

SPRING 2024

# COLLOQUIUM GUIDE

## ACU HONORS

### Essential Things to Note:

Colloquia are one-credit hour seminars. This credit hour will come from a student's block tuition. Students are required to attend all course meetings and make a "B" or better to receive credit towards the completion of colloquia requirements. Any colloquium taken credit/no credit will be counted as an Activity Credit and not count as a Colloquium Credit.

**HON 307 (Project Thesis Seminar)** is a zero-credit seminar. It will not count against block tuition. Students taking HON 307 are assigned "CR" or "NC" - credit or no credit for completing the workshop.

The student will register for Honors colloquia through Banner web at the same time as registration for other courses.

### Track Guide (For first-year students)

DESIGN THINKING  
& INNOVATION



GLOBAL SERVICE  
& LEADERSHIP



SOCIAL &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE



SCHOLARSHIP  
& RESEARCH



### REGISTRATION DATES

Juniors & Seniors  
October 23  
3 pm

Freshmen &  
Sophomores  
November 1  
3 pm

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# ESCAPE THE CLASSROOM

DR. TREY SHIRLEY

## HON 412.H1

*Note: This colloquium has a \$50 course fee.*

Learning doesn't just happen in lectures. In this colloquium, we will explore the concept of escape rooms as a means to create an immersive, engaging experience that challenges students to solve problems, develop new skills, and ask a wider range of questions. Our class will begin by researching a new form of social play known as an escape room by combining experiences they will share with classmates in Dallas and a survey of emerging models and approaches being developed around the country--including educators using them as a new context for learning. Students will also be introduced to models for game-based learning and how they attempt to tap into alternatives to human motivation and agency outside the traditional classroom. Students will then work in teams to conclude the colloquium by producing an escape room experience that can be tested and shared with classmates and some campus volunteers.

Dr. Shirley is an Assistant Professor of Art and Design and the Associate Dean of the Honors College. In addition to teaching, he is a graphic designer by training, and his research centers around branding and Design Thinking. He is married to his wife, Trish, who is a local family practice physician, and together they have three children: Beth (13), Sarah (11), and John (9). His interests include cycling, mind puzzles, and typography.

**NOTE: Students must attend all course meetings to receive credit for this colloquium**

HCOL: ESCAPE THE CLASSROOM



Monday, Jan. 22

6 - 8:30 pm

Sunday, Feb. 4

All day trip to DFW

Monday, Feb. 12

6 - 9 pm

Sunday, Feb. 25

6 - 9 pm

Monday, Feb. 26

6 - 9 pm

CRN 21757

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# DO MY FAVORITE MOVIES OPPRESS ME? FEMINISM IN FILM

DR. STEPHANIE HAMM

## HON 413.H1

Are my favorite movies oppressing me? In this colloquium, we will learn about the feminist perspective, watch movies, and discover together what makes a movie feminist or not. It may not be what you think it is.

HCOL: FEMINISM IN  
FILM



Thursday Nights  
Feb. 1 - Feb. 29  
6 - 9 pm

CRN 21758

Dr. Stephanie Hamm has been reading, studying, and writing about feminism and womanism for at least two decades. She started teaching social work at ACU in 2008. Married to Dr. Scott Hamm, she has been trying to feminist (yes, it is a verb) him for 32 years! She loves looking at life from a feminist perspective, including the books and movies that entertain us.

**NOTE: Students must attend all course meetings to receive credit for this colloquium**

# HOLY SMOKE

DR. JODY JONES & AMOS GUTIERREZ

## HON 414.H1

Few things reflect the culture, art, history, and economy of a society, like food. Barbecue is food from indigenous sources cooked simply and full of flavor. Whether Texas Brisket, Chinese Char Siu, or Filipino Lechon, every bite tells history and shares love. And we will share LOTS of bites. Learn to prepare meat, tend the fire, and cook low and slow.

HCOL: HOLY SMOKE



Thursday, Feb. 22

6 - 9 pm

Friday, Feb. 23

6 - 10 pm

Saturday, Feb. 24

11 am - 7 pm

CRN 21759

Dr. Jody Jones teaches finance by day and tends fires by night. Whether pork, beef, sausage or even vegetarian, Jody knows how to kiss food with smoke. And did we mention he's the reigning COBA Chili Champion?

Amos Gutierrez is the Creative Learning Technologies Coordinator and Adobe Ambassador in the Innovation Foundry at Abilene Christian University. His creative endeavors include photography, videography, graphic design, and, most recently, smoking meats.

**NOTE: Students must attend all course meetings to receive credit for this colloquium**

# MEDIEVAL SPIRITUALITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

DR. JANINE MORGAN & DR. RON MORGAN

## HON 415.H1

This colloquium will introduce participants to several major features of Christian spirituality from both the early Eastern and later Latin Christian perspectives: conversion and sanctity, contemplative prayer and active service, monasticism and religious community, imaginative prayer of self-examination, and simplicity.

