Honors seminars are all published in the Schedule of Classes under IDSC. Honors seminars all have a course number of IDSC 480. The word “Honors” or an abbreviation of honors, such as “HONR,” is at the beginning of the course title.

Please contact Erica Berglund at berg7582@stthomas.edu if you have any questions.

---

**Fall 2015**

**IDSC 480-1 (CRN 42672) – Honors Exploring Tibet**
Fall 2015 – T 1:30-3:10 PM  
Location: MHC 211  
Faculty: Jonathan Stoltz (Philosophy)

**NOTE:** This seminar DOES NOT appear in Class Finder as registration for a one-professor seminar is controlled by the faculty member. Please contact Jonathan Stoltz (jestoltz@stthomas.edu, 651-962-5366) directly if you would like to be enrolled in this seminar.

Tibet – the land of snows, the rooftop of the world – is seen by many as a fascinating but mysterious land. This course seeks to demystify Tibet by helping students understand some of the features that make Tibet such an enigmatic place. In particular, this seminar will explore three different (but interconnected) topics:

1. The History and Politics of Tibet  
2. Tibetan Buddhism  
3. The Tibetan People

As is evident from these three areas of focus, this course will examine Tibet and Tibetans from a variety of different disciplinary perspectives – principally: historical, religious, and anthropological.

---

**IDSC 480-2 (CRN 42673) – Honors Judicial Review**
Fall 2015 – T 9:55-11:35 AM  
Location: MHC 211  
Faculty: Kenneth Kemp (Philosophy) and Marguerite Spencer (Theology)

How does the Supreme Court decide cases? Journalists sometimes discuss court decisions in a way that makes the judicial process look like just another forum for political reasoning. In fact, the Supreme Court uses a number of concepts, principles, and forms of argument specific to legal reasoning in general and to judicial review of laws in particular. This seminar will provide students with a citizen’s introduction to several such principles, including the existence of judicial review, the political questions doctrine, the two contrasting theories of constitutional interpretation (textualism and living-constitutionalism), stare decisis, unenumerated rights (e.g., the right to privacy), judicial restraint, and incorporation (how our federal rights became state rights as well). Students will explore a selection of the most important cases in U.S. legal history, from Marbury v. Madison (judicial competence to declare duly passed legislation unconstitutional) to District of Columbia v. Heller (gun ownership as an individual right), as well as passages from law review articles and other commentaries. In so doing, students will be better prepared to scrutinize the process of judicial review employed by the Supreme Court as significant issues continue to unfold in our society.

---

**IDSC 480-3 (CRN 42675) – Honors Sonic Scripts**
Fall 2015 – R 3:25-5:00 PM  
Location: BEC LL07  
Faculty: Shersten Johnson (Undergraduate Music) and James Snapko (English)

Even in the earliest silent forms of cinema, music has been an integral part in connecting to an audience and telling a story. The purpose of this seminar is to shed light on these interconnected art forms by introducing students to the practical theories and creation of each discipline. What better way to understand the inextricable bond music and film have than to actually make both? The film industry standard these days is to use music as an afterthought. But this course will operate in reverse. We will use music as a basis of narrative filmmaking; the music students
create will become the sonic script of the films they will produce. Students will begin the course with a formal study of music theory and hands-on instruction of filmmaking practices. Students will make music and make movies based on the music they create. Part of this course involves using industry standard software and we will spend time learning software programs that allow students to create music for film and editing software to assemble the films. Students will also have the opportunity to learn basic filmmaking techniques with digital video cameras. Students need not have any formal training in music or filmmaking to participate and succeed in this seminar. By the end of the semester, students will be composers and filmmakers.

IDSC 480-5 (CRN 42676) – Honors Excursions in Math & Creative Art
Fall 2015 – M 3:25-5:00 PM Location: OSS 122
Faculty: Chris Kachian (Undergraduate Music) and Chehrzad Shakiban (Mathematics)

The laws of nature, which govern the infinite variety of phenomena, obey the principles of mathematics and literally permeate the entire world around us. The applications of mathematics can be traced down through the entire history of human endeavors. Mathematics has its origin in the creative arts and has widely been used by all the sciences, engineering, architecture, painting and sculpture, poetry and music. The purpose of this seminar is to explore the connections between mathematics and the creative art through symmetry, geometry, harmony and structural designs. The course will use simple, non-technical mathematical language and is designed for all the students with some understanding of mathematics. The students will have to grasp some mathematical ideas and apply them to artistic and creative concepts.

IDSC 480-9 (CRN 42678) – Honors Citizenship, Society, & the Law in the Civil War Era
Fall 2015 – R 1:30-3:10 PM Location: MHC 211
Faculty: Kathleen Winters (Political Science) and David Williard (History)

The Civil War, the emancipation of the slaves, the passage of three major constitutional amendments, and the process of reconstructing the United States gave rise to many of the most influential Supreme Court decisions in American history. Due to disciplinary boundaries and research methods, however, this era is rarely explored as an integration of legal change and social context. This course proposes to change that by blending historical and legal methodologies to examine this pivotal period in the development of citizenship in the United States. Using a flipped classroom model that emphasizes discussion and student research, this course will create an interdisciplinary platform for students to participate in a problem-based examination of major Supreme Court cases pertinent to citizenship between 1855 and 1896.

IDSC 480-11 (CRN 42679) – Honors For God & Country
Fall 2015 – M 3:25-5:00 PM Location: JRC 247
Faculty: Steven Hoffman (Political Science)

NOTE: This seminar DOES NOT appear in Class Finder as registration for a one-professor seminar is controlled by the faculty member. Please contact Steven Hoffman (smhoffman@stthomas.edu, 651-962-5723) directly if you would like to be enrolled in this seminar.

Until recently, it was thought that the 21st century would be witness to the disappearance of a nationalism based upon traditional forms of personal identity such as tribe, clan, and ethnicity. Yet, as evidenced in places as far apart as Ukraine, Palestine, and Quebec, the idea of belonging to and being defined by a particular nation remains a core part of personal identity. This course will examine why nationalism persists in a world of instant communications and social media and how is continues to shape a great number of the world’s conflicts.

IDSC 480-12 (CRN 42715) – Honors Sports & Society
Fall 2015 – R 9:55-11:35 AM Location: MHC 211
Faculty: Steven Laumakis (Philosophy) and Ted Riverso (former U of M women’s basketball coach)

The primary purpose of this seminar is to examine the positive and negative educational, social, psychological, physical, and financial effects of athletic participation for both the athlete and society in general.