

*Fall 2025*

# COLLOQUIUM & COURSE GUIDE



## REGISTRATION DATES

**JUNIORS & SENIORS**

*March 17, 3 pm*

**FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES**

*March 26, 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

FALL 2025

## Honors Sections

*No Contract Needed*

BIBL 101.H1	Jesus: Life & Teaching (Honors)	Amy McLaughlin-Sheasby	T R	1:30-2:50
BIBL 101.H2	Jesus: Life & Teaching (Honors)	Cliff Barbarick	T R	3:00-4:20
BIBL 101.H3	Jesus: Life & Teaching (Honors)	TBA	MW	3:00-4:20
BIBL 211.H1	Mess. of the Old Test.(Honors)	Rodney Ashlock	MWF	10:00-10:50
BIBT 340.H1	God in the Digital Age (Honors)	Brad East	T R	3:00-4:20
COMM 120.H1	Intro Public Speaking-Honors	Randall Fowler	MWF	9:00-9:50
HON 121.H1	Biology & Faith Honors Sem I	TBA	W	12:00-12:50
CHEM 133.H1	General Chemistry I Honors	Greg Powell	T R	9:30-10:50
ENGL 221.H1	Major British Writers I	Joe Stephenson	T R	1:30-2:50
ENGL 262.H1	American Lit Before 1900	Steven Moore	MWF	1:00-1:50
GLST 212.HS1	Intro to Great Britain - Honors	Jacqueline Morrison	Oxford	
ENGL 440.HS1	Works of Jane Austen - Honors	Eric Bontempo	Oxford	

## Honors Courses

*Automatic Honors Credit - No Contract Needed*

BIBP 352.01	Biomedical Ethics	Vic McCracken & Cynthia Powell	T R	8:00-9:20
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DESIGN THINKING  
& INNOVATION



GLOBAL SERVICE  
& LEADERSHIP



SOCIAL &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE



SCHOLARSHIP  
& RESEARCH







# ART AND SCIENCE OF COFFEE ROASTING, TASTING AND ENJOYING

**DR. TIM KENNEDY & PROFESSOR RYAN  
FEERER**

## HON 411.H1

In this intensive coffee colloquium, students will learn the fundamentals of coffee roasting and brewing. The course includes a field trip to coffee shops nearby, where students will experiment with a variety of beans from different regions. Cupping also includes a primer on the human ability to process complex information through sensory perception. In addition to cupping, students will practice identifying and describing tastes and smells. After the workshop, students will work in teams to further develop the connection of coffee to their future careers.

Dr. Tim Kennedy, P.E., is a Professor in the Engineering and Physics Department. He holds a B.S. ('08) and a Ph.D. ('12) in Civil Engineering from Texas Tech University. His research focuses on water, which is highly involved with good coffee. His favorite brew method is the Chemex. His favorite origin is Ethiopia. He air roasts at home and tries to watch and learn from real roasters as much as possible. Above all, he believes bad coffee is not worth drinking.

Ryan Feerer is a Professor and Graphic Design Program Director in the Department of Art and Design. He holds a B.F.A. in Graphic Design from ACU ('05) and an MFA in Design from The School of Visual Arts ('07). He made mediocre coffee at Starbucks for years while attending college, never learning what good coffee was until he moved to NYC.

**HCOL: ART &  
SCIENCE OF COFFEE**



**Thursday Nights  
Sept. 18 - Oct. 16  
6-9 pm**

**CRN 10004**

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



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# THEOLOGY AND VIDEO GAMES

DR. JOHN BOYLES

## HON 412.H2

Have you ever wanted to sit around and discuss your favorite video games while receiving college credit (or have a video game as required “reading”)? Join us as we do exactly that! Over our five meetings, we will discuss the story, the gameplay, and the results of playing video games from the perspective of theological discourse. How does a given game use Christian ideas, and/or how does it shape its own idea of who God is and who we are as humans? How does the gameplay both put forward a particular idea of the human and shape the player into a particular kind of person? Familiarity with titles from a menu will be required and participants in the colloquy are welcome to bring their own titles into the conversation!

Dr. John H. Boyles is an Associate Professor of Bible. His research focuses on the ancient social world and uses the results to help us understand the New Testament texts better. In his spare time, he enjoys a wide variety of video games, especially those that build worlds and tell stories.

**HCOL: THEOLOGY  
& VIDEO GAMES**



**Monday Nights  
Oct. 13 - Nov. 10  
6-9 pm**

**CRN 10005**

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

# "MASTERMIND": HOW SWIFTIES BECAME TAYLOR-MADE AND WHAT THEIR DEVOTION CAN TEACH THE CHURCH ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP

DR. JENNIFER GOLDEN &  
PROFESSOR AMY BOONE

## HON 413.H1

American Christian churches create community and belonging that encourage members to identify with Christ, devote themselves to personal transformation, and to engage with a community of believers through shared rituals, symbols, and a sacred text. Yet even with the compelling and transformative message of Jesus, church attendance continues to decline throughout the nation.