The course promotes informed engagement with a religious tradition that, because of its unfamiliarity to most of us, will enable participants to reflect on their own Christian traditions in a more mature and productive way. Participants will incorporate new/ancient spiritual practices through "soul praxis," deepening their own spiritual journeys. The course will meet over five evenings and will include a simple meal.

Janine and Ron Morgan lived in community with ACU students from 2003-2012 and have taken them to visit various monastic communities (England, Spain, Italy). They love to hear and join in with monastic communities as they sing the Psalms in a medieval church nave. The Morgans have lived in England, Brazil, and California; Janine grew up in Italy. Janine's doctorate is in Intercultural Studies and Spiritual Formation, and Ron's in Medieval and Latin American history. Both have published work on the spiritual formation of university students through study-abroad experiences.

**NOTE: Students must attend all course meetings to receive credit for this colloquium**

HCOL: MEDIEVAL  
SPIRITUALITY



Thursday Nights  
Jan. 18 - Feb. 15  
5:30 - 8:30 pm

CRN 21760

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# LOVING YOUR ENEMY: PERSONAL, POLITICAL, AND MORAL DIMENSIONS

DR. VIC MCCRACKEN AND DR. MYLES  
WERTZ

## HON 416.H1

HCOL: LOVING YOUR  
ENEMY



**Tuesday Nights**  
**Jan. 23 - Feb. 20**  
**6 - 9 pm**

**CRN 21761**

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What does it mean to "love your enemies"? Is it even possible to not have enemies? And what do we owe our enemies? In this colloquium, we will explore Christ's hardest teaching by looking at the Scriptural, theological, philosophical, political, and moral dimensions of loving your enemies. Through readings, film, interviews, and speakers, we will ask what it means that we love our enemies not only personally but politically and socially as well.

Vic McCracken is Professor of Theology in the Department of Bible and the author of *Christian Faith and Social Justice: Five Views*. Myles Wertz is Associate Professor of Theology in the Graduate School of Theology, and is the co-author of *A Field Guide to Christian Nonviolence*.

**NOTE: Students must attend all course meetings to receive credit for this colloquium**

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# FOOD AROUND THE GLOBE: A HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL EXPLORATION

DR. MATT DEEG

## HON 417.H1

Food. Consumed by people all across the world, but look at the dining table in various countries and cultures, and you'll see drastically different meals - Rice pudding (congee) for breakfast in China/Thailand, fish pies in many European nations, and corn/maize-based dishes throughout Central and South America. Meanwhile, food we associate with one region appears across the globe: curry (from India) appears in similar form in the Caribbean, in East Africa, and as a country favorite in England. How did the food we enjoy become the way it is? How did trade, culture, and locale influence what people cook and how? Join Dr. Deeg for a historical, ecological, and cultural exploration of food and its development in five separate countries/regions. And, yes, cooking and eating are a crucial part of this experience!

Dr. Matt Deeg is a foodie through and through. He and his wife enjoy exploring the foods of various cultures with weekend food tastings. From Thai and Chinese stir-fries and noodle dishes on his outdoor wok burner to slow braised African stews, from grilled Jamaican jerk chicken to soups and braises celebrating Dr. Deeg's Germanic roots, the Deeg house is always full of the flavors and aromas of culinary adventures. He continues to learn new cooking approaches by trial-and-error (or success) and from chefs from across the world.

**HCOL: FOOD  
AROUND THE  
GLOBE**



**Thursday Nights**

**Mar. 21 - Apr. 25**

**6 - 9 pm**

*Class will not meet  
on Apr. 4*

**CRN 21762**

**NOTE: Students must attend all course meetings to receive credit for this colloquium**

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# A CRASH COURSE IN ADULTING

DR. ERIC GUMM

## HON 418.H1

"Soft skills? Hard skills? How about survival skills for life as an adult? Come join us for this hands-on colloquium experience where we will explore adulting topics from meal planning to job contract negotiation to budgeting to cooking to insurance and church involvement. This weekend course will provide opportunities to gain new skills and refine those you already have as we explore these (and other) areas of life as an adult in the 21st century.

**HCOL: CRASH  
COURSE IN  
ADULTING**

**Weekend**  
**Friday, Feb. 9**  
**5 - 10 pm**  
**Saturday, Feb. 10**  
**9 am - 7 pm**

**CRN 21764**

Dr. Eric Gumm has worked at ACU for more than 26 years, including teaching undergraduate and graduate courses. He serves as the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and University Registrar. He has been married for more than 28 years to Sherry, who is a middle school administrator, and they have three great kids - Lauren, John Paul, and Emily - who love him but rarely laugh at his jokes!

**NOTE: Students must attend all course meetings to receive credit for this colloquium**



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# JMC COLLOQUIA RACE AND MEDIA

SPECIAL GUEST - TBA

## HON 419.H1

The Journalism and Mass Communication department hosts this course. Each semester, they choose a special speaker to present a weekend of fascinating study on the issues of race and media in society.

