Honors Program – 2014/15 catalog

Honors courses fulfill USM Core requirements and are open to engaged students.

Permission to enroll: honors@usm.maine.edu, 780-4330, 253 Luther Bonney

How do honors courses differ from other USM Core courses? HON courses are small, interdisciplinary seminars in which engaged learners share ideas in a collaborative setting. Students hone their own thoughts and positions on complex, multi-faceted issues by considering diverse perspectives and conflicting-yet-plausible ideas. In the process of examining big questions – contemporary and enduring – students develop as individuals and gain confidence through writing, questioning, and dialogue. Courses don’t necessarily require more work, but Honors is for students willing and able to challenge themselves, so class preparation, attendance, and participation are essential. Students can reach their full academic potential by writing a thesis, a year-long self-directed research project.

1 A few HON electives provide general elective credit only (not part of USM Core), e.g., writing workshops that take your writing skills to a higher level.

Entry Year Experience (EYE)

HON 101: topics vary by instructor

Substitution: if you have 24+ credits before you take your 1st honors course or your major requires a different EYE course, you can substitute an HON elective.

Creative Expression

• HON 207 - Illuminated Autobiography
• HON 175 - Oral Interpretation of Literature

Socio-cultural Analysis

HON 103 - Cultural & Historical Perspectives on Poverty

Cultural Interpretation

• HON 102 also Diversity & Int’l Confrontation & Cross-fertilization: Medieval Cultures
• HON 299 – topics vary

Science Exploration

HON 200/201-Interdisciplinary Inquiry

Topics vary (Water, Human Body)

3-credit seminar + 1-credit lab

Partial Waiver: if you have credit for an approved, topic-related lab, register for 3-credit HON 210 instead.

Science Exploration

EISRC also International

Ethical Inquiry, Social Responsibility & Citizenship

HON 310 - Global Ethical Inquiry

Topics vary …
• 9 Billion People, 1 Damp Rock
• Africa, Social Justice, Exile

Substitution: if your major requires a different EISRC course or you study-abroad, you can substitute an approved HON elective.

Thematic Cluster (or minor)

“Casco Bay Region: Where We Live”

3 courses complete a cluster

HON 359 Honors Internship/Community Service

HON 355 Casco Bay Area Topics

Diversity -- may simultaneously fulfill 2 Core requirements (except International):

HON 102 - Confrontation & Cross-fertilization: Medieval Cultures (also Cultural Interpret.)

Also HON 351 in cluster or designated HON 299 (Topics) or relevant thesis (petition).

International -- may simultaneously fulfill 2 Core requirements (except Diversity):

HON 310 - Global Ethical Inquiry (also fulfills EISRC)

Also HON 102 (Cultural Interp) or designated HON 299 (Topics) or relevant thesis (petition).

Capstone

Honors Thesis

HON 311 + HON 411 (+ 412?) (or your Dept’s course #) Thesis work takes 2 (or 3) semesters. Depending on your major, you use 3-9 credits of general electives.

HON 310 - Global Ethical Inquiry (also fulfills EISRC)

Also HON 102 (Cultural Interp) or designated HON 299 (Topics) or relevant thesis (petition).

More HON options available

Other courses in history, art, tourism, social work, bio, archaeology can be used to complete the Core cluster, but don't count as HON electives.

Substitution: if your major requires a different EISRC course or you study-abroad, you can substitute an approved HON elective.

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