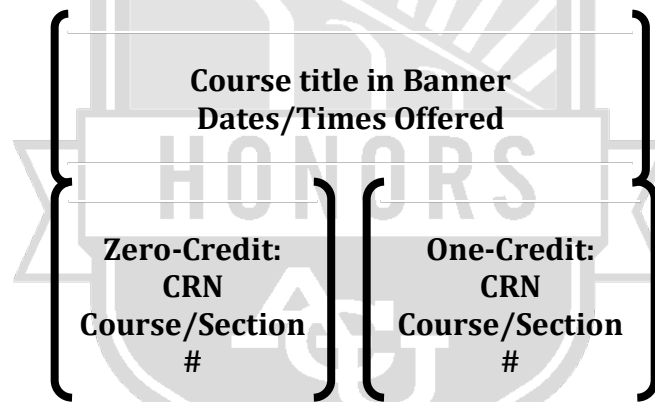


HONORS COLLOQUIUM OFFERINGS FALL 2015

KEY TO COURSE INFORMATION:



IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:

- Students can take colloquia for one- or zero-credit. Zero-credit classes are not charged tuition and their grades are not reflected in GPAs; in every other way, the classes are identical.
- All students enrolled in a colloquium receive a letter-grade, regardless of whether they are taking it for one- or zero-credit.
- Registration will be done through Alison Spencer. Simply email her at alison.spencer@acu.edu with the following:
 - Name
 - Banner ID
 - Top three colloquia choices, in order
 - Whether you want zero-credit or one-hour-credit
 - Any additional information I may need

BON APPETIT: SAVORING POETRY AND GOOD COOKING

DR. STEVEN MOORE

In this exciting Honors adventure, we will embark upon the study of Contemporary American poetry; we will analyze famous and award-winning poets such as Steve Coleman, Georgia Me, Billy Collins, Mary Oliver, Gwendolyn Brooks, Nikki Giovanni, Li-Young Lee, and Ted Kooser. While studying poetry, we will also notice powerful connections between

HCol: Poetry & Good Cooking
September 8 – October 6
Tuesday Nights, 6:00 – 8:50pm

Zero-Credit:
11257
HON 401.H1

One-credit:
11258
HON 411.H1

community and food; we will savor words and food together as a community of learners. The class will end with a unique Pie and Poetry Evening, where you will be given the opportunity of sharing your poetic voice with the class.

All five night sessions of this colloquium must be attended.

NOTE: Many, if not all, of your meals will be covered by the Honors College.

PROFESSOR BIO:

Dr. Steven T. Moore is an Associate Professor of English at Abilene Christian University. He defended his dissertation from the University of Nebraska, examining the appearance of Black Rage in African-American literature. His areas of research interests include African-American literature (primary the Harlem Renaissance period), Contemporary American literature, the Beat-Generation, and Film. He is the author of The Cry of Black Rage and the forthcoming book entitled Monstrous Beauty in the Moonwalk: Examining the Hidden Reality of Blackness in the Music Videos of Michael Jackson. He also has deep passion for politics, social justice, poetry, and jazz.

MEDIA, POPULAR CULTURE, AND IDENTITY: EXPLORING HOW MEDIA IMPACTS IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT

DR. JENNIFER SHEWMAKER

In this eye-opening course, we will explore the manner in which certain aspects of a person's life influence their response to media messages, particularly those shaded by sexual or stereotyped overtones. We'll take a hard look at the impact of advertisements, products, and entertainment on a person's identity and consider strategies for becoming critical, active media consumers.

HCol: Media, Culture, Identity
Weekend of September 18th – 20th
F: 5-10pm, Sa: 9am – 5pm, Su: 1 – 4pm

Zero-Credit:
11259
HON 402.H1

One-Credit:
11260
HON 412.H1

All three meetings of this weekend colloquium must be attended.

PROFESSOR BIO:

Jennifer W. Shewmaker, PhD, is an associate professor of psychology at Abilene Christian University (ACU) and is a nationally certified school psychologist. She is the mother of three daughters and a founding board member of the Brave Girls Alliance, an international partnership of parents, professionals, and small business owners advocating for healthy, empowering media for children. She received her bachelors of science degree in psychology from ACU and her doctorate in school psychology from Texas Woman's University. Dr. Shewmaker provides media literacy workshops for parents, professionals, and children in order to develop effective, critical responses to media messages. She blogs at www.jennifersheemaker.com.