Further information about this colloquium and the speaker will be announced at the beginning of next semester. If you are a JMC student, you may be able to get credit towards your major through this class - check with your department. If you are not a JMC student, you are still absolutely welcome!

JMC majors may only count this colloquium for one of the two required colloquia credits.

If you have questions about this colloquium's content or meeting dates, please get in touch with Dr. Mendenhall at [d1m08a@acu.edu](mailto:d1m08a@acu.edu).

**HCOL: COLLOQUIUM  
IN RACE & MEDIA**



**Weekend TBA**

**Honors Students  
HON 419.H1  
CRN 21298**

**JMC Majors  
JMC 303.H1  
CRN 21276**

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**NOTE: Students must attend all course meetings to receive credit for this colloquium**

# THE RHETORIC OF BRITISH JAZZ

DR. COLE BENNETT

## HON 419.HS1

HCOL: RHETORIC  
OF BRITISH JAZZ



Oxford  
CRN 21765

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Perhaps you've heard of the "British Invasion," where English rock bands poured into the USA during the 1960s and captured Americans' ears and hearts. Have you ever wondered how jazz music, a quintessentially American invention of World War I-era Harlem, NY, with roots in New Orleans and beyond, ended up a cultural movement in 20th-century England? In this colloquium, offered in Oxford, England, we will focus on this and other captivating questions: how did a modernist movement meant to express a world of resistance, beauty, freedom and avant garde artistic expression in one country find cultural footholds in another country an ocean away? What are some meaningful differences between jazz scenes in Britain and the US during the Modern Era? What is meant by a "rhetoric of music" anyway? Through topical readings, guided listening, lectures, and a few field trips to London jazz clubs, we will explore the topic of British jazz music and try to hear the message it has been sending since the 1940s.

Dr. Cole Bennett, Professor of Language and Literature, has taken students to ACU's Oxford campus numerous times. Though trained academically in English studies, his personal passions include music of all types, including the rich history and performance notes of jazz. He has been performing music in various live scenes since high school.

**NOTE: Students must attend all course meetings to receive credit for this colloquium**

# PROJECT THESIS SEMINAR

**DR. JASON MORRIS**

## HON 307

The highest Honors distinction at ACU is the Honors Scholar distinction, which requires an Honors Project Thesis. Because we want as many students as possible to achieve Honors Scholar, we offer this "workshop" to help students begin the Project Thesis process.

This Seminar should make the Project Thesis process less stressful and more accessible. This course will meet only two times during the semester. You will gain valuable insight into this process in just two sessions and complete a required Honors credit. This course does not count as a colloquium and is available only to Juniors and Seniors (by hours). Students taking the Seminar cannot already be in their graduation semester. All students who wish to be an Honors Scholar, Honors Associate, or McNair Honors Scholar are required to take the Seminar.

Dr. Morris is the Dean of the Honors College, Director of the Office of Major Scholarships, and serves as professor and executive director of the Center for Building Community. He also directs the Lynay program. He holds an Ed.D. in Higher Education and has published numerous articles. He is also a two-time Fulbright grantee and co-author of several books about major scholarships.

**NOTE: Students must attend both course meetings to receive credit for this seminar.**

**HONORS PROJECT:  
SPECIAL**



**HON 307.H1**  
**Thursdays**  
**Feb. 22 & Mar. 7**  
**4 - 5:20 pm**

**CRN 21768**

# ASTRONOMY AT SEA AND IN THE MAYAN WORLD

DR. RUSTY TOWELL

## HON 411.H1

When God created stars, he knew they were so amazing that he warned us not to mistakenly worship them (Deut 4:19). Many ancient cultures did worship the stars and the night sky, including the Maya civilization. This helped make them some of the best and earliest astronomers in the world. Unfortunately, today, there is so much light pollution in our cities that sometimes we can't appreciate the beauty of the night sky.

Before and during the trip, students will learn about Mayan culture, history, and astronomy. This will allow them to understand practical applications of astronomy concepts by experiencing how a culture used their observations of the sky to influence their scientific, religious, agricultural, and social practices.

This special honors colloquium will require you to board a ship from Texas to Mesoamerica. While at sea you will experience viewing the night sky far from the light pollution found on land. When we port in Mexico we will explore the world-famous Mayan ruins of Chichen-Itza. With these shared experiences informed by selected readings, we will consider the beauty God created, how humans have responded to it throughout time, and consider if we are being good stewards of this gift.

Dr. Rusty Towell is a professor of Engineering and Physics at ACU, where he has taught astronomy for the past 17 years. He is an accomplished experimental nuclear physicist with over 200 publications that have been cited over 27,000 times. He is the director of ACU's NEXT lab to help develop advanced molten salt reactor technology.

HCOL: ASTRONOMY  
AT SEA



Nov. Date: TBA  
January 6 - 11  
Caribbean Cruise

**NOTE: Students must attend all course meetings to receive credit for this colloquium**