

**AQUINAS SCHOLARS**  
**Honors Seminars**  
**Fall 2022**

**Date: September 19, 2022**

**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.

**Fall 2022**

**HONR 480-01 (CRN 41580) - Honors Dogs!: Environment, Society, and Representation**

Fall 2022 - Tuesdays, 9:55 AM - 11:35 AM                      Location: MHC 308 (In Person)

Faculty: Maria Dahmus (Office of Sustainability Initiatives) and Paul Lai (English)

The relationship between dogs and humans opens up a host of questions about who we are and how we interact with the world around us. Popular characters like Lassie and Snoopy encourage us to think about the limits and possibilities of human characteristics such as friendship, loyalty, happiness, grief, and patience. But more broadly, how do we understand and represent the bond between dogs and humans? What do dogs teach us about ourselves? Dogs as companion species also confront us with questions of what we consider to be nature, wilderness, domestication, and civilization. The increasing attention to dogs' needs in urban planning has led to the construction of dog parks, dog friendly condominiums, boarding facilities, and doggy day cares. How have we reimagined the natural and built environments around us to accommodate and strengthen our bond with dogs? In this course, we will explore these questions through environmental and literary studies. You will have the chance to explore the human/dog bond through fieldwork, literary analysis, discussions with classmates, and conversations with people who work with dogs and communities.

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**HONR 481-L02 (CRN 43093) - Honors Emerging Issues in the Law,  
Philosophy, and Culture of Sport**

Fall 2022 - Mondays, 5:30 PM - 7:10 PM                      Location: JRC 247 (In Person)

Faculty: Steve Laumakis (Philosophy) and Dave Bateson (Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings)

Sports have long occupied a special place in American Culture but we seem to be in the midst of major changes in the law surrounding sports and athletes. Recent legal and legislative changes have impacted amateurism, image and likeness claims for athletes, Title IX and issues related to transgender athletes. There have also been legal challenges to pandemic related restrictions on sports.

Similarly, our cultural philosophy towards sports and the athletes who play them seem to be undergoing similar change. What do sports mean to our culture and how important are they even during major cultural challenges like the pandemic? What is the proper relationship between professional and amateur participation? What is the proper relationship between college athletes and universities? What is the role of sports relative to other cultural issues like social justice? Do athletes have moral responsibility to use the platform sports provide to encourage social justice? Do leagues?

This course will examine these emerging issues and changes both through the practical lens of the American legal system as well as the larger philosophical considerations of these issues.

*This seminar counts toward the following core requirements:*

- *Integrations in the Humanities*
- *Writing to Learn (Writing Across the Curriculum)*

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### **HONR 480-L03 (CRN 41581) - Honors Rivers Run Through Us: What Rivers Mean to You**

Fall 2022 - Wednesdays, 1:35 PM - 3:10 PM

Location: OSS 122 (In Person)

Faculty: Thomas Hickson (Earth, Environment, & Society) and Craig Eliason (Art History)

Rivers have run through the lives of humanity like our lifeblood. They run through our landscapes, of course, but they run through our economies, societies, arts, and history. Indeed, rivers run through all of our personal psyches in one way or another, we probably just aren't aware of it. This course will use two of the great rivers of the United States—the Mississippi and the Colorado—to explore how rivers permeate our world and touch many aspects of our lives. Through scientific literature, historical essays, government documents, art (literature, song, and visual), and guest speakers, we will explore these two giant bookend rivers: profoundly different, deeply important to our country's collective sense of itself, and spectacularly challenged by human impacts over the past few centuries. This course will include a canoe trip on a local river to experience the ways that scientists and artists study them, but also to experience a mindful and direct engagement with nature. Course meetings will run in an interactive seminar format, with students regularly working in subgroups to deepen their understanding of the significance of these rivers and, by extension, all of the rivers of the world. A creative course project of your choice will constitute the culminating experience for the course.

*This seminar counts toward the following core requirements:*

- *Writing to Learn (Writing Across the Curriculum)*

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### **HONR 481-04 (CRN 43148) - Honors Praxis of Race & Racism**

Fall 2022 - Wednesdays, 3:25 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: JRC LL62 (In Person)

Faculty: Todd Lawrence (English) and Amy Finnegan (Justice & Society Studies)

In this seminar we will explore the difficult terrain of race and racism in our contemporary moment paying close attention to the history of how we got here. We will carefully consider the various levels upon which racism operates (internalized, personally mediated, and structural) in our society,

employing useful theories such as critical race theory and concepts such as colorblind racism, while also focusing on how whiteness intersects with them. The purpose of this seminar is to provoke and facilitate critical analysis of race and racism in our society and institutions while also creating space for rigorous self-reflection. Unlike many discussions of race and racism in higher education, this seminar will interrogate the construct of whiteness and consider it as a factor that animates racist logics. Students will have the opportunity to examine how theories of race and racism could interact with their various fields of interest and will encounter creative examples of social change efforts to dismantle racism.

*This seminar counts toward the following core requirements:*

- *Integrations in the Humanities*

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### **HONR 480-05 (CRN 41616) - Honors Race and Place**

Fall 2022 - Tuesdays, 1:30 PM - 3:10 PM

Location: MHC 305K (In Person)

Faculty: Rita Lederle (Civil Engineering) and Aura Wharton-Beck (School of Education)

This course studies the history of infrastructures and housing in the United States and provides a critical lens to analyze the multi-dimensional factors related to race, class, and economics. This class will use bridges and highways as metaphors set the stage for examining infrastructure, housing and their impact on the culture of established communities in the United States. Archival data, historical films, art, and engineering case studies such as St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood will help students understand how the construction of highways dramatically altered the lives and communities of many. Students will explore how engineering concepts provide challenges and opportunities for addressing disparity in transportation and housing today. The efforts to preserve the historical memory of displaced residents offers a new chapter in the narrative of what it means to call a place home.

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