

# Honors Seminar Proposal

Semester Course will be Taught:

---

Course Number and Title:

---

Desired Days and Time:

---

Desired Building and Room for Lecture:

---

Instructor of Record (Name and Department):

---

Other Faculty Involved (Names and Departments):

Course Description:

What will be the assessment approach (grading) for the course?

Can this course be ACEd? If so, how can community engagement be incorporated in the course?

Are there opportunities for the course to produce presentations (such as at the URS) or Honors theses for students? If so, how?

Are there opportunities for the course to produce presentations or publications for faculty? If so, how?

Honors students are required to take two seminars to graduate with honors. Seminars are populated with mixed major, mainly upper level, honors students with class sizes usually between 15-20 depending on the course format. We lean toward seminars that have the possibility of generating Honors theses, community service, or student research (including URS presentations). All topics are considered with special consideration for those topics best dealt with in multidisciplinary discussion formats. Topics that broaden our student's perspective, prepare them for success in the future, or expose them to new ideas are preferred. There are usually three or four faculty running each seminar, but the number is flexible depending on topic and format. We generally encourage a true seminar format with assessment based on discussion, journals, research, and projects over exams and quizzes.

The pay structure for seminars is generally:

- 4 faculty, each make \$2000 for the semester.
- 3 faculty, each make \$2500 for the semester.
- 2 faculty, each make \$3000 for the semester.
- 1 faculty, makes \$3500 for the semester.

For more than four faculty, the organizing faculty receives \$2,500 for the semester, the remaining faculty are paid based on time in the classroom, usually about \$100 per hour of instruction. Pay for summer seminars is slightly lower than listed above, depending on funding availability. Compensation is generally incorporated into the paycheck, except for one-time presenters or guest faculty (those making \$500 or less for their participation). Paper work for presenters and guest faculty is submitted following their presentation or portion of the class, keeping with university policy. It will usually take four to six weeks for them to then be paid. Funds for activities (food, outings, speakers) may be available but is not guaranteed.

For more information contact:

Patrick Lewis: AB4 105, 4-1406, pjl001@shsu.edu

## Honors Seminars

### **HONR 3321. Honors Seminar in Fine Arts. 3 Hours.**

This team-taught class is an investigation into the theories, meanings, purposes, and practical experience of the fine arts, including dance, music, the visual arts, and theater. Students will attend dance and music concerts, theater productions, and art exhibits.

### **HONR 3322. Journeys. 3 Hours.**

The Journeys seminar invites approximately ten of the most innovative and successful members of the Sam Houston State University community to give one lecture each. Each speaker has one class period to use however s/he feels is best. Chosen speakers generally detail the paths of their own lives while giving students advice on how to achieve successful and happy lives. Speakers are chosen from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds.

### **HONR 3331. Culture and Society. 3 Hours.**

This course deals with contemporary social, economic, political, and international issues and provides important background information and perspectives on current debates and events. Course content varies. Online.

### **HONR 3332. Honors Seminar in The Humanities. 3 Hours.**

This course is a team-taught, cross-disciplinary concentration on ideas, developments, and subject matter in the humanities.

### **HONR 3342. The Word. 3 Hours.**

This seminar changes topics (or "words") every semester, and several faculty with interests and specialties relevant to the theme from various colleges and departments lead discussions from different points of view. Sample topics include "The End," "Connections," "Sustainability," and "Drugs." All words reflect timely topics and student interests.

### **HONR 3343. Film and Society. 3 Hours.**

This seminar invites students to explore the relationship between film and society from a broad range of perspectives. Several faculty from various colleges and departments choose films and lead discussions. Topics vary.

### **HONR 3365. Decision Making. 3 Hours.**

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of decision making and problem solving. Students will (1) learn fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories of decision making, (2) learn how to apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions, (3) gain skills for working as a team in presenting a problem for decisions, (4) understand how to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view concerned with decisions.

### **HONR 3375. Honors Dialogues Seminar. 3 Hours.**

The Dialogues Seminar is an interdisciplinary course which examines selected controversial or provocative topics from various academic and intellectual perspectives. The course is team taught, with faculty from various disciplines engaged with one another and with the students in interactive discussions of the selected topic for the course.

All seminars require admission to the Honors College.