

Explore Honors:

SUMMER 2024 HONORS CLASS SCHEDULE

HNR 330.001: A Sense of Place: Environmental Art

Cross listed with ART 394

MTWRF 12:15-3:55pm

May 6 through May 26 (three week summer session)

CS 117 and the NKU Woods

Nick Bonner

"Art is not about conquering nature; it is about harmonizing with it."—Andy Goldsworthy

This is a hands-on, outdoor, making art, class. We will begin with formative research and important examples of environmental art (art made in nature, to be enjoyed in nature, made of materials found in nature), then spend 3 weeks planning and creating a collaborative outdoor sculpture in the woods behind the old Honors House (now the NKU Police Station). It will be a lot of work, but the creative and tangible results will far outweigh the physical work.

Humanities Cohort

Explore Honors:

FALL 2024 HONORS CLASS SCHEDULE

HNR 312.001: Art and Chemistry

NOTE: Previously HNR 210, counts the same as HNR 210

Seminar: TR 1:40-2:55pm in TBA

Required Lab: R 3:05-4:45pm in SC 462

Bradley Sieve

Since the beginning, art and chemistry have been interlinked in both the creation and preservation of works. Examples such as Neanderthal paintings, Venice's Murano Glass, and modern-day street artists will all guide our discussions about the chemistry behind the art.

Through both lecture and lab sections, the course will tackle topics such as neon lights (makeup of atoms), identification of forgeries (chemical makeups), pottery glazes (chemical reactions), and the preservation of pigments (redox reactions) among other selected topics.

While we study chemistry, we will also highlight how artists throughout history have developed new methods utilizing advances in chemistry. Monet's "Water Lilies" series, for example, uses a newly created synthetic pigment (cobalt arsenate) allowing for more vivid purples than previously seen.

Natural World Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 310.001: The Mathematics of Social Choice

MWF 1:00-2:15 pm

FH 261

Bethany Noblitt

In Fall 2024, the United States will hold its 60th presidential election along with various local and state elections. This class provides an opportunity for students to improve their critical thinking and problem-solving skills by examining how social choices are made through elections. Students will also broaden their views of what mathematics really is and how it can be used in unexpected ways.

More than giving the right answers, this class will ask the right questions. What properties should a fair election have and are these properties achievable in theory and in practice? How can mathematics be used to expose election fraud and gerrymandering? Students will address these questions as they compare different election systems, evaluate their strengths, weaknesses, and abuses, and design improvements to current structures.

Natural World Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 311.001: Planetary Citizenship: Ethics in Science and Society

MWF 11:00-11:50am

FH 574

Rhonda Davis

This honors seminar explores the ethical dimensions of science and society in an increasingly interconnected world. Students will critically examine the concept of planetary citizenship and our shared responsibilities as inhabitants of earth. Key themes include environmental ethics, social justice, human and multispecies rights, and the impacts of science on communities. Through analysis of global perspectives, we will cultivate the knowledge, ethical frameworks, and critical thinking skills essential to responsible planetary citizenship. Students will engage in reflection, dialogue, research, and collaborative projects to deepen their understanding of complex sociotechnical systems and imagine paths toward more just, compassionate, and sustainable futures. This interdisciplinary, discussion-based course is designed for honors students across majors who are eager to tackle big questions facing humanity in the 21st century.

Natural World Cohort

Explore Honors:

SPECIAL PREVIEW FOR PLANNING PURPOSES:

Coming Spring 2025

HNR 311 Costa Rica Natural History

In this spring semester class, you will be introduced to basic field research methods involving the study of topical ecosystems and the organisms that live there. Various aspects of Costa Rican history, culture and society will be discussed with an emphasis on the intersection between society and the environment. The field portion of this class will be a 9-day Study Abroad program in Costa Rica over spring break. Knowledge of Spanish language not required.

Begin planning now if you are interested in this hybrid on campus and study abroad course for the Spring 2025 semester. Plan your honors fall enrollment appropriately and begin thinking about logistics (passport, etc.) and saving for the cost (to be announced in the fall).

Natural World Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 322.001: Evolution of Sex

Cross listed with ANT 348

NOTE: Previously HNR 220, counts the same as HNR 220

TR 10:50am-12:05pm

LA 207

Monica Wakefield

In this course we will explore human and non-human primate sexuality from a comparative and evolutionary perspective and apply these perspectives to understanding the evolution of human sexuality and reproduction. Students will learn about biological aspects (morphology, physiology, endocrinology, and genetics) and behavioral aspects (mating systems, mate choice, communication, sexual signaling, sexual coercion, and parental investment) of primate reproduction and sexuality. Some sample topics include, the hormonal correlates of attraction and mate choice, the evolution of genital morphology, and the function and evolution of the female orgasm. The format of this course will be a combination of lectures, activities, and discussions using team-based peer learning formats. Students will evaluate and think critically about theoretical foundations in the field of primate sexuality while exploring the theoretical debates in primary scientific literature. Students will use the scientific method in designing, conducting, writing, and presenting their own research project. This includes, but is not limited to, conducting observational research on living primates.

