

Explore Honors:

HNR 102 - 001

Narrative Medicine

MWF 10:00 - 10:50 am

Casey Kuhajda

"Every act of perception," wrote Oliver Sacks "is to some degree an act of creation, and every act of memory is to some degree an act of imagination." Perception and imagination play important roles in medicine. This class will use the work of Oliver Sacks to further explore how doctors and patients use narrative to communicate in healthcare settings. How do stories shape medical outcomes? How could doctors communicate with patients more effectively? How might aspiring medical professionals use what we know about narrative and perception to their advantage? These are some of the questions we will begin with in "HNR102 - Narrative Medicine."

All HNR102 sections at Northern Kentucky continue the HNR101 curriculum. HNR101 and HNR102 should be thought of as a block.

HNR102 courses are a blend of writing, public speaking, and honors-related experiential learning. This course, intended for the Pre-Med and Pre-Health Honors Learning Communities, and will ask students to write papers, perform speeches, and culminate in an April group public speaking project. This course will also include a week of medical simulation at the St. Elizabeth's Outpatient Simulation Center, as well as visits to the NKU prosectorium and the University of Kentucky College of Medicine - Northern Campus. Course assignments will build on and continue to develop skills learned in HNR101.

First-year Seminars

Explore Honors:

HNR 102 - 002

Storytelling in Healthcare

MWF 11:00 - 11:50am

Casey Kuhajda

"Medicine," writes Siddhartha Mukherjee, "begins with storytelling. Patients tell stories to describe illness. Doctors tell stories to understand it." Story is crucial for medical professionals. This course will further examine the fundamental role of storytelling in contemporary medicine.

How do stories shape medical outcomes? How could doctors communicate with patients more effectively? How should aspiring doctors use storytelling to their advantage on their medical journey?

These are some of the questions we will begin with in "HNR102 - Narrative Medicine."

All HNR102 sections at Northern Kentucky continue the HNR101 curriculum. HNR101 and HNR102 should be thought of as a block. HNR102 courses are a blend of writing, public speaking, and honors-related experiential learning. This course, intended for the Pre-Med Honors and Pre-Health Learning Communities, will ask students to write papers, perform speeches, and will culminate in an April group public speaking project. "HNR102 - Storytelling in Healthcare" will include a week of medical simulation at the St. Elizabeth's Outpatient Simulation Center, as well as visits to the NKU prosectorium and the University of Kentucky College of Medicine - Northern Campus. Course assignments will build on and continue to develop skills learned in HNR101.

First-year Seminars

Explore Honors:

HNR 102 - 003

Protest Movements and Music

MW 12:00 - 1:15 pm

Zachary Wells

Throughout history, protest movements have been soundtracked by music. This course will look at examples in modern history, from Civil Rights and anti-war protests of the 1960s, to the underground East German punk rock scene that helped bring down the Berlin Wall, to Green Day's landmark album American Idiot and the Iraq War.

As a class, we will explore how these events and the music shape our understanding of what took place. HNR 102 courses are a blend of writing, public speaking, and honors-related learning. This course will be a continuation of skills you learned in HNR 101, including, written assignments, speeches, and research. This course is open to students who have a curiosity about the ways that music helps shape our understanding of history.

First-year Seminars

Explore Honors:

HNR 102 - 005

Servant Leadership and Civic Engagement

TR 10:50am - 12:05pm

Megan Downing

Servant leaders put people before power, enriching individuals and, in so doing, help to build better communities and organizations. This course explores leadership through the lens of servant leadership and as civically engaged citizens. The course will focus on building community by meeting basic human needs that mitigate food insecurity. Student-driven research and discussion on servant leadership as well as guest speakers and hands-on service opportunities will enrich the learning experience. Students will also engage in support of a local food pantry to build their understanding of non-profit and philanthropic community stewardship through experiential philanthropy. They will learn about the valuable programs the local non-profit offers that build community, battle food insecurity, and exemplify servant leadership in action.

First-year Seminars

Explore Honors:

HNR 102 - 006

Social Justice and Social Change

TR 12:15 - 1:30pm

Thomas Bowers

Every generation seems to lay claim to the phrase that “we live in interesting times.” Your generation is no different, and perhaps has more authority to make such a statement. Because of climate change and the implementation of artificial intelligence, to name two significant examples, your generation is increasingly marked by seismic changes and interesting times. New ideas, new technologies, and new ways of understanding change and the human responses to it are emerging, making the study of social transitions an important topic in all disciplines and fields of study. This course will draw from current transitions and instances of change (such as the move to clean energy; the implementation of AI and machine learning; and on a local scale, the planned construction of the new Brent Spence Bridge) to engage with the practices and processes of where ideas of change come from and how decisions about the best path forward are conducted. Central to your investigations will be who is left out of such practices and processes and the effects of limiting participation in these processes. One fundamental goal will be to come away with the understanding that change involves more than just the invention and implementation of some marvelous and wondrous technology.

