

SPRING 2020

HON Seminar Course Catalog



The Honors College

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

HON 1515

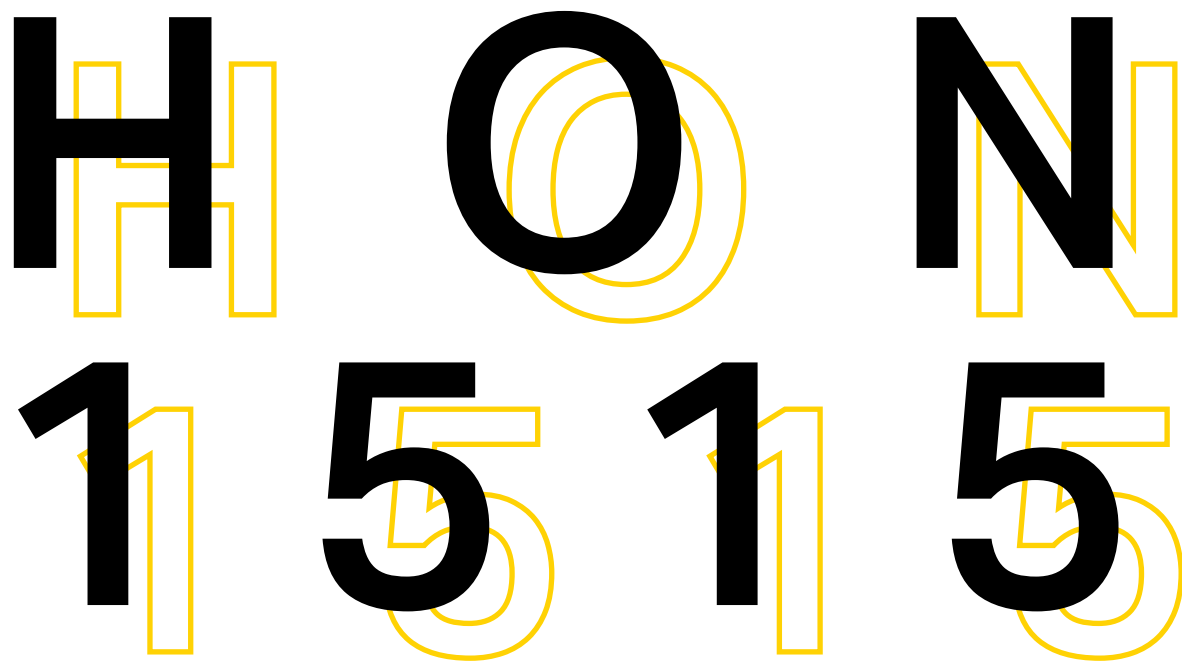
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HON
1515
Section 101

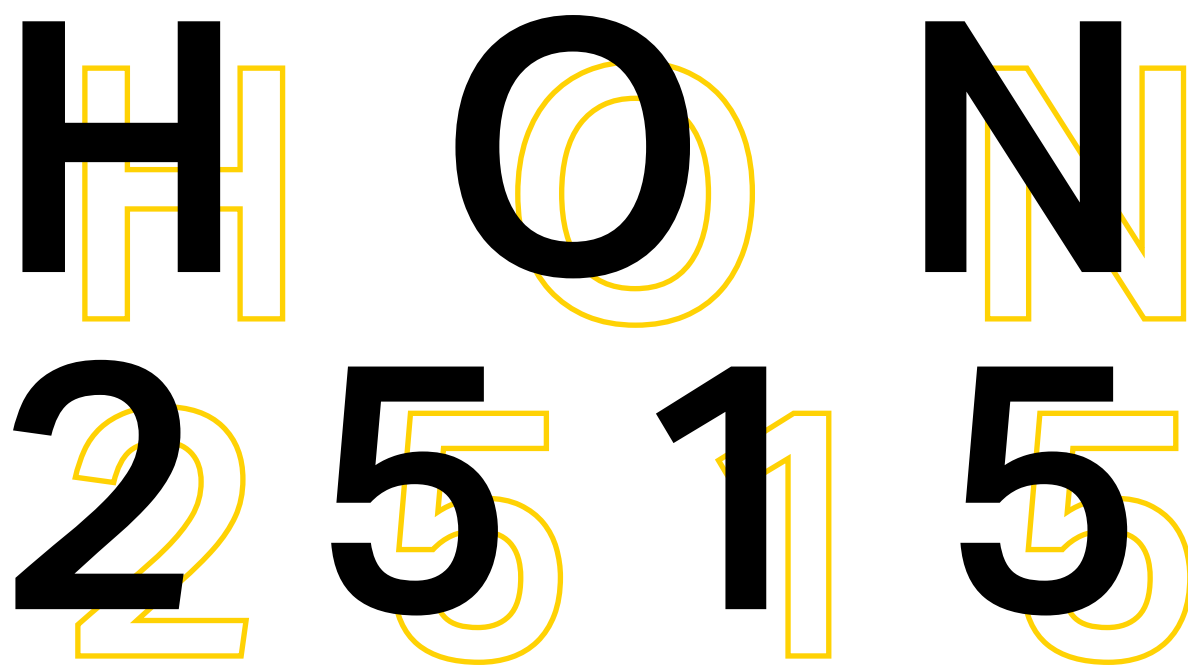
Cherokee Culture and Leadership
Dr. J. Allen Bryant
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
bryantja@appstate.edu