TECHNOLOGY OF SPIRIT

DR. JOHN WEAVER

The spiritual disciplines -- such as prayer, devotional reading, sabbath, hospitality, and worship -- are essential to having a life closer to God. In this colloquium, we will first examine how spiritual practices have been enabled and disabled by technology throughout history -- from ancient altars and scrolls, to modern books and mechanical devices, to contemporary digital media. Then, interpreting our own electronic habits in light of the Bible and its forms of spiritual life, we will identify faithful techniques for an increasingly digital journey towards greater intimacy with Christ.

HCol: Technology of Spirit
September 3 – October 1
Thursday Nights, 6:00 – 8:50pm

Zero-Credit:
11261
HON 403.H1

One-Credit:
11262
HON 413.H1

All five night sessions of this colloquium must be attended.

PROFESSOR BIO:

Dr. Weaver is the Dean of Library Services and Educational Technology at ACU. A biblical scholar and information scientist, he researches and teaches at the intersection of Christian scripture and technological culture. His forthcoming book explores the significance of the Biblical text to Christian formation in our increasingly digital world. His current research focuses on the history of the Bible in electronic society.

THE WILDERNESS: THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF UNINHABITED LANDS

DR. ANDY LITTLE AND DR. CLIFF BARBARICK

This course is a weekend colloquium that introduces students to social, historical, 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:

- a desolate place characterized by the absence of humans and God
- in contrast to the City, a holy place where one goes to meet God
- a fearsome land of savage animals and dangerous natural conditions (often called “the howling wilderness” in the 18th and 19th centuries)
- a weekender’s paradise, replete with scenic and recreational value
- a place where humanity can retreat from technology in order to re-establish a right relationship with nature
- a repository of natural resources to be extracted and exploited
- a natural preserve that requires legal protection from undue human encroachment

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.

Attendance at the Thursday pre-meeting and the camping weekend is required.

NOTE: For this course, we will provide your camping and entry fees, as well as various other charges. There is no course fee; however, you will be expected to provide your own transportation and food. Overall, costs to you should be fairly minimal.

PROFESSOR BIOS:

Cliff Barbarick teaches New Testament in the Department of Bible, and Andy Little teaches law in the Management Sciences Department. Both love the wilderness, and have significant experience hiking, camping and leading groups in the outdoors. Given the chance, both would rather be in the wilderness right now.

HCol: The Wilderness

October 22nd – 25th

Thursday 6:30 – 8:30pm
AND Friday morning through
Sunday evening

Zero-Credit:
11263
HON 404.H1

One-Credit:
11264
HON 414.H1

HOW SCIENCE CAN SAVE THE WORLD: CLIMATE CHANGE, NUCLEAR POWER, AND IRAN

DR. NEAL COATES AND DR. RUSTY TOWELL

Bad science is prevalent in science fiction movies. Often this is required to make a good movie. Unfortunately, bad science is also prevalent in public policy and this causes problems for everyone. From solving the world's need for energy to protecting our planet and the people living on it, good science can save the world.

HCol: Science Can Save World
August 31st **AND** September 11th & 12th

Monday (8/31) 6:00 – 9:00 pm;
Friday (9/11) 6:00 – 9:00 pm;
Saturday (9/12) 8:00am – 5:00pm

Zero-Credit:
11265
HON 405.H1

One-Credit:
11266
HON 415.H1

This course is designed to inform students about the role science should hold in national and international policy. Specific case studies include climate change, nuclear power, and Iran's effort to make a nuclear bomb. Lectures and selected readings will inform a lively in-class discussion of these current issues, and lead students to better evaluate scientific claims in their fields.

All three meetings of this colloquium must be attended.

NOTE: Lunch will be provided for all students on Saturday.

PROFESSOR BIOS:

Dr. Neal Coates is a professor of Political Science at ACU. Dr. Coates has traveled throughout the Middle East and greatly enjoys teaching about the region, Iran, Israel, American foreign policy, and international law.