First-year Seminars

Explore Honors:

HNR 102 - 007

Parks: Places and People

TR 1:40 - 2:55 pm

David Kime

A wise man once said, "Our National Parks are the nation's Honors College." Both feature interdisciplinary topics and methods, utilize hands-on, place-based experiential learning, and promote community service. Since 2007, both NKU Honors and the National Collegiate Honors Council have partnered with the National Park Service (NPS) to offer unique courses and study away programs for honors students. Not only the province of geologists and biologists, the NPS employs personnel and has park sites specializing in telling the stories of history, leadership, civil rights, visual & performing arts, literature, archaeology, industry & business, recreation, and, of course, wildlife & natural resources! This HNR 102 is open to any student from any major or career interest who wants to explore the diversity of our nation's parks, learn more about the operation of and opportunities in the NPS, and who want to research and plan their own National Park adventure! P.S. The wise man quoted above is also the course instructor.

First-year Seminars

Explore Honors:

HNR 310 - 001

Interpreting Our Environment

TR 10:50 am - 12:05 pm

David Kime

Interpretation is the method (some would say art) of helping visitors to a park or museum to make a personal connection to stories or resources of the site. Because if you have a personal connection to something you are more likely to care about and therefore care for that resource. This course will focus on natural/environmental/scientific resources in parks. It is fairly easy to grab someone's attention with the grandeur of the Grand Canyon or the megafauna like the wolf packs of Yellowstone. But what about the diverse, endangered, and lesser-known mussels of the Green River or research into slower processes like erosion or challenging topics like the effect of climate change on parklands? This class will investigate current natural science taking place in parklands and seek to understand the questions, evidence, and results of scientific research pertaining to these public lands. We will also investigate and practice the art of interpretation, as defined above. Students will have opportunities to create their own interpretive products based on actual natural resources and science from one or more parks.

This course is cross-listed with HNR 330 001: Interpreting Our Heritage. Students pursuing the honors Natural World Cohort to complete Math and Natural Science general education requirements should request HNR 310. Students pursuing the honors Humanities Cohort to complete Culture & Creativity and Global Viewpoint general education requirements should request HNR 330.

Natural World Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 311 - 001

Costa Rican Natural History

TR 10:50am - 12:05pm

Allison Parker & Patricia Kappesser

Spring Break Trip to Costa Rica

In this spring semester class, you will be introduced to the study of topical ecosystems and the organisms that live there. We will explore the rich history, culture, government, and political system of this Latin American country. We will look at the importance of agriculture and ecotourism to the economy of Costa Rica, and the sustainable use of energy by this country in its goal to become carbon neutral. We will also look at the issues dealing with tropical ecosystems including: the flora and fauna of the tropical rainforest; the destruction of tropical rainforests and coral reefs; and strategies for preservation of these important biodiversity hotspots.

The field portion of this class will be a 9-day Study Abroad program in Costa Rica over spring break. Students MUST apply to the Study Abroad program through Education Abroad office in order to enroll in this course. Knowledge of Spanish language not required.

Natural World Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 312 - 001 (previously HNR 210)

**Viewing Our Natural World Through the Lens of
Science**

MW 9:25 - 11:45 am

Kristina Bielewicz

4 credit hours

This combined lecture and laboratory course will guide you through the natural sciences such as physics, chemistry, biology, geology and meteorology as they relate to how our world works. We will delve into various relatable topics such as laws of motion, thermodynamics, green energy, weather, vaccines, and GMO's. You will learn how to navigate scientific articles with ease and perform simple science experiments with confidence in the classroom. We will engage in fun activities on campus such as a visit to the Haile Planetarium and an interactive campus hike. You will develop and present a simple science project as a small group as well as present an independent research project on the topic of your choice.

Natural World Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 320 - 001

Tracing American Heritage: Genealogy Across Cultures

M 1:00 - 2:50pm

4 Saturday courses (1/25, 2/22, 3/29, & 4/12)

Cordel George

The course explores the rich tapestry of genealogy within the United States, with a particular focus on the diverse backgrounds and histories that constitute the American experience.

