

Spring 2025

COLLOQUIUM & COURSE GUIDE



REGISTRATION DATES

JUNIORS & SENIORS

October 21, 3 pm

FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES

October 30, 3 pm

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT HONORS COLLOQUIA

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.

Students will register for the Honors Colloquia through Banner Web at the same time as registration for other courses.

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.

How do I get permission to register for an Honors colloquium that is closed?

The Honors College does not give overrides for full Honors colloquia; however, students can email the Honors College to be added to a waiting list. The Honors office will only contact students on the list if a spot becomes available after the add/drop deadline. Before then, we encourage students to check Banner daily to see if any seats become available.

Honors Tracks

Starting in Fall 2023, all new students (except for transfers) will be required to select an Honors Track. One of the two required colloquiums must be from their chosen track. Once the track colloquium is completed with a "B" or better grade, the credit will be added to the student's Honors Badge in Suitable at the end of the semester.

Honors Track Guide

DESIGN THINKING
& INNOVATION



GLOBAL SERVICE
& LEADERSHIP



SOCIAL &
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE



SCHOLARSHIP
& RESEARCH



HONORS COURSES

SPRING 2025

Honors Sections

BIBL 102.H1	Life, Lit and Community-Honors	McCracken, Victor B	MWF 9:00-9:50
BIBL 102.H2	Life, Lit and Community-Honors	Niccum, Larry C.	MWF 10:00-10:50
COMM 120.H1	Intro Public Speaking-Honors	Camp, Jonathan W.	MWF 9:00-9:50
BIOL 123.H1	Biology & Faith Honors II	TBA	
CHEM 134.H1	General Chemistry II Honors	Powell, Gregory L.	T R 9:30-10:50

Honors Courses

Automatic Honors Credit - No Contract Needed

BIBP 352.01	Biomedical Ethics	Powell, Mary C.	T R 8:00-9:20
BIBP 379.01	Philosophy, Religion & Science	Roberts, Lucas D.	T R 12:00-1:20
BIBP 486.01	Ethics	McCracken, Victor B.	MWF 12:00-12:50
PHIL 379.01	Philosophy, Religion & Science	Roberts, Lucas D.	T R 12:00-1:20
PHIL 486.01	Ethics	McCracken, Victor B.	MWF 12:00-12:50

**DESIGN THINKING
& INNOVATION**



**GLOBAL SERVICE
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**SOCIAL &
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE**



**SCHOLARSHIP
& RESEARCH**



SPRING 2025

THE WURST CLASS EVER! HOW THE SAUSAGE IS MADE

DR. KENNETH PYBUS & DR. JODY JONES

HON 411.H1

Hot dog! Let's be frank, sausage can get a bad rap, especially when you don't know how it's made. But it's a favorite food that links cultures from Africa to Italy and from Germany to the Hill Country of Texas. This meaty colloquium will be the cure and will provide all the links - from meat selection and stuffing to casings and curing to spices and smoking.

**HCOL: SAUSAGE
AROUND THE
WORLD**



**Monday Nights
Feb. 3 - Feb. 24
5:45 - 8:30 pm
Mar. 3
5 - 9 pm**

CRN 20211

Dr. Jones and Dr. Pybus have years of experience in making their own sausage and taking the fruits of their harvest from the field to the fork. Dr. Jones has a professional culinary background and has been blessed to travel the world and has made sausage and cured meat for decades. Dr. Pybus is a cattle rancher who has a commitment to consuming the produce of his livestock.

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

SPRING 2025

LEADERSHIP THEORY IN ACTION

DR. ERIC GUMM

HON 412.H1

What happens when leadership theory meets reality? This colloquium will provide a place for local organizational leaders to come and share about how they work each day to guide their staff and volunteers to address key, complex issues in the context of big dreams, real-life challenges and opportunities, and a desire to make a real difference in the world. In this class, we will consider the opportunities for your major/career field to have a positive impact on the communities in which you find yourself and in the world around you. This colloquium will challenge you to think critically about real-world leadership, engage in meaningful discussion, and develop a strategic vision for yourself and how you might make an impact.

Dr. Eric Gumm has worked at ACU for almost 28 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 29 years to Sherry, who is a middle school assistant principal, and they have three great kids - Lauren, John Paul, and Emily - who love him but rarely laugh at his jokes!

**HCOL: LEADERSHIP
THEORY**



**Tuesday Nights
Jan. 28 - Feb. 11
Feb. 25 - Mar. 4
6-9 pm**

CRN 20212

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



MEDITATION & MINDFULNESS: PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES

**DR. JOSHUA RHODES &
PROFESSOR ROBERT LOPEZ DE CASTILLA**

HON 413.H1

Breathe in, Breathe Out. In the intersection between Psychology and Spirituality, you will find examples of meditation and mindfulness. These ancient practices combined with contemporary research reveal a myriad of benefits for any participant willing to take them seriously. Join us on this journey as we pursue a holistic mind, body, and spirit approach to meditation and mindfulness.