This course will examine the ideal of leadership within the Cherokee Nation and the many different forms it has taken. Through in-depth analysis of biographies of leading Cherokee men and women as well as through the study of cultural norms and standards, students will examine what it means to be a Cherokee leader. The class will examine issues in Cherokee history and how the people responded, as well as current issues and trends and how they may be called upon to lead. The course will include a service project that will be student-directed and implemented with help from the instructor and other community stakeholders

HON 1515: **First Year Honors Seminar**

(Fulfills General Education First-Year Seminar Requirement)

MW 2:00 – 3:15
Rm: AH 187



HON 2515: **Sophomore Honors Inquiry Seminar** (Fulfills General Education Liberal Studies Experience Requirement)

HON
2515
Section 101

Education as the Practice of Freedom
Dr. Greg McClure
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
mccluregs@appstate.edu

How do the Maya of Guatemala use education for liberation and sustainability? What are the relationships between education, democracy, and freedom? These questions will guide our work in this course that begins in Boone and ventures to Guatemala over Spring Break, where we will learn about contemporary Mayan culture through homestays with indigenous families, volunteering alongside local middle school students in reforestation projects, and participating in community conversations.

Our sister community, Copal AA La Esperanza, is a vibrant indigenous Maya community in the highlands of Guatemala, formed during the last year of the Guatemalan Civil War. The residents have spent the last 20 years rebuilding their lives, caring for their people and their place, and advocating for positive change for Guatemala's indigenous communities. Among the community's proudest achievements is the development of a highly progressive middle school that emphasizes sustainability, youth leadership and advocacy, and Mayan identity development. Brazilian educator Paulo Freire wrote that "education either functions as an instrument to bring about conformity, or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women participate in the transformation of their world." Through course discussions, readings, and film viewings, as well as our partnership with Copal AA, we will experience how communities use education to promote equity and dignity in human relations and sustainability for the planet. Spanish language skills not required.

Thu 5:00 –7:30

Rm: AH 161 **05**

HON
2515
Section 102

Art and the Brain
Dr. Mark Zrull
Department of Psychology
zrullmc@appstate.edu

We can sculpt and paint, compose and make music, choreograph and dance. Brain processes allow us to do these things. We see and appreciate collages and watercolors, hear and “are moved by” concertos and rock-and-roll, watch and appreciate ballet or modern dance. Our brain processes produce these experiences. So, we will ask about the process of making “art” as well as learn about and discuss brain processes that let people do art. We’ll also consider the process of perceiving and appreciating art as well as investigate and talk about neural processes that let people have those experiences. In the style of a seminar, I hope we can gain and assess firsthand information about doing and experiencing some of the arts as well as make a serious effort to investigate and discuss some of the related brain structures and neural processes.

TR 2:00 – 3:15
Rm: AH 161

HON
2515
Section 103

Religious and Spiritual Images in Film
Dr. Louis Gallien
Department of Leadership & Educational Studies
The Honors College
gallienlb@appstate.edu

This course will examine the mainstream Hollywood film industry on how our popular media situated the role of religion in the U.S in the past and present century. We will watch and discuss films that were designed to provoke and stimulate discussion of religious rites, practices, preachers, and priests within dominant religious themes of the Twentieth Century. Regular attendance is especially important since our texts will be our films.

