

AQUINAS SCHOLARS
Honors Seminars
Spring 2023

Date: Updated November 30, 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 or HONR 481. The word "Honors" or an abbreviation of honors, such as "HONR," is at the beginning of the course title.

Please contact aquischolars@stthomas.edu if you have any questions.

Spring 2023

HONR 481-01 (CRN 22366) - Honors Who Belongs? Immigration and Identity in France and Canada

Spring 2023 - Thursday, 3:25 PM - 5:00 PM Location: MCH 118 (In Person)

Faculty: Renee Buhr (Political Science) and Ashley Shams (Modern & Classical Languages)

What does it mean to belong to a nation? Is being Canadian much different from being French or American? Who is excluded from the French or Canadian nations, and on what grounds? Such questions about national identity and belonging are complicated and often reveal a messy combination of political, historical, linguistic, socioeconomic, gender, and legal elements. In the first part of this course, students study theoretical frameworks that will equip them with the skills they need to understand these elements. In the second part of the class students use critical textual and historical analysis in order to understand inclusion and exclusion in these national identity groups. Texts used in the course vary from French and Canadian human rights texts to French hip hop music, popular Canadian TV shows, government statements, and spoken word poetry, among many others.

This seminar counts toward the following core requirements:

- *Integrations in the Humanities*

HONR 481-L02 (CRN 22367) - Honors At the Heart of Time

Spring 2023 - Thursdays, 9:55 AM - 11:35 AM Location: BEC LL03 (In Person)

Faculty: Ora Itkin (Music) and Stephen Laumakis (Philosophy)

What then is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks, I do not know. –St. Augustine

This seminar will center upon temporality and our experiences of time. It will probe subjectively experienced time as that which is integral to the structure of human experience, examining how the medium of music provides unique potentialities to access some of the disclosing aspects of human experience unavailable to other modes of inquiry.

One premise of this seminar is that thinking about time is best accomplished while also attending to our own interests, passions, experiences, and commitments. This means that this seminar will

culminate in individual project “*The Sense of Now*”. This project will consist of written philosophical essay-meditation (5-10 pages) as inspired by specific piece or selection of music of any style or genre you *presently resonate* with, and demonstrate how using multiple existential tools you acquired during this seminar helped you to develop an *encompassing perspective* in your *present* life. Working on this project will enable you to develop a deeper understanding of how empathetic sensibilities and self- reflection allows you to mediate your sense of the *past* and the experience in the world of *today*. Everyone is therefore responsible for tuning into what seems most pressing, meaningful, perplexing, or exciting about the reading and the listening. Staying true to the nature of seminar, we will be listening and responding to each other’s presentations in the last weeks of the seminar.

This seminar counts toward the following core requirements:

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

HONR 481-03 (CRN 22368) - Honors Making Art for Social Justice

Spring 2023 - Wednesdays, 3:25 PM - 5:00 PM Location: MHC 211 (In Person)

Faculty: Mike Klein (Justice & Peace Studies) and Damon Shoholm (Community Partner)

As a visual arts studio seminar, we will focus on making art through various mediums with content focused on social justice. Weekly meetings will alternate between studio sessions in the CreateSpace and field experiences, including: art studio tours, exhibitions, mural projects, artists and art leaders speaking about the role of art in social change. We will learn to do block prints and large-scale lettering for protest signs; screen-printing for flags, shirts, or banners; large papier-mâché sculptures, photography, and more. Your work will culminate in individual art projects exploring a social cause and exhibited in the UST Library Atrium. We will also learn from artists, activists, and community leaders about the ways art contributes to social justice, while connecting our diverse disciplinary backgrounds and intersectional identities to social justice through the visual arts. Previous artistic experience is appreciated but not required.

This seminar counts toward the following core requirements:

- *Integrations in the Humanities*

HONR 480-04 (CRN 20980) - Honors Art and Materials Analysis

Spring 2023 - Tuesdays, 9:55 AM - 11:35 AM Location: OEC 210 (In Person)

Faculty: Vanessa Rousseau (Art History) and Codrina Popescu (Chemistry)

Have you ever wondered how artworks are authenticated? Or how unknown objects are identified? Or how artistic and scientific curiosity helped materials evolve? This course seeks to explore how artists, art conservators and chemists work together to analyze artworks and uncover artistic processes, production methods, materials development, as well as degradation and changes of artworks in time. Employing different disciplines and forms of inquiry can produce a deeper understanding of materials, art objects and their contexts than is possible from the perspective of a

single field. Such interdisciplinary inquiry can also help answer questions related to dating, geography, culture, and authenticity.

HONR 480-05 (CRN 20747) - Honors Medical Matters: Becoming an Effective Practitioner or Patient

Spring 2023 - Mondays, 5:30 PM - 7:10 PM Location: JRC 246 (In Person)

Faculty: Colin Martin (Biology) and Mani Mokalla, MD (Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota)

Healthcare in the US is a highly complex system that everyone will participate in as patients, and some as providers. This seminar will address issues that face professionals in delivering quality care, as well as issues relevant to patients as they make decisions that will affect their health. Topics will reflect this dual challenge: how practitioners approach the art of diagnosis, the communication and cultural hurdles that can exist between practitioners and patients, advocacy by and for patients, how best to allocate limited resources, and the challenges posed by various health disparities. This course will address aspects of health care that are often overlooked in science and content courses, and will encourage students to think about some of the challenges that patients and providers each face in our system. By the end of the course, students will be aware of key topics that affect how we develop, deliver, and experience health care. Grading will be based on pre-class preparation activities, in-class participation, engagement in health simulation activities, reflective writing, and cumulative projects that reflect each students' personal interests.