Society Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 322.002: Leadership Strategies for Wicked Problems

Cross listed with LDR 394

NOTE: Previously HNR 220, counts the same as HNR 220

TR 12:15-1:30pm

FH 259

Jason Farkas

Wicked problems describe significant societal problems that are often impossible to solve. Since leadership is ultimately about solving problems, effective leaders must learn to develop strategies that provide resolution to wicked problems such as poverty, homelessness, food insecurity, climate change, economic crisis, and educational access and improvement. In this class, we will consider multiple perspectives as we explore a number of wicked problems in society. Using many leadership skills, such as research, critical thinking, problem-solving and information and digital literacy, we will learn to provide evidence-based analysis leading to effective leadership strategies for solving wicked problems.

This is the class for you if you:

- Want to lead by example in creating positive change in the world;**
- Want to leverage your curiosity and creativity to build actionable solutions to real-world problems;**
- Want to put those debate skills to work to build a cohesive argument and engage in controversy with civility, and**
- Want to build a collaborative community with other students who are interested in creative problem solving.**

Society Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 320.001: Drug Policy

Cross-listed with PSY 420

TR 1:40-2:55pm

FH 270

Perilou Goddard

Should marijuana be legalized at the national level? Why do some people become addicted while others don't? Are our drug laws enforced fairly? How do other countries deal with drug problems? Does it make sense to give sterile syringes to people who inject drugs? If you want to explore these and many other questions, consider taking Drug Policy (HNR 320) in Fall 2024. We'll investigate many aspects of historic and contemporary drug policies in the U.S. and other countries. We'll learn about the effects of drugs and drug policies through readings, discussion, lecture, and projects, moving beyond opinion to examine empirical evidence about policies that really work. For the final project, become the next U.S. drug czar and formulate a new and improved drug policy for America. This course will keep you thinking for many years to come!

Society Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 320.002: Communication and Social Justice

Cross-listed with CMST 394

MW 10:00-10:50am, Fridays asynchronous online

FH 574

Mark Leeman

In a nutshell, this course is "Paulo Freire and communication for justice" together with "how-to Paulo Freire" to create realities via communication that are just."

We will dig deep in Freirean theory and communication and then put legs on that by delving into topics such as "Narrative and justice," "Dialogue and Justice," "(Post)Modernity and Justice" and "tactics for communicating for justice." Communication holds incredible power to liberate, and to oppress. Often the greatest inhibitors and censors of human achievement and of the human spirit are not explicit, nor even obliquely intentional, but instead are powerful forces of language that cause us to limit possibilities. Our discipline holds that we socially construct realities via interaction, and this course assumes that there are practical ways that we can "construct" more justly. Thus, Communication Studies is uniquely positioned to bring freedom from symbol-induced oppression. In this course we will investigate Communication and Social Justice by exploring the work of some of the world's greatest thinkers and social change agents, and by examining powerful tools such as dialogue and narrative. We will also seek to peek behind the curtain of our own cultural and communicative "grand narratives" in order to find ways of being better practitioners of justice in our lives, relationships, work, and society. We will seek to "examine the workings of our language in such a way as to make us recognize those workings" (Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations*, 1958, p. 47) and make them do more justice!

Society Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 321.001: Where is My Stuff?

TR 9:25-10:40am

BC 243 Hub of Supply Chain Excellence

Mark Thackeray

Do you ever wonder what happens when you empty your online shopping cart or check out at the store to buy something from Amazon, Kroger, Walmart, Zara, McDonalds or any other merchandiser or service company? It is a lot more complicated (read interesting) than you might imagine. This highly experiential course examines the intricacies of the design and ongoing management of commercial Supply Chains. You will learn how businesses source materials, manufacture goods, set up distribution networks, pick/fulfill orders and optimize freight and transportation all aimed at delivering your stuff on time, without damage, in the right quantity at the right place and at the lowest possible cost. As part of our deep dive into supply chain awareness, we will also examine 3 themes across all business types and models:

1. Factors affecting growth in our region as well as increased globalization footprints.
2. Global citizenship including geo-political issues, cultural norms, socio-economic impacts and the increasing desire for improved and transparent Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
3. Emerging and disruptive technologies including AI and its ability to predict our buying habits in advance of our own decisions.

Through a combination of facility tours, regional guest speakers, team-based projects, real world case studies and facilitated class discussions, we will explore all facets of the supply chain to understand how business decisions are made and their impact on overall business effectiveness and performance.

I hope you will join me in this course to learn more and explore potential career path opportunities in this emerging and in-demand sector of the business world.

Society Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 332.001 Conserving Cultural Heritage in Parks

NOTE: Previously HNR 230, counts the same as HNR 230

TR 10:50am-12:05pm

FH 574

David Kime

America's parks are more than just grand scenery and bison herds. Since the early 20th century, our parks also research, preserve, and interpret cultural artifacts and history—ancient and recent. Parks are now preserving history and “parkitecture” of the parks themselves and recently parks have begun providing interpretation of the values of the parks. In the 21st century parks have turned their attention to diverse stories and the need to present the stories of all American peoples and present both triumphs and mistakes in our shared history. This class will trace how the National Parks were instrumental in creating the fields of both public history and historic archaeology, we will investigate park sites and resources that tell a variety of stories and showcase a variety of cultural, historic, and artistic resources and memorials. We will focus on regional state and national parks for possible exploration and projects.

