

**AQUINAS SCHOLARS**  
**Honors Seminars**  
**Summer 2019**

**Date:** Updated May 29, 2019

**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](mailto:berg7582@stthomas.edu) if you have any questions.

**Summer 2019 - 1st Session**

**HONR 480-01 (CRN 30182) - Honors Biomimetics: From Biology to Technology**

Summer 2019 - TR 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM      Location: JRC-484 OSS 127

1st Summer Session - 5/29/19-7/11/19

Faculty: Katherine Acton (Engineering) and Sarah Heimovics (Biology)

New technology can be inspired by biological systems. Engineers and designers have looked to nature for inspiration since at least 3000 years ago when artificial silk was developed in China. In modern times, engineers copied the beak shape of a kingfisher to create a bullet train that is shaped to minimize air resistance. The evolution of human technology has been compared to the natural evolutionary processes that shape many biological systems. Much can be learned from nature's solutions to complex problems; this field is sometimes called "Biomimetics." This course will present foundational information in Biomimetics, with a focus on case studies. Students will develop projects that review current state of the art in topics of their choice. Students will also have the opportunity to develop creative solutions to engineering problems based on biologically inspired design.

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**HONR 480-02 (CRN 30183) - Honors Dissecting the War on Drugs**

Summer 2019 - TR 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM      Location: JRC 481

1st Summer Session - 5/29/19-7/11/19

Faculty: Jessica Hodge (Sociology and Criminal Justice) and Jessica Siegel (Neuroscience)

For almost 50 years, the United States has officially been fighting the War on Drugs. The War on Drugs is being fought across the country by law enforcement, politicians, scientists, and public health professionals. Although this war has been in place for nearly five decades, the country is no closer to ending the War on Drugs or achieving the goals of this war.

This course will be offered by a criminologist and a neuroscientist. We will examine the War on Drugs through a historical and contemporary lens. We will first examine how drugs affect the brain and behavior, and explore the science behind drug use and abuse. We will explore the history of the War on Drugs by examining the politics surrounding its inception, how specific drugs have been targeted throughout the years, and how both drug sellers and users have been managed within the criminal justice system and treated by society. We will also explore contemporary issues such the effects of mass incarceration on various communities, the movement towards the legalization of marijuana, and the changing political and legal attitudes toward the War on Drugs with the changing political administrations.

Students will not be expected to be trained in either criminology or neuroscience; this course will be presented in way that motivated and inquisitive students, even if not familiar with neuroscience or the criminal justice system, will be able to understand and engage in the material. Our goal is not for students to become knowledge experts in the fields of criminology and neuroscience, but for students to be critical

thinkers of the complexities surrounding the topic. More specifically, students will leave this course with the ability to dissect information related to the War on Drugs.

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### Summer 2019 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Session

#### HONR 480-03 (CRN 30184) - Honors Minnesota Grown: Food Movements and Literature

Summer 2019 - TR 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Location: JRC 481

2nd Summer Session - 7/15/19-8/22/19

Faculty: Olga Herrera (English)

**NOTE:** Students will NOT be able to register themselves for this seminar, as registration for a one-professor seminar is controlled by the faculty member. Please contact Olga Herrera ([herr0480@stthomas.edu](mailto:herr0480@stthomas.edu), 651-962-2613) for authorization to enroll in this seminar.

If you get hungry on campus, you probably head over to Scooters or T's, right? You don't really have to think about where that food comes from. Why should it matter whether that food is grown locally or shipped from a great distance? Whether it's organically grown, or if they're using chemicals to grow it? As consumers, we exercise great power to affect our environments by making choices about our food, and eating locally means that we may not only be eating better, but helping our community become a better place to live. In this seminar, we will take a close look at the Twin Cities food scene and discuss ways that various food movements – local, organic, urban farming, social justice – have taken root here, shaped our food options, mobilized communities, and combined to give us delicious and healthy meals. We will read excerpts from fiction, nonfiction, journalism, and cookbooks to see how people tell their stories about food and its importance; readings will include the full novel *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradel and excerpts from *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver, *Original Local: Indigenous Food, Stories, and Recipes from the Upper Midwest* by Heid E. Erdrich, and others. And we will venture out into the field to see real-world examples of how local activists, businesses, nonprofits, and restaurants are participating in these movements to eat better and make a difference; these may include Gandhi Mahal, Tiny Diner, Peace Coffee, Seward Co-op, Brightside Produce, and the Midtown Farmers Market.

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