

**AQUINAS SCHOLARS
Honors Seminars
Spring 2020**

Date: February 14, 2020

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 2020

HONR 480-01 (CRN 21275) - Honors Art for Social Justice

Spring 2020 - W 3:25 PM - 5:00 PM Location: MHC 211

Faculty: Michael Klein (Justice & Peace Studies)

NOTE: This seminar will NOT appear in Class Finder because registration for a one-professor seminar is controlled by the faculty member. Please contact Michael Klein directly (mcklein@stthomas.edu) if you would like to be enrolled in this seminar.

Students will explore the intersections of art and social justice with a focus on visual arts in the Twin Cities. Topics of study will include: community-based murals and public art, protest art, expression and censorship, representation and appropriation, issues of art access and accessibility, social movement theory, aesthetic theory, and the Twin Cities as a unique space for social practice art. Theoretical readings will be complemented by auto/biographies of artists, art manifestos, films, guest speakers, and tours of artist studios and community murals in Minneapolis and St. Paul public art. We will meet and interact with artists and explore big ideas and practical implications of art for social justice. We will also create art, in personal journals, and in a public art installation on campus.

HONR 480-02 (CRN 21276) - Honors Vices

Spring 2020 - R 9:55 AM - 11:35 AM Location: SCB 325

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

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 480-03 (CRN 21277) - Honors Memory and the Law

Spring 2020 - R 5:30 PM - 7:15 PM Location: JRC LL45

Faculty: David Bateson (former Dean of Students, St. Thomas School of Law)
and Greg Robinson-Riegler (Psychology)

"Memory" has always been important in courts of law. Verdicts in many criminal and civil cases hinge in great part on witnesses' ability to recount the events surrounding the alleged offense or breach of duty. Over the past 20 years, overwhelming evidence supports the characterization of memory as *reconstructive, not reproductive*. Memory can be fragile - it is not like a videocamera, recording all

events in detail for later “playback.” On the contrary, it is more like a storyteller – recounting “tales” as well as memory will allow. This course will examine the impact of memory in the legal system. We will consider whether the law, the rules of evidence and trial procedure adequately account for the recent developments in memory research and what changes, if any, should be considered.

HONR 480-04 (CRN 22561) – Honors The Economics Behind *The West Wing*

Spring 2020 – R 9:55 AM - 11:35 AM

Location: BEC 113

Faculty: Tyler Schipper (Economics)

NOTE: This seminar will NOT appear in Class Finder because registration for a one-professor seminar is controlled by the faculty member. Please contact Tyler Schipper directly (tyler.schipper@stthomas.edu) if you would like to be enrolled in this seminar.

The TV show *The West Wing* continues to have a devoted following, despite last airing over 10 years ago. Undoubtedly, this lasting popularity is driven by the political and economic themes that created such effective drama and that have clear links to the most pressing issues today. In this course, we will use *The West Wing* as our guide to explore political issues with economic foundations. Topics will be as diverse as how to save Social Security and whether the U.S. should maintain its “One China” policy. Each issue will be deconstructed from an economics perspective, but ultimately it will be up to you to debate, analyze, and solve our most intractable problems. Never heard of *The West Wing*? No problem! All you need is a willingness to share your ideas, back them up with facts and logic, and actively listen to others. Chances are by the end of the term, you’ll be a *West Wing* devotee!

HONR 480-05 (CRN 21278) – Honors American Healthcare

Spring 2020 – T 9:55 AM - 11:35 AM

Location: SCB 325 MHC 207

Faculty: John McVea (Entrepreneurship)

and Daniel McLaughlin (Operations & Supply Chain Management)

This course will explore current issues in the American healthcare system such as high costs, variable quality, poor patient engagement, bad financial incentives and the slow deployment of advanced digital technology. Opportunities to preserve the essential character and advantages of the American style of healthcare will also be identified. Innovations to create new value at both the patient care and business systems level will be developed by students who will use innovation design principles to create potential system improvements.

On completion of the course students will:

- Understand the U.S. Healthcare System as an integrated system including, insurance, payments, delivery systems, drug manufacture and regulation
 - Explore the underlying causes and tensions which underlie the current ‘healthcare crisis’
 - Explore the role of innovation, change and entrepreneurship in potentially solving some of the healthcare system problems
 - Become familiar through case studies with a number of local Minnesota healthcare innovators and employers
 - Be exposed, through classroom visits to leaders and innovators in Minnesota and national healthcare innovation
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HONR 480-06 (CRN 21279) – Honors “All Natural”: Separating Fact from Hype

Spring 2020 – T 1:30 PM - 3:10 PM

Location: SCB 104

Faculty: Lisa Prevette (Chemistry) and David Alexander (Marketing)

There is a current movement toward clean living - avoiding chemicals, seeking all-natural, organic products and minimizing our impact on the environment. As consumers, we have daily decisions to make about what we put in, on and around our bodies. Is natural really safer or more nutritious than artificial? In the digital era, information abounds through targeted advertising, blogs and social media, so how does one differentiate the science from pseudoscience? This seminar will examine this clean living movement from both a chemical and marketing perspective. Students will gain a practical understanding of marketing strategies, consumer behavior and persuasion and discuss regulations in place to protect society from false advertising. Then, we will use some basic chemistry to define popular adjectives, such as "organic", "hormone- and antibiotic-free", "green" and "non-GMO" and discuss chemophobia, the fear of chemicals. Students will examine the processes used to extract natural products and compare to those involved in synthesizing man-made versions in a lab. By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to critically evaluate claims of safety and healthfulness in the media and be more knowledgeable consumers.
