

AQUINAS SCHOLARS
Honors Seminars
Fall 2021

Date: June 28, 2021

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.

Fall 2021

HONR 480-01 (CRN 43659) - Honors Seeking Meaning and Money in Life's Work

Fall 2021 - Wednesdays, 3:25 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: JRC 246 (In Person)

Faculty: Amy Finnegan (Justice & Society Studies) and Christopher Michaelson (Ethics & Business Law)

College is a time for students to both learn skills to earn a livelihood and ask big questions about one's purpose in life. This seminar will explore alignment and conflict between these two important goals. On one hand, participants will examine personal fit within a market economy. On the other hand, they will examine the work they may feel called by their heart, faith, and/or society to do, including work that interrogates a "market economy" in the first place. In doing so, participants will become familiar with contemporary social problems as well as frameworks to address them, such as "social justice" and "social entrepreneurship." Through engagement with community partners, the seminar provides students with the opportunity to examine "common good" endeavors in the for-profit and/or non-profit sectors. In the process, students will inquire about the possibility of meaningful work that also sustains them, their families, and the "common good." While much of the course content involves philosophical reflection, much of the course outcomes are practically oriented toward personal and professional development.

HONR 480-02 (CRN 43660) - Honors Art for Just Water

Fall 2021 - Wednesdays, 1:30 PM - 3:10 PM

Location: OEC 310 (In Person)

Faculty: Mike Klein (Justice & Peace Studies) and Sandra Spieler (Independent Artist)

Students will explore the intersections of art and social justice with a focus on water. Topics of study will include historical, political, economic, and social aspects of water. Theoretical and conceptual readings will be complemented by guest speakers, field experiences, art creation, and personal reflection. We will examine the ways in which water is involved in every part of our lives and integrated into the campus. Rivers, landscapes and infrastructure, water's disciplinary significance and applications, even the role of water in human and environmental health will all inform our seminar. We will explore big ideas and practical implications of art for social justice through a mid-term "Dressing of the Wells" artwork to identify water on campus, and a final art installation/procession to help educate the campus and address the significance of water to the University of St. Thomas.

HONR 480-03 (CRN 43700) - Honors Family, Health, and Aging

Fall 2021 - Wednesdays, 8:00 AM - 9:35 AM

Location: Online

Faculty: Amy Hedman-Robertson (Health & Exercise Science) and Audra Nuru (Family Studies)

The global population is aging at an unprecedented pace. In the United States alone, it is estimated that 39 million individuals (or 13% of the population) are 65 and older. Further, by 2050, roughly one-in-five Americans will be over age 65, and roughly 5% will be 85 or older. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the intersecting axis of family, health, and aging in light of the dramatic demographic shifts facing American society. Throughout the course, we will explore the demography and health states of aging, as well as social, familial, emotional and environmental approaches to wellness.

HONR 480-04 (CRN 43856) - Honors Minnesota Grown: Food Movements and Literature

Fall 2021 - Mondays, 5:30 PM - 7:10 PM

Location: JRC 222 (In Person)

Faculty: Olga Herrera (English) and Maria Dahmus (Office of Sustainability Initiatives)

Have you ever thought about where your food comes from, and why it matters that we know? 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, and mobilized communities. We will read excerpts from fiction, nonfiction, journalism, and cookbooks; readings will include the full novel *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradel, excerpts from *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver, *Original Local: Indigenous Food, Stories, and Recipes from the Upper Midwest* by Heid E. Erdrich, and articles from environmental sociologists and urban ecologists about food systems. 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.
