

COURSEWORK

FMU Honors courses are designed to reward inquiry, stimulate learning and promote community outreach. While not necessarily more difficult than regular courses, they are typically different in both content and atmosphere. Class sizes are capped at 16; teaching is ordinarily more conversation- than lecture-based; and assignments are frequently non-traditional and innovative. Expectations are high, of course, but the professors always strive to live up to them.

Each semester's Honors course offerings will be advertised via email well in advance of registration. Some courses, such as those in General Education areas like English 101 or 102, are offered every year or semester, but others, particularly Honors 200/Special Topics courses, are different and always changing. Generally, among the courses you may choose from are:

HONORS SYMPOSIA (1 hour)

Honors Symposia are offered in four different subject areas. Symposia are primarily forums for discussion and discovery and so incorporate little if any testing. Symposia meet once a week, do not carry general education or other credit, are graded A-F, and may be taken twice for credit.

- **200/SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM**

Students attend the weekly Science Symposium lecture and respond to it in the symposium discussion. HNRS 200 is usually offered each fall semester.

- **HONORS 201/HUMANTIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM**

Students meets once a week to discuss recent art/cultural events such as plays, concerts, lectures, etc., or meet with area artists or arts advocates. HNRS 201 is usually offered each fall semester.

- **HONORS 202/ LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM**

Students meet weekly with local civic leaders, entrepreneurs, administrators or other luminaries and discuss such relevant topics as leadership, governance, urban development, philanthropy, etc. HNRS 202 is usually offered each spring semester.

- **HONORS 203/SERVICE SYMPOSIUM**

Students meet weekly to discuss the privileges and obligations of citizenship and the ways we can serve our communities. Guest speakers

will include directors of civic or charitable organizations. Students will then identify and create service opportunities in the Pee Dee. HNRS 203 is usually offered each spring semester.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES (3 or 4 hours)

Because Honors students should take most of their Honors courses during their first two years, FMU Honors offers Honors-only sections of courses that also fulfill General Education requirements—for example Speech Communication 101, English 101 and 102, Political Science 101 and 103, Economics 203 and 204, etc. Course offerings differ each semester but typically include these basic staples of FMU's undergraduate curriculum.

SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES (3 or 4 hours)

Special Topics courses are available only to Honors students and are taught by faculty interested in indulging their appetites for challenging subject matter. They are typically interdisciplinary and cover innovative topics within their subject areas and may apply toward certain majors with the permission of the applicable chair or dean. Three or four such courses are usually offered each semester. These include:

- **HONORS 250-259/SPECIAL TOPICS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (3 hours)**

Course topics have included Sociology of Mental Health, Humanitarianism, Globalization and Public Policy, The Personal Presidency, etc. These courses may be taken for General Education credit (areas 2c and 4 in the FMU catalog).

- **HONORS 260-269/SPECIAL TOPICS IN THE HUMANITIES (3 hours)**

Course topics have included The Brothers Grimm, Film Noir, The Arthurian Legends, International Short Stories, The Third Reich, The Holocaust, Art of the Letter, The History of Rock & Roll, Introduction to Art Therapy, etc. These courses may be taken for General Education credit (areas 3d and 4 in the FMU catalog).

- **HONORS 270-279/SPECIAL TOPICS IN THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (3 or 4 hours)**

Course topics have included Language and Thought, Psychology of Medicine, Biomedical Ethics & Modern Film, etc. These courses may be taken for General Education credit (area 4 in the FMU catalog).

- **HONORS 280-289/ SPECIAL TOPICS IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES (3 or 4 hours)**

Course topics have included Essential Forensic Chemistry, The Biology

of Cancer, the Neurobiology of Crime, Nature Photography, Our Place in Space, etc. These courses may be taken for General Education credit (area 6c in the FMU catalog).

HONORS 350/THE MODEL UN EXPERIENCE (3 hours)

This course provides a history of the United Nations and prepares students for participation in the National Model United Nations conference in New York City. Students learn about the history and function of the UN, the policies of the country to which FMU is assigned, the development of position papers, the methods and importance of diplomacy, and the process of creating resolutions. Enrollment is by application. This course is offered every spring and may be taken twice for credit.