Dr. Rusty Towell is a professor of Engineering and Physics at ACU. He has taught at the Naval Nuclear Power School and has conducted research in nuclear physics at U.S. national laboratories for 20 years.

DOCUMENTARIES AND MODERN CULTURE

DR. STEPHEN BALDRIDGE AND JENN ROGERS, M. ED.

Have you ever watched a documentary that has "changed your life" or "changed your perspective". That's the intent of a documentary, right? Or maybe they are created just to inform our decisions or educate us. Sometimes being informed and educated comes with a price. The price is fear. We are fearful of vaccines because "they cause autism". We are fearful of SeaWorld because "they abuse ocean life". We are fearful of being educators because "a student may shoot us and all of our other students".

HCol: Based on the Book
September 11th & 12th **AND** October 3rd
Friday (9/11) 6:00 – 9:00 pm;
Saturday (9/12) 9:00am – 5:00 pm;
Saturday (10/3) 9:00am – 1:00pm

Zero-Credit:
11267
HON 406.H1

One-Credit:
11268
HON 416.H1

This class will address those issues and more. Whether it be social justice and civil rights, the language we use, or the kinds of foods we eat, documentaries can change people. This class will ask how and why certain films have shaped an entire culture. Structured by major theoretical concepts and approaches, we will examine documentaries impact on medical, educational, religious, social, and/or political issues.

All three meetings of this colloquium must be attended.

PROFESSOR BIOS:

Jenn Rogers is an Instructor in the Teacher Education Department. She was a Behavior Skills teacher for the Head Start program in AbileneISD before beginning at ACU. She worked intensely with children who had moderate to severe behavior related concerns or diagnosis. Jenn has been teaching at ACU for the last five years. She teaches Early Childhood Education, Educational Psychology and Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. Her graduate work was in Counseling and Human Development. She devotes her research to Early Childhood practices, the impact of nutrition on a developing human, classroom management strategies and theoretical models and their impacts in the workplace. Jenn is married to Mark and has three kids, Haelyn (5), Hope (4) and Hunter (1).

Dr. Stephen Baldrige serves as Assistant Professor and Undergraduate Program Director in the School of Social Work. The majority of his practice experience is working with children with severe behavioral issues. His extensive research in the areas of technology, social media, as well as food, nutrition, and health have lead him to a love and appreciation of documentaries. When not watching documentaries, Dr. Baldrige spends most of his time playing with his 4 children, enjoying his wife Hollie's cooking, and running triathlons.

EXISTENCE OF GOD: REASON AND EVIDENCE

DR. RYAN JESSUP AND DR. JOHN HOMER

What evidence is there outside the bible for Jesus' existence? Was there anything unique or countercultural about the laws Moses presented to the Israelites? Is there any indication of God's existence beyond our own emotional impulses or the desire of parents to make their children behave?

HCol: Existence of God
August 31st – October 5th
Monday Nights, 6:00 – 8:50pm

Zero-Credit:
11269
HON 406.H1

One-Credit:
11270
HON 416.H1

This colloquium will meet over five weekly sessions, focusing chiefly on apologetics for the existence of God. Additionally, extra-biblical evidences for the historicity of Christ as well as an examination of the uniqueness of commands from the Law of Moses will be introduced. We will discuss these ideas and their relevance to our own personal understanding of God in light of a western worldview that is increasingly combative against those who profess belief.

All five night sessions of this colloquium must be attended.

PROFESSOR BIOS:

*Ryan Jessup has a PhD in cognitive science and formerly worked as a research scientist at Trinity College Dublin and Caltech, alongside Sheldon Cooper. These experiences introduced him to a skeptical world which often considers religion irrational, forcing him to consider the reasons for his beliefs. He **thinks** that he is normal.*

*John Homer has a PhD in computer science and an interest in logic and reason. He **thinks** that he is rational but would really like some justification.*

THINK WRONG: DESIGN THINKING IN PRACTICE

DR. NIL SANTANA AND DR. TREY SHIRLEY

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 large-scale public service solution that will provide a unique experience to users and the community.

HCol: Think Wrong
September 4th – October 30th
Friday afternoons, 3:00 - 6:00pm
(every other week)

Zero-Credit:
11271
HON 406.H1

One-Credit:
11272
HON 416.H1

All five afternoon sessions of this colloquium must be attended.

