

AQUINAS SCHOLARS
Honors Seminars
Spring 2018

Date: January 24, 2018

Note: All seminars are two credits.

Honors seminars are all published in the Schedule of Classes under HONR. Honors seminars all have a course number of HONR 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.

Spring 2018

HONR 480-01 (CRN 22260) – Honors The Vices

Spring 2018 – T 9:55 AM - 11:35 AM Location: OEC 313

Faculty: Bernard Brady (Theology) and Stephen Laumakis (Philosophy)

This seminar will investigate both classical and contemporary accounts of the dispositions and sins commonly referred to as "vices." The seminar will begin by comparing and contrasting philosophical (i.e., Plato and Aristotle) and theological conceptions (i.e., from Scripture and tradition) of virtue and vice, and then focus on Aquinas' conception of each. A second element of the seminar will involve comparing Thomas' medieval conception of vice with the notion of vice found in contemporary culture. Finally, students will critically analyze the adequacy of Aquinas' conception of vice in the light of general views of morality in American life and culture.

HONR 480-02 (CRN 22261) – Honors Perceptions of Waiting

Spring 2018 – W 1:35 PM - 3:10 PM Location: OEC 313

Faculty: Kevin Henderson (Management) and Aaron Sackett (Marketing)

How did you feel the last time you got stuck waiting in a line? From Starbucks to Disneyland, companies obsess over how long their customers have to wait in line. Or, more importantly, how they react to waiting. Toward this end, companies invest substantial resources to improve how (and how long) their customers must wait for service.

This course examines consumer attitudes and behaviors towards waiting in a service system. It explores the factors affecting customers' perceptions of the waiting/queuing experience and how different types of queuing systems invoke different psychological responses.

HONR 480-L03 (CRN 22262) – Community Leadership in St. Paul

Spring 2018 – W 3:15 PM - 4:55 PM Location: JRC 222

Faculty: Michael Klein (Justice & Peace Studies) and Damon Shoholm (Amherst H. Wilder Foundation)

Community Leadership in St. Paul is an experiential investigation of grassroots leadership in diverse local neighborhoods, including: West Side, Rondo, East Side, Merriam/Union Park, North End, Frogtown, and Midway. The City of Saint Paul is often described as seventeen small towns, identified by its district councils that work alongside neighborhood development corporations, nonprofits, and cultural institutions. The city's rich diversity, cultural heritage, conflicted histories, and future plans of will be examined through film, readings, field trips, and guest speakers. Students will also engage in an ethnographic field experience, guided by the Minnesota Historical Society, to document a community

leadership event/meeting. The seminar will culminate in a leadership profile, highlighting an example of St. Paul community-based leadership in a person or organization. The profile will be presented to participants of the Wilder Foundation's Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP). The seminar will have a particular focus on the development of the Minnesota United Soccer Stadium as a neighborhood development with significant impact on our local area.

HONR 480-L04 (CRN 22263) – Honors Modern Perspectives on Ancient Roman Politics

Spring 2018 – R 1:30 PM - 3:10 PM

Location: JRC 481

Faculty: Steven Maloney (Political Science) and Ivancica Schrunk (History)

History and political science both find their inspiration in the rise and fall of Roman political systems. Tumultuous processes of change from village communities to a monarchic city-state, to a Republic, and to an Empire were recorded in the writings of historians and politicians: Polybius, Livy, Cicero and Tacitus, and in the political education of poets and monuments. Some 2,200 years later, the tools of history and political science have sharpened considerably to the point where not only have we developed a different understanding of ourselves in our time, but modern historians and political scientists also have a different view of what was happening in Ancient Rome.

In this course, students and faculty will use cutting edge interdisciplinary tools to reexamine politics and societies in the three periods of the Ancient Roman world. The students will read, write and discuss selected modern and classical texts in the context of archaeological data, political theories and the latest historical scholarship.

HONR 480-L05 (CRN 22264) – Honors Talking Suitcases: Making Art & Writing About the Things We Carry

Spring 2018 – T 3:25 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: OEC 210

Faculty: Amy Muse (English) and Susan Armington (Community Artist)

If you had to leave your home forever and could take only one suitcase to carry what is most precious to you in this life, what would you pack in it? And what stories would the items in this suitcase tell about you and your life? *Talking Suitcases* is a social art project designed by Susan Armington to explore questions in our lives and to bring visibility and voice to all through art-making and sharing personal stories. We will read theories on social art—art as social practice, in which art-making leads to personal reflection and engagement in the world—and each student will design, make, and present his or her own Talking Suitcase and will create an exhibition catalogue portfolio of writing about it. This seminar will be a designated community-engagement course; students will learn how to create art and share it with a group, serving as assistants in leading a Talking Suitcases workshop at the East Side Freedom Library.

HONR 480-L06 (CRN 22269) – Honors Music, Science and the Cosmos in the Age of Galileo, Kepler and Descartes

Spring 2018 – R 3:25 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: BEC LL07

Faculty: Peter Distelzweig (Philosophy) and Chris Kachian (Undergraduate Music)

There is geometry in the humming of the strings, there is music in the spacing of the spheres.
Pythagoras

In this course, you will study the connectedness of music with the so-called "Scientific Revolution" of the 17th and 18th Centuries. During this time modern science took shape *and* took center stage, profoundly transforming views of our world and ourselves—from the commoner to the courts. In music, this time is known as the Baroque Era. Composers such as Vivaldi, Pachelbel, Bach, and Händel defined the post-Renaissance thrust toward modernity. Anything to do with the "math of music" (tuning systems,

instrument design, compositional form) was viewed from both the rational and the fantastical. It was perhaps the last time "magic" and spirituality were discussed in equilibrium in the sciences and music.

The professors will introduce and model this inquiry in the first 8 weeks of the course, relating music and the philosophical transformations of the Scientific Revolution. During this time, you will choose a topic and plan your own studies of this period through a prospectus discussed in and evaluated by the class. Thereafter, you will individually investigate the topic you chose, culminating in a paper you present to the class. This presentation should teach your peers, and include clips of representative music contextualized within a pertinent scientific and philosophical event.

**HONR 480-07 (CRN 22589) – Honors Latin American Social Movements: Contemporary
Engagement Through Artistic Representations**

Spring 2018 – W 1:35 PM - 3:10 PM

Location: BEC 108

Faculty: Amy Finnegan (Justice & Peace Studies) and Sonia Rey-Montejo (Modern & Classical Languages)

Societies around the world are shaped by a politically diverse array of social movements that seek to challenge the status quo and address social problems. Latin America is a region especially rich with citizen collective action towards creating democratic societies, addressing gender inequities, upholding indigenous rights, and addressing climate change and environmental destruction. In most social change efforts, the arts – music, literature, and theatre among other genres – play a critical role in motivating participation, in raising consciousness, and in inspiring action for social change. This course focuses on this nexus of social movements in Latin America and the contributions of artistic influences. Through developing a sociological perspective on social movements, studying the cultural and historical context of Latin America, engaging local forms of artistic representation, and engaging in critical dialogue about the role of American millennials in social change, students will gain an appreciation for how art is vital to social change in Latin America and beyond.