**HCOL: MEDITATION
& MINDFULNESS**



Weekend

Apr. 4 - 6

Fri: 5 - 10 pm

Sat: 9 am - 5 pm

Sun: 1 - 4 pm

CRN 20213

Dr. Joshua Rhodes is an Assistant Professor in ACU's Dept. of Psychology. He earned his PhD in Psychology from Baylor University in 2023. Dr. Rhodes has extensive training in Baylor's Mind Body Medicine Research Lab and has participated in federally funded clinical trials utilizing mind-body medicine techniques. Currently, he conducts research and publishes in the field of trauma and post-traumatic growth, including the implementation of mindfulness and meditation practices for veterans and first responders.

Robert Lopez de Castilla is the University Minister at Highland Church of Christ. He earned his MA in Global Service from ACU's Graduate School of Theology in 2022. Robert has a profound interest in the history of the church and how ancient practices can be integrated into the lives of believers today. He will draw upon the writings and practices of spiritual mothers and fathers throughout history to illuminate themes of meditation and mindfulness for students looking to create new habits in their lives.

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



INTO THE UNKNOWN: GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIP AND SPECIAL AWARDS

**DR. RANDALL FOWLER &
DR. ERIC BONTEMPO**

HON 414.H1

This colloquium will introduce participants to several competitive global opportunities available to ACU students, including the Fulbright program, Boren Awards, and the Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarships. The colloquium promotes early planning toolkits so that participants can confidently discern and articulate their unique contributions, commitments, and convictions for global service and leadership. Since many scholarship applications ask applicants to submit personal essays explaining how their academic and public service trajectories address felt needs

around the world, this course introduces participants to the conventions of writing for this audience. It invites participants to take part in several "local-global" opportunities to highlight the role of calling, culture, and country in shaping the "givens" of our lives. Whether you are a first-year student at ACU or a junior or senior, this colloquium is the perfect opportunity to hone skills that will be needed when applying to global scholarship opportunities, graduate school programs, and future professional opportunities.

Randall Fowler (Ph.D., Maryland, 2022) is an Assistant Professor of Communication in the Department of Communication & Sociology. He is a Fulbright ETA (Jordan) and AmeriCorps VISTA alum and is the author of several books on U.S. foreign policy discourse. He has served on Fulbright campus committees at Baylor University and Abilene Christian University.

Eric Bontempo (Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill, 2023) is an Assistant Professor of English in the Department of Language & Literature. He has served on Fulbright campus committees both at ACU and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was also a research fellow for the UNC Center for Global Initiatives.

**HCOL: GLOBAL
SCHOLARSHIP**



**Tuesday Nights
Jan. 28 - Feb. 25
6 - 9 pm
Saturday, Feb. 1
10 am - 2 pm**

CRN 20214

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

SPRING 2025

INTERNATIONAL SPEECHCRAFT

PROFESSOR DANIEL GARCIA

HON 415.H1

International Speechcraft is a global-oriented crash course in public speaking. This program leverages the expertise of seasoned local speakers, who serve as presenters and mentors, imparting essential skills in intercultural public speaking and leadership. The structure of Speechcraft combines typical Toastmasters-style meetings and interactions with clubs around the world.

Speechcraft is a program designed to develop your public speaking ability and so much more. You will gain confidence in all aspects of communication, including written and impromptu speeches, audio-visual aids, body language, active listening, and critical evaluation.

After working in multicultural and international enrollment for 14 years, Daniel Garcia is now a full-time instructor of marketing and international business at ACU. He is a member of the University Church of Christ, where he attends the bilingual service and serves on the missions committee. Born in Mexico City, Daniel grew up in Cancun, Mexico. After high school, he moved to Abilene to become an international student at Abilene Christian University. He is married to Yukari from Japan, and together, they have three confused Texan children: two girls and one boy.

Daniel has been in Toastmasters for seven years. He has served as VP for Public Relations and VP for Membership in a local Toastmasters club.

HCOL:
INTERNATIONAL
SPEECHCRAFT



Thursday
Nights
Feb. 6 - Mar. 6
6-9 pm

CRN 20215

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

LEVEL UP: GAINING EXPERIENCE POINTS THROUGH LIFELONG LEARNING

DR. AMOS GUTIERREZ

HON 416.H1

Lifelong learning is a mindset and a way of life that can significantly help individuals achieve their goals in various aspects of life. It involves intentionally seeking out ways to continue learning, both formally and informally, and can lead to personal and professional growth, development, fulfillment, and success. For college students, lifelong learning can provide a sense of personal fulfillment and satisfaction as you pursue your interests and passions. It also encourages you to explore new ideas and perspectives, which can inspire creativity and innovation. Engaging in learning together with peers, setting goals, sharing weekly progress, and discussing challenges and successes can help you level up your life and prepare for the ever-changing demands of life now and in the future.

**HCOL: LIFELONG
LEARNING**

**Thursday Nights
Jan. 16 - Feb. 13
6-9 pm**

CRN 20216

Amos Gutierrez is the Assistant Director of Educational Technology and College Assistant Professor of Educational Technology. His lifelong learning journey has included formal learning in Kinesiology (BS), Christian Ministry (MA), and currently Organizational Leadership (EdD), and informal learning in technology, photography, videography, graphic design, barbecue (grilled and smoked), and some basic carpentry skills, to name a few.