NOTE: Most, if not all, of your Maker Lab materials will be covered by the Honors College.

PROFESSOR BIOS:

Originally from Brazil, Dr. Nil Santana is Assistant Professor in the Department of Art and Design. Nil serves as the Director of the Maker Lab at Abilene Christian University. He holds a B.S. in Industrial Design from Universidade Federal da Paraiba ('93), the M.S. in Digital Media from ACU ('00), and a Ph.D. in Philosophy, Aesthetics and Art Theory from Institute of Doctoral Studies in Visual Arts ('13).

Dr. Shirley is an instructor in the Department of General Education. He has a BA in Art, a Masters of Divinity and a Ph.D. in Fine Arts, Critical Studies in Artistic Practice from Texas Tech University. His hobbies include: graphic design, making, general carpentry, and religious marketing theory.

STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY

DR. JIM LITTON

Students will work in teams to evaluate giving opportunities with Abilene non-profits. At the end of the course, teams will make recommendations to the entire class, which will serve as a foundation's board of directors and decide how and where to distribute at least \$15,000 in funding. Through the process, students will also be asked to develop a personal approach to philanthropy that will serve them in their future giving.

HCol: Strategic Philanthropy
Five 3-hour meetings throughout
semester, TBA

Zero-Credit:
11277
HON 409.H3

One-Credit:
11278
HON 419.H3

Activities: Each team will prepare a written proposal assessing at least one possible non-profit funding opportunity. A brief essay will also be required in response to readings and guest lectures related to a personal approach to philanthropy.

All five sessions of this colloquium must be attended.

PROFESSOR BIO:

Jim Litton, J.D., is the Director of the Griggs Center for Entrepreneurship & Philanthropy as well as an Assistant Professor in the College of Business Administration at ACU.

JMC COLLOQUIA – RACE AND MEDIA

SPECIAL GUEST – TBA

NOTE: Unlike most colloquia, you **can** register for this on Banner at the start of Registration.

This course is hosted by the Journalism and Mass Communication department. 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 Coll – Race & Media
Weekend, dates **TBA**
F: 5-10pm, **Sa:** 9am – 5pm, **Su:** 1 – 4pm

Zero-Credit:
11130
HON 409.H1

One-Credit:
11131
JMC 303.H1

If you have questions about this colloquium, please contact Lisa Wiggins at (325) 674-2297 or lisa.wiggins@acu.edu

All sessions of this weekend colloquium must be attended.

PROJECT THESIS SEMINAR

DR. JASON MORRIS AND ALISON SPENCER, M. ED.

NOTE: Unlike colloquia, you **can** register for this on Banner at the start of Registration.

The highest distinction of Honors at ACU is the Honors Scholar, and it requires an Honors Project Thesis (previously called "Honors Capstone"). Because we want as many students as possible to be able to achieve Honors Scholar, we offer this "workshop" of sorts to help students begin the Project Thesis process.

This Seminar should make the Project Thesis process less stressful and more accessible for students. This course will meet only two times during the semester. **This means that in just two sessions, you will gain valuable insight into this process and get an extra upper level credit.**

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| Project Thesis Seminar | |
| Tuesdays September 29 th and October 20 th 5:00-7:00 PM | |
| or | |
| Wednesdays September 30 th and October 21 st 4:00-6:00 PM | |
| Tuesday option: 11273 HON 307.H1 | Wednesday option: 11274 HON 307.H2 |

This course does not count as a colloquium and is available to Juniors and Seniors only. Students taking the seminar **cannot** already be in their graduation semester. All students who wish to be an Honors Scholar are required to take the seminar.

Both night meetings of this seminar must be attended.

PROFESSOR BIOS:

Dr. Morris is the Associate Dean of the Honors College, Director of the Office of Major Scholarships, and an assistant professor of higher education. He holds an Ed.D. in Higher Education and has published numerous articles. He is also a two-time Fulbright grantee and coauthor of several books about major scholarships.

Alison Spencer is the Honors Academic Coordinator, and has a Master's in Higher Education and Student Affairs. She is also currently finishing a Master's in Psychology. She graduated from the ACU Honors College in 2011, and brings her experiences writing her own Honors thesis to this seminar.