin, and you will understand the ways in which words and their history shape our perception of the world.

Through games and quizzes simulating Jeopardy and Who Wants to be a Millionaire, students’ teams will engage in spelling and meaning competitions.

Finally, are you curious to know what the Greek letters of some sororities or fraternities, such as Phi Beta Kappa, stand for? Would you like to learn how to write and read some Greek words or want to create your own Latin motto?



## UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2025

If you like words and are curious about them, this course is for you: it will help you to ace your English vocabulary tests for your academic career and for your advanced college studies.

### **WHAT MATTERS ON THE THIRD ROCK FROM THE SUN?**

**TBA (Section 345, CRN 89955)**

**Gary Stinchcomb, Earth Sciences**

In this forum, we will discuss how the study of the properties and behavior of matter has transformed our understanding of planet Earth. We will focus on topics that often garner attention in the popular press. Students will learn the very basics of geochemistry in an approachable way and discuss topics ranging from how we determined the age of the Earth, discovered a large asteroid the size of Manhattan hit Earth, observed atmospheric and climate change over millions of years, and documented how the Industrial Revolution led to widespread pollution of Earth's soil. Class meetings will also be used to introduce students to X-ray safety training and experiential learning using the portable-X-ray Spectrometer and X-ray Diffractometer instruments housed in Earth Sciences and Physics.

### **\*\*ADDITIONAL FORUMS THROUGH TIGER LEARNING COMMUNITIES (TLC)\*\***

**Learning communities consist of 2+ courses linked together by a common theme.** We have 4 honors specific learning communities in which a student can receive honors credit while learning in a collaborative, cohort environment. A student must be enrolled in all the community courses to take these UNHP 1100 sections. Please speak with your Academic Advisor if you're interested in a TLC.

### **THE VAMPIRE IN LITERATURE, FILM AND CULTURE (4 honors credits total)**

**Wednesday, 11:30 am – 12:25 pm (Section C01, CRN 92490)**

**Ana Gal, English**

The vampire has fascinated humanity for centuries, and today in particular, it is more prevalent than ever. From the best-selling *Twilight* books and films, to the popular television shows *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *True Blood*, and *The Vampire Diaries*, to the multitude of graphic novels, video games, and short stories, this mythical monster seems almost impossible to avoid. This course seeks to answer the following questions: How can we account for the continuous hold that the vampire has had on popular culture since the nineteenth century? What permutations has the vampire taken over the years, and what can it teach us about our society, ourselves, and about being human? This section of UNHP explores the ways in which various authors and filmmakers have used the figure of the vampire to examine and critique the social, political, and ideological practices that have shaped (and continue to shape) human identity, both individual and collective. (Paired with PHIL 1102 Intro to Ethics Honors)

### **FOR THE LOVE OF NURSING (4 honors credits total)**

**Thursday, 1:00 pm – 1:55 pm (Section C03, CRN 92500)**

**Vanessa Brocks, Academic Advising Center**

Learn what it takes to be admitted to the nursing program and the skills needed to be successful in the nursing profession. (Paired with MATH 1530: Elem Statistics, COMM 2381: Oral Communication Honors, BIOL 2010/2011: Anatomy/Physiology I with Lab)

### **INVISIBLE STRINGS: EXPLORING THE SCHOLARLY CONVERSATION THROUGH TAYLOR SWIFT**

**Wednesday, 10:20 am – 11:15 am (Section C04, CRN 89948)**

**Ashley Roach Freiman, University Libraries**

## **UNHP 1100 HONORS FORUM TOPICS - FALL 2025**

American pop star and global sensation Taylor Swift is often the center of conversation in the media, for better or for worse. But did you know that she is a source of research and scholarship as well? Throughout this course, we will be reading scholarly articles and having conversations about Taylor, her music, and her role in both the music industry and culture at large while analyzing the scholarly conversations about and connections to her in academia. Students in this course will explore Swift through readings and feisty, thoughtful discussions about songwriting, feminism, fame, social media, reputation, allyship, appropriation, whiteness, and pop culture.