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

SEEING IS BELIEVING: ANALYZING IMAGES TO UNDERSTAND SOCIETY AND POLITICS

DR. CANDICE ORTBALS-WISER

HON 417.H1

Images are ubiquitous in modern life, from social media to AI to traditional photography. This colloquium explores how visual media plays an influential role in shaping social and political dynamics. Images can convey, for example, the goals of protest movements, the persistence of gender stereotyping, public memory of history, and evidence of environmental injustice. In an increasingly visually-oriented world, the ability to critically analyze images is crucial for making sense of social and political realities. This colloquium will acquaint students with research methods for analyzing images, and students will have the opportunity to design and implement an image analysis research project. The results of the research project will be presented at the Undergraduate Research, Creativity and Innovation Festival on April 15, 2025.

Candice D. Ortvals-Wiser is a Professor of Political Science and is Director of Undergraduate Research. When she isn't trying to convince students to conduct research and apply to ACU's Undergraduate Research, Creativity and Innovation Festival, she enjoys sewing, hanging out with her two young daughters and librarian husband, and writing scholarly publications about qualitative methods, social movements, fashion and politics, or terrorism.

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

**HCOL: THE POWER
OF IMAGES**



Thursday Nights
Feb. 20 & Feb. 27
Mar. 20
Apr. 3 & 10
6-9 pm

CRN 20217

SPRING 2025

DESIGN THINKING

DR. NIL SANTANA

HON 418.H1

In this course students will explore creative methods in problem solving combined with principles of design thinking. By embracing interdisciplinary collaboration, promoting empathetic observations, and encouraging iterative, exploratory processes, this course will seek to cultivate lateral thinking across multiple contexts. Through the course, students will create a working prototype for a solution that will provide a unique experience to users and the community.

**HCOL: DESIGN
THINKING**



Weekend
Feb. 28 - Mar. 2
Fri: 5 - 10 pm
Sat: 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday 1 - 4 pm

CRN 20218

Originally hailing from Brazil, Dr. Nil Santana is an esteemed Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Design. He earned his B.S. in Industrial Design from Universidade Federal da Paraiba in 1993, followed by an M.S. in Digital Media from ACU in 2000, and culminating with a Ph.D. in Philosophy, Aesthetics and Art Theory from the Institute of Doctoral Studies in Visual Arts in 2013. Dr. Santana boasts a rich academic background and has spearheaded numerous colloquia exploring diverse subjects ranging from photography to the art of coffee making.

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

SPRING 2025

FAITH AND DISPLACEMENT: CHRISTIAN RESPONSES TO FORCED MIGRATION AND NEIGHBORLY LOVE

PROFESSOR KATELIN EAST &
PROFESSOR KELLY BARNECHE

HON 418.H2

Who is my neighbor? Dive into a thought-provoking exploration of forced migration, where global challenges meet the call for compassion in your own backyard. We invite you to uncover why people flee their homes—conflict, persecution, and environmental crises—while examining how Christians are called to respond with open arms and neighborly love.

Through interactive discussions, multimedia explorations, and real-world case studies, you'll gain a richer understanding of the Christian imperative to "welcome the stranger." Going beyond theory, you will reflect on how you can make a tangible difference in your own community. Meaningful service-learning will turn empathy into action, embodying the principles of welcome and support for those in need.

If you're passionate about social justice, curious about global issues, or looking to deepen your faith through service, this course offers an opportunity to make your impact—and to discover what it truly means to be a good neighbor in today's world.

Kelly Barneche, MSSW, joined the social work faculty at ACU in August 2024 after almost twenty years of working with refugees, asylum-seekers, survivors of trafficking, and international humanitarian workers in Switzerland, New York City, and Oklahoma. She loves crossing cultures, "cozy reading time" with her husband and daughter at home, trying out new recipes on guests, and she's a recent pickleball convert.

Katelin East joined the social work faculty at ACU in 2018. Before beginning her role in higher education, she worked with dysregulated toddlers in early childhood intervention in Connecticut and supported families as a school social worker in Atlanta. As a native Texan, she's (mostly) delighted to live in Abilene and enjoys being surrounded by the delightful people and legendary sunsets. You can often find her walking the Luns with her dog, cooking with her kids, or watching old NBC comedies with her husband.

HCOL: FAITH AND
DISPLACEMENT



Weekend

Jan. 31 - Feb. 2

Fri: 5 - 10 pm

Sat: 9 am - 5 pm

Sunday 1 - 4 pm

CRN 20220

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

SPRING 2025

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 contact Dr. Mendenhall at d1m08a@acu.edu.

**HCOL: JMC
RACE/MEDIA**



Weekend TBA

**Honors Students
HON 419.H1
CRN 20219**

**JMC Majors
JMC 303.H1
CRN 20316**

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.

**HONORS PROJECT:
SPECIAL**



HON 307.H1

**Thursdays
Jan. 30 & Feb. 27
4:30 - 5:30 pm**

CRN 20221

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