

*Spring 2026*

# COLLOQUIUM & COURSE GUIDE



## REGISTRATION DATES

**JUNIORS & SENIORS**

*October 20, 3 pm*

**FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES**

*October 29, 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 (even if you have a university excused absence) 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. **Students must have sophomore hours at the time of registration** to register for Honors Colloquia.

**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 2026**

## Honors Sections

*No Contract Needed*

BIBL 102.H1	Life, Lit and Community-Honors	Vic McCracken	MWF	9:00-9:50
BIBL 102.H2	Life, Lit and Community-Honors	Curt Niccum	MWF	10:00-10:50
COMM 120.H1	Intro Public Speaking-Honors	Carley Dodd	MWF	9:00-9:50
HON 123.H1	Biology & Faith Honors II	Joshua Brokaw	W	12:00-12:50
CHEM 134.H1	General Chemistry II Honors	Greg Powell	T R	9:30-10:50
ENGL 222.H1	Major British Writers II	Joe Stephenson	MWF	10:00-10:50
PSYC 120.H1	Intro to Psychology-Honors	Rachel Riley	M	12:00-12:50

## Honors Courses

*Automatic Honors Credit - No Contract Needed*

BIBP 352.01	Biomedical Ethics	Cynthia Powell	T R	8:00-9:20
BIBP 379.01	Philosophy, Religion & Science	Michael Daugherty	T R	12:00-1:20
BIBP 486.01	Ethics	Vic McCracken	MWF	1:00-1:50
PHIL 379.01	Philosophy, Religion & Science	Michael Daugherty	T R	12:00-1:20
PHIL 486.01	Ethics	Vic McCracken	MWF	1:00-1:50
PHYS 379.01	Philosophy, Religion & Science	Michael Daugherty	T R	12:00-1:20

**DESIGN THINKING  
& INNOVATION**



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**SCHOLARSHIP  
& RESEARCH**



# CAPTURING COMMUNITY: PHOTOVOICE IN PRACTICE

PROFESSOR KELLY BARNECHE

## HON 411.H1

"A picture is worth a thousand words." Step into the world of photovoice, a powerful participatory action research method that uses photography and storytelling to reveal new insights and create change.

Through readings and guest speakers, you'll learn the photovoice methodology and put it into practice by exploring and documenting spaces that matter in the Abilene community. As you connect your personal observations to broader questions of social and environmental justice, you'll foster a deeper curiosity about our neighbors and surroundings.

Your individual photos will be transformed into a collective visual project—a tapestry of new perspectives on familiar spaces that sparks meaningful conversations about our community and the possibilities for change.

Kelly Barneche, LMSW, is an Assistant Professor of Social Work and Social & Environmental Justice Track Director. She loves getting to know every neighborhood she lives in, believing that each wrong turn leads to a new discovery (she gets lost a lot). Before coming to ACU, she practiced social work in the humanitarian and human rights sectors and is a big believer in community-based approaches to social change.

**HCOL: CAPTURING  
COMMUNITY**



**Weekend**  
**Jan. 23 - 25**  
**Fri: 5 - 9 pm**  
**Sat: 9 am - 5 pm**  
**Sunday 1 - 4 pm**

**CRN 21319**

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

# UNLOCKING THE ARCHIVES OF POWER: A PEEK BEHIND THE RESOLUTE DESK

DR. RANDALL FOWLER

## HON 412.H1

This course offers students a hands-on introduction to researching in presidential archives, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to explore historical records and conduct independent research projects. Students will learn how to navigate the resources of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), with a focus on presidential libraries. Students will collectively select which of the three presidential archives in Texas to visit, and use their visit to investigate a project that aligns with their personal or academic interests.

The course will cover archival registration, research methodologies, and strategies for accessing and analyzing primary source documents such as correspondence, memos, speeches, and policy records. Students will visit a presidential library, develop a research proposal, and complete a project made possible through the archival visit. By the end of the course, participants will be registered NARA scholars, ready to explore presidential archives with confidence and contribute original insights to multiple fields of humanities research.

Dr. Randall Fowler is a political communication scholar specializing in presidential rhetoric and U.S. foreign policy. With extensive experience conducting archival research in presidential libraries, he has published scholarly work including soon-to-be 4 books on executive communication and decision-making. Dr. Fowler is a certified researcher with the National Archives and a passionate archival educator, skilled in guiding students through the complexities of archival research and primary source analysis.

*\*The Honors College will request Absence Approval for students. More information will be available on the first day of class.*

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

**HCOL: UNLOCKING  
THE ARCHIVES**



**Fridays**

**Jan. 16 - Feb. 6**

**3-5 pm**

**Feb. 13**

*All day trip to LBJ  
Presidential  
Library in Austin\**

**CRN 21321**

SPRING 2026

# QUANTUM COMPUTING: AN OVERVIEW

DR. RYAN KUTAYIAH

## HON 412.H2

Are you ready to explore the mind-bending world of quantum computing?