Meanwhile, over the 19 months of Taylor Swift's Eras Tour, 10 million Swifties attended the 149 shows in 50 countries around the world. Evidence of Swift's understanding of community and belonging shines through her community development with fans, meaningful song lyrics, mystique-building, and art of storytelling.

This course will explore the question of why millions attend cultural events like Taylor Swift concerts while church membership declines. This course will focus on the themes and intersection of culture, community, and spirituality. Our time together will culminate in recommendations for fostering deeper engagement and belonging within church communities inspired by the parallels between faith and fandom. Does Taylor have a word for today's church?

Dr. Jennifer Golden is a marketing professor specializing in research on personal branding. After attending Taylor Swift's concert, she became fascinated by her marketing brilliance and its impact on cultural engagement. Jennifer has a passion for Jesus, a deep connection to church communities, and a desire to explore ways to engage them. Combining her research expertise and faith, she hopes to explore innovative ways to bridge cultural phenomena while strengthening church communities.

Amy Boone, MEd, is the Teaching and Learning Specialist at the Adams Center for Teaching and Learning. She also teaches for the Honors College. As a longtime Taylor Swift fan, she finally attended the Eras tour in November! Amy serves as a leader at Highland Church and is curious and interested in faith development and church community connection.

**HCOL: SWIFTIES  
& THE CHURCH**

**Thurs., Sept. 4**

**6 - 9 pm**

**Sat., Sept. 6**

**9 am - 5 pm**

**Thurs., Sept. 11**

**6 - 9 pm**

**CRN 10006**



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



# REIMAGINING JUSTICE: COUNTER-HISTORIES AND LEGAL "WHAT IF'S" IN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

CHRIS RILEY, J.D., M.P.A.

## HON 414.H1

This course will explore the "what ifs" of historical human rights violations. These alternative histories, or counterfactuals, can better prepare us to consider how to do justice in the face of current and future human rights violations. By comparing the actual outcomes of past events with the possible outcomes of other choices, we can better understand the complex factors that shape these problems and how to do justice. Specifically, in addition to relevant readings, a visit to the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, and case studies, students will critically examine an

instance of mass genocide or a significant human rights violation through the lens of counter-factual history or a speculative "what if" scenario with a specific focus on the role of legal systems, or the lack thereof, in shaping the outcomes of these events. Ultimately, we will consider how alternative legal actions or transitional frameworks might have altered the pursuit of justice.

Chris Riley is an Associate Professor in the Department of Government and Criminal Justice and serves as the university Pre-Law Advisor. Professor Riley has previously taught on the topics of transitional and/or restorative justice as part of ACU's Rising Scholars, Study Abroad, and Honors College. Chris also serves as a Municipal Judge in Abilene.

**HCOL: REIMAGINING  
JUSTICE**

**Thurs., Sept. 25**

**6 - 8 pm**

**Sat., Sept. 27**

**7 am - 6 pm**

**Thurs., Oct. 2**

**6 - 8 pm**

**CRN 10007**



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



FALL 2025

# THE WHEELS ON THE BUS: GLOBAL INSIGHTS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

PROFESSOR LYNDSEY SNYDER

## HON 415.H1

Have you ever ridden a city bus or subway? How would your life look different if that was the only mode of transportation available to you?

Public transportation is utilized by billions of people all over the world every day. However, in most U.S. cities, public transit networks are severely limited or nonexistent. Even still, many people in the United States rely on public transportation to get from A to B. As a result, limited transit systems restrict residents' access to certain educational, social, and employment opportunities.

What can we learn from public transportation systems in cities around the world? How does efficient and accessible public transit benefit individuals, as well as an entire community? Through researching, exploring, and discussing a variety of global cities' public transportation systems, we aim to glean insights from these foreign systems and propose improvements to our own public transportation system here in Abilene.

Lindsay Snyder graduated from ACU in 2015 and later completed a master's degree in Global Studies from Northeastern University. As a young adult, she lived in Leipzig, Germany, for over six years and has been back in Abilene since 2022. She enjoys traveling, exploring woods and forests, reading historical fiction, and watching women's basketball. The next place on her travel list is Norway.

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

**HCOL: GLOBAL  
PUBLIC TRANSIT**



**Monday Nights  
Sept. 8 - Oct. 6  
6-9 pm**

**CRN 10008**

# THE WILDERNESS: THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF UNINHABITED LANDS

DR. CLIFF BARBARICK & ANDY LITTLE, J.D.

## HON 416.H1

This course is a weekend colloquium that introduces students to social, cultural, and theological conceptualizations of “the wilderness.” The wilderness plays a unique role in history, as it represents the place where people do not live. From social, cultural, and theological perspectives, the wilderness has meant many things to many people over the centuries.

Our goal is to discuss each of these conceptualizations of the wilderness in an interdisciplinary setting. We will read the Bible, literature, history, philosophy, ecology, and law. We will learn to “read” the wilderness itself, as we intend to conduct the course off-site while camping in a wilderness setting.

Cliff Barbarick is the chair of the Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry. Along with teaching courses in New Testament studies, he enjoys hiking above the timberline in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, his home state. He hopes one day to summit every peak in Colorado higher than 14,000'.