Students will gain an understanding of genealogical research methods and how to apply these techniques to uncover and celebrate the multifaceted heritage of all Americans. The course will emphasize the importance of inclusivity, recognizing the contributions and histories of various ethnic, racial, and cultural groups in the United States.

Society Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 321-001

Death and Dying in the Ancient World

TR 9:25 - 10:40 am

Kathleen Quinn

Cross-listed with HIS 394-002

This course invites students to explore the profound and complex relationship humanity has had, and continues to have, with mortality. Throughout the semester, we will seek to unravel our contemporary perceptions of death by considering how ancient Mediterranean peoples confronted the inevitable end of life.

We will engage with a variety of case studies (dating from 3500 B.C. to A.D. 500) to illuminate the beliefs, rituals, and emotional responses surrounding death across different societies. Utilizing archaeological evidence—such as burial sites, grave goods, and human remains—alongside ancient literature, history, and philosophy, we will tackle essential questions like: What does it mean to die? How did ancient peoples define a "good death"? In what ways did they express grief? What practices surrounded the treatment of the deceased? How were memories of the dead preserved?

Moreover, students will critically analyze how societal structures, religious beliefs, and cultural norms shaped attitudes towards death—and conversely, how these beliefs influenced society itself. Students are encouraged to contribute their own expertise from biological sciences, psychology, and other disciplines to deepen our understanding of ancient perspectives on death and dying and to reflect on their own attitudes toward mortality.

Content Advisory: This course will explore themes of death, loss, and grief across cultures. These topics may be challenging for some students, especially those who have recently experienced personal loss. While we will approach the subject matter with academic rigor and respect, please be aware that discussions and materials may evoke strong emotions, and the course may not be the best fit for you.

Society Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 322 - 001 (previously HNR 220)

Using Data for Meaningful Change

TR 12:15 - 1:30pm

Rhonda Davis

This innovative honors course invites students on a transformative journey through the landscape of human society. By blending rigorous research methodologies with creative problem-solving approaches, participants will learn to transform data into powerful catalysts for social change.

Students will develop advanced skills in critical analysis, scholarly interpretation, and interdisciplinary synthesis. They'll explore techniques in data collection and analysis, while also honing their abilities in design thinking and creative ideation. Throughout the course, emphasis will be placed on effective communication strategies, enabling students to convey complex ideas to diverse audiences. From collaborative mind mapping to immersive research, this course employs a variety of creative approaches to deepen understanding and spark innovation. Participants will tackle real-world social issues, crafting solutions that bridge academic insight with practical application.

Society Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 330 - 001

Interpreting Our Heritage

TR 10:50 am - 12:05 pm

David Kime

Interpretation is the method (some would say art) of helping visitors to a park or museum to make a personal connection to stories or resources of the site. Because if you have a personal connection to something you are more likely to care about and therefore care for that resource. This course will focus on historical and cultural heritage resources in parks. It is easy to grab an audience's attention with the amazing site of Mesa Verde or the memorials like the Lincoln or Vietnam War Memorials. But what about lesser know cultural resources like African American cemeteries at Mammoth Cave National Park, the challenging history preserved at Manzanar National Historic Site, or even the house and grounds at Cincinnati's own Taft National Historic Site? This class will investigate history of and the history and cultural heritage preserved in National Parks. We will also investigate and practice the art of interpretation, as defined above. Students will have opportunities to create their own interpretive products based on actual modern research about historical and cultural resources and from one or more parks.

This course is cross-listed with HNR 310 001: Interpreting Our Environment. Both courses will meet during most class meetings, while some class meetings will only include one course while students in the other course work online or on group projects. Students pursuing the honors Natural World Cohort to complete Math and Natural Science general education requirements should request HNR 310. Students pursuing the honors Humanities Cohort to complete Culture & Creativity and Global Viewpoint general education requirements should request HNR 330.

Humanities Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 330 - 002

Creative Digital Storytelling

M 2:00 - 4:45pm

Maggie Murphy

My passion is helping students develop skills which assist them in the scary transition from academia to the professional world. This class is designed to do just that. I will teach the structure of creative storytelling and how to develop, pitch and produce digital content for branded entertainment. You will learn how to develop an outline, a script, and will shoot your specific content. We will discuss various ways of shooting with your phone and using basic editing tools to complete your final project. There will be various guests who will provide insight on the current world of digital branded content as well as feedback on your projects. The semester will conclude with a pitch and the showing of your produced content to a small panel.