Tue 5:00 – 7:30
Rm: AH 161

HON
2515
Section 104

**LA FRONTERA: Histories and Current Realities in the
Borderlands of Mexico and the United States**

Dr. Brent James
Department of Languages, Literatures, & Cultures
jamesba@appstate.edu

Professor Sarah Donovan
Department of Social Work
donovanss@appstate.edu

This seminar will examine the history and construction of the southern border between Mexico and the United States while also looking at the unique cultures - and challenges - of this "Borderlands" region. This discussion will naturally lead to an analysis of current events at the border. Furthermore, we will look at how these histories and current realities can and should inform contemporary social work with Latinx populations across the United States.

MW 2:00 – 3:15
Rm: AH 162

HON
2515
Section 105

Making Sense of the Present

Dr. Michael Behrent
Department of History
behrentmc@appstate.edu

Philosophers and poets have long commented on the difficulty of grasping the present, which, by its very nature, seems elusive and fleeting. At certain historical junctures, it seems especially difficult to find any coherent meaning in the present. In the United States as well as in other parts of the world, the past several years have been described by many as a period of particularly intense upheaval, uncertainty, and unpredictability.

This course will be structured around two questions. First, what intellectual tools, dispositions, and methods are required to make sense of the present—that is, a period of time in which the future is unknown and hindsight lacking? Second, what are some specific intellectual frameworks that have been proposed for making sense of the problems currently afflicting our society and the world? The course will consider recent political, social, economic, and cultural trends both to try to understand them and to reflect on how we go about understanding them. Special emphasis will be placed on recent attempts to make sense of three national and global trends: the transformation of capitalism and the onset of so-called "neoliberalism," the rise of populism, and the global preoccupation with politics centered on the affirmation of identity.

TR 2:00– 3:15
Rm: AH 162

HON
2515
Section 106

Data in Defense of Social Justice

Dr. Vicky Klima
Department of Mathematical Sciences
The Honors College
klimavw@appstate.edu

Our democracy's success depends on a citizenry that is willing to seriously consider social issues and persuasively advocate for solutions that maintain a just society. As our everyday lives become increasingly data-centered, examining such issues requires the ability to read quantitative information carefully, evaluate quantitative information purposefully, and communicate quantitative information effectively.

In this course we will practice these skills as we explore several social issues. Topics will be finalized by the students in the course but could include income inequality, school choice, industrial agriculture, criminal justice reform, student loan debt, human trafficking, and voting rights. We will explore these issues through a quantitative lens and use what we learn to make informed arguments for or against social change. Students in the class will read expository and argumentative essays critically, consider media reports thoughtfully and, most importantly, talk with each other openly. If you are interested in exploring social justice issues and learning how to improve your understanding and strengthen your arguments through data, this course is for you!

MWF 11:00 – 11:50
Rm: AH 162

HON
2515
Section 107

Musical Pathways to Social Justice

Dr. Suzi Mills
Hayes School of Music
millssw@appstate.edu

What does an Appalachian fiddle or a Chinese gong have to do with social justice and human dignity? This course invites Honors students to visit the songs, dances, and folkways of local and global musicians as we create pathways to global and cultural competence with an intentional focus on social justice. Community music and folklore events along with international music opportunities will serve as the backdrop to our educational experience with components of 1) community service, 2) cultural scholarship and 3) interactive music making for all levels of musical ability. No prior musical or dance experience is required, just a willingness to participate and encourage and explore cultural expression through folk music and the social justice scholarship surrounding these rich traditions.