Andy Little is the Academic Dean of the College of Business Administration. Along with teaching business law, he enjoys hiking and camping across the American Southwest. At least once a year, he visits Big Bend National Park to explore its varied desert landscape.

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

**HCOL: THE  
WILDERNESS**



**Fall Break**

**Oct. 23 - 26**

**Thurs: 6 - 8 pm**

**Fri: 5 - 9 pm**

**Sat: 9 am - 5 pm**

**Sunday 1 - 4 pm**

**CRN 10009**



# THE FUTURE

DR. TODD WOMBLE

## HON 417.H1

Where are we headed? What's next? What will the world look like in 5 years? 20? 50?

In this class, we will read and watch contemporary art (literature, film) that provides imaginative depictions of the future. Attention to what's next has long been a focus of artistic work, and this has continued in the 21st century. Ideas on the future, and our reactions to these ideas, tell us much about who we are, what we care about, and what we fear. In this class, we'll pay close attention to these contemporary artifacts as we simultaneously consider how time spent thinking about the future is also time spent thinking about the present.

Todd Womble is a Professor of English in the Department of Language and Literature. When he's not teaching class, he's probably changing diapers; when he's not doing that, he's probably reading books or playing golf. He's an avid consumer of contemporary literature and film, and he's pretty good at making up discussion questions.

**HCOL: THE  
FUTURE**



**Tuesday Nights  
Sept. 9 - Oct. 7  
6-9 pm**

**CRN 10010**

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



# THE SIMPLE LIFE: EXPLORING AN OHIO AMISH COMMUNITY

DR. JASON MORRIS & DR. HEIDI MORRIS

## HON 418.H1

This travel-based Honors colloquium will explore one of the largest Amish communities in the world – located in Wayne and Holmes County, Ohio (this is where Dr. Morris grew up). Students will travel to this region of the U.S. over fall break and explore various facets of Amish life – including faith, family, community, lifestyle, and historical context. Students will engage in conversation with an Amish leader, tour a working Amish farm, sample local Amish dishes, and explore the natural beauty of the area.

**HCOL: THE SIMPLE  
LIFE**



**Fall Break  
Oct 23-26**

**Students  
interested in  
joining this  
colloquium must  
attend the Simple  
Life Meeting in  
April**

Dr. Jason Morris is a two-time Fulbright grantee. He is a coauthor of The Best Scholarships for the Best Students. He currently serves as the Dean of the Honors College at Abilene Christian University and Executive Director of the Center for Building Community. Dr. Morris grew up in Amish country and visits regularly.

Dr. Heidi Morris received her Ph. D. in Family Studies from Texas Woman's University (TWU) and her Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from ACU in Abilene, Texas. She is a licensed professional counselor and currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Marriage and Family Studies at ACU. Dr. Morris is also the Director of ACU's Faulkner Center. Dr. Morris has traveled to Amish country numerous times, visiting many sites and asking questions related to the family and relational life of the Amish Community.

**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. Taking this colloquium a second time will count as an Activity Credit.

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

**HCOL: JMC  
RACE/MEDIA**



**Weekend TBA**

**Honors Students  
HON 419.H1  
CRN 10012**

**JMC Majors  
JMC 303.H1  
CRN 10580**

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



# JUSTICE, SERVICE, AND INNOVATION IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

DR. TREY SHIRLEY & DR. ERIC BONTEMPO

## HON 419.HS1

Embark on a transformative journey in Oxford, England, by signing up for our immersive course: Justice, Service, and Innovation in a Global Context. Guided by design thinking principles, you will engage in transformative projects addressing urgent global issues of social and environmental justice. Work collaboratively on one impactful endeavor, choosing from options such as creating visual campaigns to combat local injustices like racial inequality or homelessness, delving into the challenges of disability by proposing

designs to enhance accessibility at culturally significant sites for individuals with disabilities while preserving the site's integrity, or envisioning a revitalization project for neglected urban spaces through public art, fostering community pride and connection. Join this unique Oxford experience, where theory meets hands-on, socially impactful projects.

Dr. Trey Shirley is an Assistant Professor of Art and Design and the Associate Dean of the Honors College. His research centers around religious visual culture and Design Thinking. He is married to Trish, who is a local family practice physician, and together they have three children: Beth, Sarah, and John. His interests include cycling, mind puzzles, and typography.

Dr. Eric Bontempo is an Assistant Professor of English in the Department of Language & Literature. He specializes in nineteenth-century British literature and the works of Jane Austen. He is married to his wife, Darya, who also works at ACU as an academic advisor. They have a newborn daughter, Violet. He loves to play just about any sport involving a racquet (tennis, pickleball, racquetball, ping-pong, badminton, etc.).

**HCOL: GLOBAL  
INNOVATION**

**Oxford  
Sept. 29-Oct. 2**

**CRN 10013**



**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.HI

**Wednesdays**  
**Sept. 24 & Oct. 15**  
**5 - 5:50 pm**  
**CRN 10001**

**Thursdays**  
**Sept. 25 & Oct. 16**  
**4:30 - 5:20 pm**  
**CRN 10002**