Maggie is an Executive Producer, past Network and Studio Executive, Creator/Head of the Creative Producing Program at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California, as well as past professor at UCLA. She has more than 30 years of experience developing and producing award-winning television such as ALLY MCBEAL, VERONICA MARS, ROSWELL, X-FILES, MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE, BUFFY, THE SIMPSONS and HOUDINI & DOYLE (currently on Amazon Prime).

Humanities Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 331 - 001

Empire and the Anthropocene

TR 1:40 - 2:55 pm

Casey Kuhajda

The dinosaurs lived in the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods. We live in the Anthropocene. "The Anthropocene," according to Joanna Zylinska, is "a new geological epoch in which human influence on the bio-and geo-sphere has become irreversible." She continues, "...it is a filter through which we can see ourselves." The Anthropocene is a geological epoch defined by human beings' impact on the environment. Yet, there is great debate as to when the Anthropocene begins. Some thinkers consider the beginning of the Anthropocene to be as early as the beginning of the agricultural revolution, nearly 12,000 years ago. Others consider it to be as late as 1945, the year of the detonation of the first atomic bomb. Why? What are the implications of considering the Anthropocene as beginning with the age of empire?

This upper-level honors course in the humanity cohort is designed to expose students to global viewpoints and foster critical awareness of one's own impact on culture, society, and the environment. It considers how imperial expansion in the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries led to the environmental reality of today. HNR 331 will primarily access concepts of empire and the Anthropocene through a combination of literature, history, philosophy, geology, and anthropology. Writers we may read in HNR 331 include (but are not limited to): Amitav Ghosh, Greg Grandin, Ursula Heise, Linda Hogan, Marcia Bjornerud, and more.

Humanities Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 332 - 001 (previously HNR 230)

Dickinson & the Arts in the 21st Century

TR 9:25 - 10:40 am

Bob Wallace

Cross-listed with ENG 380-001

Emily Dickinson is now recognized as one of the greatest poets in the English language. Her poems and life story have inspired a remarkable body of work by visual artists, composers, and screen writers, many of them alive today. Our primary literary text will be Dickinson's Complete Poems, supplemented by other resources in print and on the web. Our study of visual art will include Language as Object: Emily Dickinson and Contemporary Art. Our study of performance art will range from songs composed by Aaron Copland in 1950 to the recent Dickinson series on Apple TV+. Our third text will be I Took My Power in My Hand: NKU Students Create Emily Dickinson Art, the catalog for the 2015 exhibition featuring artwork created by students in our own English and Honors classes between 1998 and 2014. For their final projects at the end of the semester, students will have the option of writing a research paper or creating their own artistic response to Dickinson in the medium of your choice. Earlier assignments will include a mixture of discussion boards, papers, and in-class reports.

Humanities Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 332 - 002 (previously HNR 230)

**Natural Noir: Film Noir and the Environment in the
City of Angels**

MW 2:00 - 3:15pm

John Alberti

"Ecological politics has a noir form. We start by thinking that we can 'save' something called 'the world' 'over there,' but end up realizing that we ourselves are implicated." Timothy Morton, Ecology Without Nature

At first glance, it might seem strange to connect film noir—stylish, moody crime movies about hard-boiled private eyes, femme fatales, doomed small time crooks—with issues related to nature, the environment, and climate change. But more and more, scholars and critics are drawn to the ways film noir, with its skepticism about progress, human nature, and ambition, can help us understand the ways we think about ecology and the environment. And nowhere more so than in those noirs set in Los Angeles, with its complex mix of the urban, the suburban, and the rural.

In our class, we will look at some classic film noirs set in Los Angeles, from The Big Sleep in the 1940s to Chinatown in the 1970s to more contemporary movies like Brick and Mulholland Drive, to think about how the cinematic stories we tell reflect our values and attitudes about our relation to the natural world. We will read examples of ecological readings of film noir, and you will create your own projects—both analytical and artistic--that express your own views on how this coolest of cool movie genres can help us address a heating world.

Humanities Cohort

Explore Honors:

HNR 394 -001

Simulations Implementation

W 3:05 - 4:30pm

Rami Leventhal

Students will select a simulation project that meets the current academic needs of the NKU Center for Simulation Education. Following a needs assessment, students will learn about and perform the necessary literature review and data analysis to design and implement their selected project. The course will conclude with a pilot test of the project.

Required Pre-requisite: Successful completion of the HNR 394: Simulations in Healthcare.

Special Topics Courses