Humanities Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 330.001: Build a Better Book

TR 12:15 to 1:30 pm

FH 280

Tamara O'Callaghan

HNR 330 requires students to learn how ideas related to the humanities and arts explored in the classroom can come to life through community engagement. Our section of HNR 330 will focus on how we can build a better book, not just for ourselves but for others who may benefit from an enhanced and/or completely redesigned reading experience. We will re-imagine the book as a physical artifact and reading as an immersive experience with the goal of designing a book that can be seen, touched, and heard for individuals who are blind or visually impaired as well as for others with physical and learning disabilities. With this objective in mind, we will not only work with familiar low and high-tech tools in the classroom, but we will also learn 3D printing and laser cutting with the Stego Studio (Steely Library), letterpress printing with the Cincinnati Type & Print Museum (Cincinnati), and braille and tactile printing with the Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired (Cincinnati). The goal is to design and create a book that provides an inclusive and accessible reading experience for our community and beyond.

This project-based course is offered in partnership with the Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired (Cincinnati) as part of their outreach initiative to blind and visually impaired children in Africa. Students should anticipate completing our section of HNR 330 with writing, design, and technical skills that are highly desirable for the 21st-century workplace as well as with a published physical artifact (book and toolkit) that they can use as part of a professional portfolio. This course is inspired and supported by the Build a Better Book project, a national NSF-funded initiative of the University of Colorado Boulder.

Humanities Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 331.001 Oil and Water

MW 2:00-3:15pm

FH 562

Casey Kuhajda

"Oil," said J. Paul Getty, "is like a wild animal. Whoever captures it has it."

This section of HNR331 accesses global environmental themes through a focus on two naturally occurring resources: oil and water. The desire to control and extract oil and water has dictated much about the formation and movement of societies across history. Rhetorically, when two individuals are very dissimilar and do not get along, they could be considered "like oil and water." In some sense, oil is the quintessential commodification of a natural resource. It exists as both a great source of power and wealth. It can also lead to danger. As a literary symbol, oil often represents the corporate and imperialist imaginations. Water, on the other hand, is seen as pure, a resource from the earth. We, ourselves, are made up on average of 60% water. Yet, questions about water and who has access to it have shaped societies across millennia. They will continue to do so in the 21st century.

This course accesses global, environmental perspectives through foregrounding oil, water, and the artistic representations of both. Questions we may ask in "HNR331 - Oil and Water" include, but are not limited to: how do water and oil resources shape societies and empires? How do these resources shape borders? How do oil and water function as symbols in the artistic imagination? What forms and mediums might artists use to foreground the consequences of natural resource extraction? We will access global perspectives about oil and water by reading climate fiction, history, petrofiction, ethnography, and much more. Along the way, we will examine how histories of oil and water shape our everyday lives. Eventually, we will consider how oil and water will shape the future in an era of climate change. Authors who we may read include, but are not limited to: Upton Sinclair, Ken Saro-Wiwa, Mike Davis, Abdulrahman Munif, Rebecca Solnit, John Steinbeck, Greg Grandin and more!

Humanities Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 394.001: Simulations in Healthcare

TR 3:05-4:20pm

HE 301

Rami Leventhal

This course will provide insight into key strategies that will promote understanding of the foundations of simulation. Participation in simulation sessions will allow exploration into the impact of simulation on education and healthcare. Students will spend the majority of their time in the Center for Simulation Education where they will be hands-on with the various simulation modalities. These modalities include simulation manikins across the lifespan, simulation patient actors, virtual reality, and video technology. We will explore and participate in simulation best practice activities such as pre-brief, simulation development, and debriefing philosophies. The course will conclude with students creating and facilitating their own simulation scenarios.

Topics Courses

Explore Honors:

HNR 394.002: Information Framing

Cross listed with JOU 394

TR 9:25-10:40am

GH 140

Stacie Jankowski

There's more than one way to tell the same story. The choices made in telling it can impact how people understand it and feel about it. This course examines the ways media (for example: journalism, entertainment, broadcast, print) construct stories and how those stories impact audiences. These narratives are powerful; they provide us with the context about the world around us. Story framing can influence the way we vote, how we stigmatize or accept others, the names we give things – our beliefs, habits, and culture. The ways we are told stories can become the ways we picture the world. In this class, we'll examine the research about media framing and apply the lessons we learn to analyze and evaluate media examples. We will think about what common themes or frames we are taking in from our favorite media and how those frames might influence us. We'll discuss how frames come to be, examining, for example, the professional values and norms that sometimes dictate how narratives are conveyed. This is a course focused on studying the media rather than producing journalism.

Topics Courses

Explore Honors:

Capstones

Capstone Registration requests will be handled through the HNR 390 DEV Canvas site (for students who will start capstone in the fall) or through the HNR 490 course (for those currently in capstone).

If you are intending to start capstone in the fall and are not yet in the HNR 390 DEV Canvas site, please request to be added immediately.

Capstones