HONORS 397/HONORS COLLOQUIUM (3 hours)

(Prerequisite: completion of 12 or more Honors hours or permission of Honors Director.) This multi-disciplinary course offers Honors students the opportunity to examine unique subjects which do not fall within the province of any one department or school. Examples include History and Culture of Native America, Utopias & Dystopias, Banned Books, The Vietnam War and American Culture, History of Civil Rights, and African Studies. Honors 397 carries elective but not departmental or school credit unless approved as such by the applicable chair. It may be taken twice for credit. Grades below B do not count for Honors credit. Honors Nursing majors may take IPHC 500 Rural Healthcare or IPHC 380 Introduction to Public Health as a substitute for Honors 397 Colloquium. Honors Education majors may take Education 411/Reading & Writing in Content Areas with an Honors Contract course component as a substitute for Honors 397 Colloquium. Honors students successfully completing a study-abroad semester (that is, completing at least 9 semester hours at one of our exchange partner universities) may apply 3 upper-division transfer hours toward the 397 Colloquium with permission of the Director of FMU Honors. Such students must still complete a total of 21 Honors hours, including the Honors Independent Study, though may count up to nine international exchange hours for Honors credit.

HONORS 391/HONORS INDEPENDENT STUDY WORKSHOP (1 hour)

(Prerequisite: Completion of 12 or more Honors hours or permission of the Honors Director.) This course is optional for students planning to complete HNRS 491/Honors Independent Study the following semester. Students work with the Director to plan for their Independent Study project, to select and begin work with their faculty mentor, and to prepare an acceptable proposal for the Honors

Committee. This course carries elective but not general education, departmental, or school credit. It is assessed as S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) and may be taken for credit only once.

CONTRACT COURSES (3-4 hours)

By special arrangement with the Honors Director and applicable faculty member, FMU Honors students may take one non-Honors course for Honors credit by agreeing to a value-added component, typically a paper or presentation(s). This option may be exercised only once and is ordinarily reserved for students late in their career who cannot fit an Honors course into the schedule. Permission must be granted before the contract course begins and requires an actual contract agreed to, completed and signed by all parties (the student, faculty member and Director) prior to the semester in question. See the Honors Director for details.

HONORS 491/HONORS INDEPENDENT STUDY (3 hours)

(Prerequisite: completion of 12 or more Honors hours or permission of Honors Director.) This course is a semester-long research project that allows the student to pursue independent academic work, normally in his/her major, under the guidance of a faculty mentor. It typically takes the form of a research project or thesis, though creative projects are not uncommon. Topics must be approved by both the appropriate department chair and the Honors Committee the semester before the project is begun. Projects are reviewed by three faculty members from two different disciplines. Grades below B do not count toward credit for the Honors degree, although they do count toward regular university degree requirements. This course may be taken a second time in a second discipline.

Alternatives to Honors 491 include 497/Special Studies in various disciplines, PRS 499/Advanced Study, or Nursing445/Guided Nursing Elective. Honors Education majors, having successfully proposed an Honors thesis topic the semester before, may count 3 of the 9 hours earned in Education 490/Directed Teaching as Honors hours during their final semester. The thesis will be graded separately (P/F) by the student's thesis committee; that grade will not apply toward the grade the student earns in Education 490. The thesis grade will instead satisfy (or not) the Honors thesis requirement necessary for graduating With University Honors. See also Washington Semester Internship program and Honors Independent Study Guidelines, below.

WASHINGTON SEMESTER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (15 hours)

Members of FMU Honors are encouraged to apply for the Washington Semester Internship Program administered by the University of South Carolina Honors College. Accepted students from around the state live together in Washington, DC, for a semester, are assigned to intern at a non-profit agency or legislative office, and take 15 hours of courses through USC. Students who successfully complete the program may count all 15 hours toward Honors; three of these (either POL 497H, ENG 498H or PSY 310H) will replace Honors 491/Independent Study Thesis. Grades below B do not count toward credit for the Honors degree, although they do count toward regular degree requirements.