Step into the future with our Introduction to Quantum Computing course! In just five weeks, you'll journey through the cutting-edge concepts that are reshaping the world of technology, cryptography, and artificial intelligence. This course is your gateway to the fascinating realm of quantum mechanics and its applications in computing.

What You'll Learn:

- Quantum Basics: Start by understanding the building blocks of quantum mechanics – qubits, superposition, and entanglement.
- Quantum Gates: Learn how quantum gates work and discover algorithms that leverage quantum power
- Quantum Circuits: Dive into the creation and manipulation of quantum circuits with hands-on practice on real quantum computing platforms/emulators like IBM Qiskit.
- Quantum vs. Classical: Grasp the key differences between classical computing and quantum computing, and how quantum computing could solve problems once thought impossible.
- The Future of Quantum: Explore the challenges, ethics, and potential applications of quantum computing in industries like cryptography, finance, and AI.

Dr. Ryan Kutayiah is excited to guide readers through the fascinating world of quantum computing. He holds a PhD in Physics from Texas A&M University, where he specialized in theoretical research at the cutting edge of optics and solid-state physics. His doctoral work focused on the intricate phenomena of plasmonics, investigating the linear and nonlinear optical properties of materials hosting Dirac and Weyl fermions—an area at the forefront of modern condensed matter physics.

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

**HCOL: QUANTUM  
COMPUTING**



**Thursday Nights  
Feb. 5 - Mar. 5  
6-9 pm**

**CRN 21322**

# ENGAGEMENT PARTY (IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK)

**DR. BEN PETERSON &  
PROFESSOR AMY BOONE**

## HON 413.H1

In a world facing complex, large-scale challenges, it's natural to feel overwhelmed and wonder, Can one person really make a difference? Does our vote count? Do our concerns about society and the world matter? Sharon McMahon reminds us, "If it's a problem worth solving, it's worth solving for one person... vote and do something. Do for one person what you wish you could do for everyone."

Civic engagement involves working to improve the quality of life in a community through both political and non-political actions. In Matthew 25, Jesus powerfully states, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." This class is designed to inspire you to approach civic engagement with that same mindset, tackling problems that matter one meaningful step at a time. Join us as we learn about the meaning of civic engagement and utilize the research method of focus groups to engage community leaders. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with the larger Abilene community and explore how faith-driven actions, both large and small, can make a real impact.

Amy Boone, MEd, is the Teaching and Learning Specialist at the Adams Center for Teaching and Learning. She also teaches for the Honors College. Amy prioritizes good citizenship in the community and beyond by listening to others' perspectives and learning about her city, state, and country. One of her favorite citizen activities was participating in the Citizens Police Academy with the Abilene Police Department.

Ben Peterson, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Government and Criminal Justice. He writes on political and constitutional theory, and on social policy and public affairs more broadly.

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

**HCOL: CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT**



**Thurs., Jan. 29**

**6 - 9 pm**

**Sat., Jan. 31**

**9 am - 5 pm**

**Thurs., Feb. 19**

**6 - 9 pm**

**CRN 21323**

# POETRY AND THE POET

DR. SHELLY SANDERS



## HON 414.H1

Join us in welcoming acclaimed poet Dr. Kieron Winn as he travels from England to Abilene! This colloquium offers a hands-on opportunity to help bring a celebrated poet to our campus. Dr. Winn, who has taught for ACU Study Abroad in Oxford for many years, will read from his newly published collection of poems, *No Time*, for students and the Abilene community before embarking on a larger Texas tour. Participants will assist with planning and hosting the reading, and we will explore his poetry beforehand so you can share and promote his work. Be part of an exciting literary experience that connects our campus with an international voice!

Dr. Shelly Sanders and her family recently returned from Oxford, having taught with ACU Study Abroad. She enjoyed hosting a Thanksgiving poetry reading in the ACU house, and both she and Dr. Winn read their poetry, as well as encouraging students to read some of their own. It was an amazing night! Now she has returned to the Language and Literature Department to continue her own research on Daphne DuMaurier as Writer-in-Residence, as well as teaching YA Literature and creative writing classes of her own.

*\*Required class meeting for Dr. Winn's event from 1 - 4 pm on Wednesday, March 18. The Honors College will request Absence Approval for students. More information will be available on the first day of class.*

**HCOL: POETRY AND  
THE POET**



**Tuesday Nights\***  
**Feb. 24 - Mar. 3**  
**6 - 10 pm**  
**Mar. 17 - 24**  
**6 - 10 pm**

**CRN 21325**

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

SPRING 2026

# INTERNATIONAL SPORTS! A WORLD OF ICONIC GAMES AND TRADITIONS

PROF. JORGE DANIEL GARCIA SANTIAGO

## HON 414.H2

"International Sports! A World of Iconic Games and Traditions" is a course that takes students around the world to learn about famous sports and cultural traditions. Students will discover the stories behind events like the Tour de France bicycle race, the ancient practice of Sumo wrestling in Japan, the fast-paced world of Formula One car racing, the internationalization of cricket, the amazing athletes in the Paralympic Olympic Games, and, the most popular sports event in the world, the FIFA Soccer World Cup. This course offers a fresh look at how sports shape national pride and connect people and cultures around the world.

After working in multicultural and international enrollment for 14 years, Professor Jorge Daniel Garcia Santiago is now a full-time professor 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, he 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 two confused Texan girls and a little boy.

**HCOL:  
INTERNATIONAL  
SPORTS**



**Thursday Nights**  
**Jan. 29 - Feb. 19**  
**6-9 pm**  
**Mar. 5**  
**6-9 pm**

**CRN 21326**

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

SPRING 2026

# THE ART OF FELTING

PROFESSOR CATHERINE BAUMGARDNER

## HON 415.H1

Ever wondered how to turn wool into something amazing? In this colloquium, you'll explore the art of felting while designing and making your own project—anything from a wall hanging or garment to a bowl, bag, or book cover. We'll cover the basics, experiment with textures and colors, and have plenty of fun along the way. Get ready to get those hands messy and have an awesome time doing it!

HCOL: THE ART OF  
FELTING



**Thurs., Mar. 5**  
**5 - 7 pm**  
**Weekend**  
**Mar. 20 - 22**  
**Fri: 5 - 7 pm**  
**Sat: 9 am - 5 pm**  
**Sunday 2 - 5 pm**

**CRN 21327**

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Catherine Baumgardner teaches costume design in the Theatre Department. She first "fell in love" with felting fifteen years ago and has been enjoying it ever since. Catherine enjoys teaching others this process so they, too, can learn the art of felting.

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

# ELECTRIC GUITAR PICKUPS: HOW THEY WORK AND HOW THEY ARE MADE

DR. DARBY HEWITT  
AND DR. JEREMY ELLIOTT

## HON 416.H1

In this colloquium, we will explore the various types of electric guitar pickups by listening to iconic guitar tones from famous recording artists, demonstrating different guitar tones on electric guitars, reading about and experimenting with different parameters of pickup construction such as types of magnets, number of turns of wire, and single vs dual coils, and creating a custom pickup based on your own tonal preferences.

**HCOL: ELECTRIC  
GUITAR PICKUPS**



**Weekend**  
**Feb. 20 - 22**  
**Fri: 5 - 10 pm**  
**Sat: 9 am - 5 pm**  
**Sunday 1 - 4 pm**

**CRN 21328**

Dr. Darby Hewitt is a Professor of Electrical Engineering, and he's also a musical electronics enthusiast. He has built several guitar tube amps and effects pedals. When he's not teaching about digital and analog electronics, he is tinkering with his musical equipment.

Dr. Jeremy Elliott is a Professor of English. In his spare time, he's into woodworking. Specifically, he builds guitars. He has years of experience with pickup winding and guitar building.

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

SPRING 2026

# DESIGN THINKING

DR. NIL SANTANA

## HON 417.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. 27 - Mar. 1**  
**Fri: 5 - 10 pm**  
**Sat: 9 am - 5 pm**  
**Sunday 1 - 4 pm**

**CRN 21329**

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 2026

# 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 employee benefits 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  
Feb. 6 -7  
Fri.: 5 - 10 pm  
Sat.: 9 am - 7 pm**

**CRN 21330**

Dr. Eric Gumm has worked at ACU for over 29 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 30 years to Sherry, who is an elementary school principal, and they have three great kids - Lauren, John Paul, and Emily - and one terrific granddaughter!

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

SPRING 2026

# JMC COLLOQUIA RACE AND MEDIA

SPECIAL GUEST - TBA

## HON 419.H1

**HCOL: RACE AND  
MEDIA**



**Weekend TBA**

**Honors Students  
HON 419.H1  
CRN 21331**

**JMC Majors  
JMC 303.H1  
CRN 21175**

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. Pybus at [krp03c@acu.edu](mailto:krp03c@acu.edu).

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



# PROJECT THESIS SEMINAR

**DR. JASON MORRIS**

## HON 307

**HONORS PROJECT:  
SPECIAL**

**Thursdays  
Feb. 19 & Mar. 5  
4:30 - 5:50 pm**

**CRN 20330**

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.**