TR 2:00– 3:15
Rm: AH 085

Innovation in Leadership: Health, Sports, and Society

Dr. Scott Collier

Department of Health & Exercise Science

colliersr@appstate.edu

Dr. Mark Lewis

Department of Management

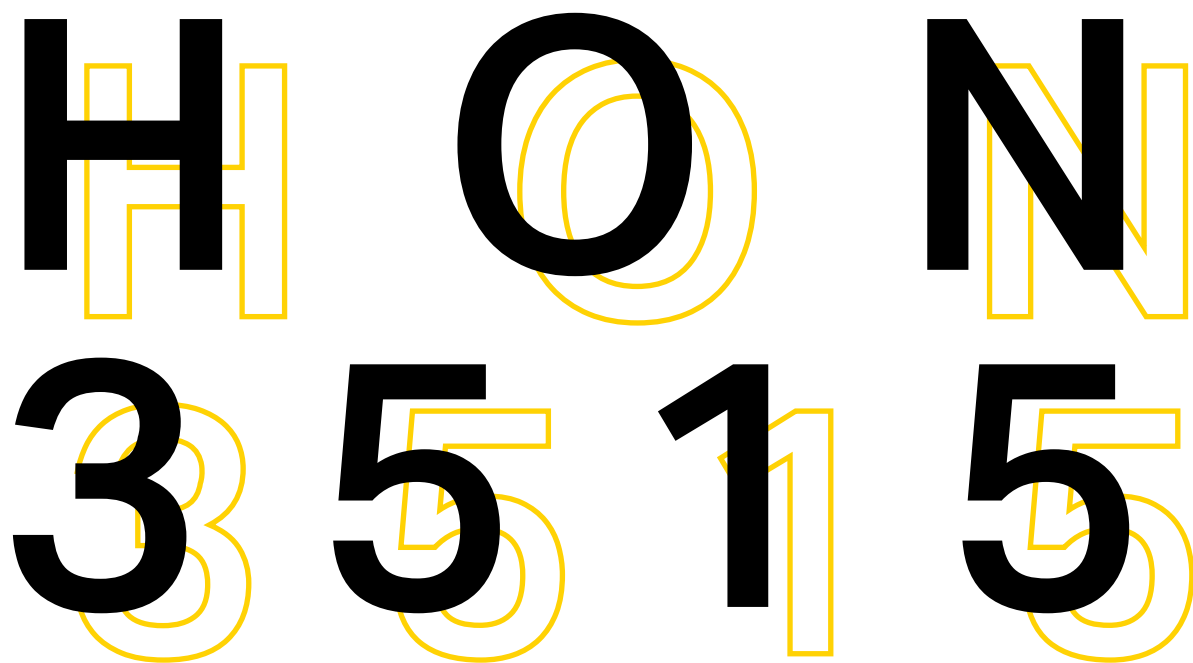
lewismo1@appstate.edu

This class will utilize experiential learning and design thinking to develop students' competencies in innovation and leadership. Students in the course will focus on generating innovative real-world solutions to deeply entrenched challenges while working on projects for external clients in health care and in sports.

Notes:

TR 9:30 – 10:45

Rm: AH 162



HON
3515
Section 101

Tycoons, Titans, Founders, Financiers, & Blaggards
Professor Leigh Dunston
Department of Finance, Banking, & Insurance
dunstonle@appstate.edu

This course is anchored in the idea that the well-informed person should be familiar with the broad business history of America. The format for the course is to utilize select portions of the biographies of the most impactful persons in American business history. Through those lives and stories, students will learn the principles and history of business as it evolved in America and tangentially in the world from 1770 through 2008. This will be a broad overview focusing on the exploits, successes, failures, and the ethical and leadership challenges of persons such as Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Jay Gould, Diamond Jim Brady, J.P. Morgan, Henry Ford, Franklin Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, Paul Volcker, Alan Greenspan, Warren Buffett, Sandy Weill, Bill Gates, Jack Welch, and Steve Jobs in an effort to provide a broad contextual framework within which to begin to know, understand, and appreciate the history of the most dynamic business environment in the history of the world.

HON 3515: **Junior Honors Inquiry Seminar**

(Fulfills General Education Liberal Studies Experience Requirement)

TR 11:00–12:15
Rm: Peacock Hall 3019

HON
3515
Section 102

The 2020 Presidential Nomination: Theory and Practice
Dr. AJ Barghothi
Department of Government & Justice Studies
The Honors College
barghothiaj@appstate.edu

A defining feature of presidential elections in the United States is that, before major-party candidates compete for the presidency in the general election, they must secure their party's nomination in a series of primary elections and caucuses. Unlike the general election, which occurs on a single day, these nomination contests occur in a series of discrete events over an extended period of time. In this course, students will investigate the formal processes for nominating a presidential candidate (e.g. delegate allocation rules). Using the 2019-2020 Presidential nomination contests as a case study, this course will introduce students to the candidates running for their party's nomination, investigate the political factors that motivate these candidates both to enter and eventually withdraw from the race. A primary goal of this course is to acquaint students with scholarship on presidential nominations and to provide a richer understanding of how personal ambition, political considerations, and formal rules predict outcomes.

TR 9:30 – 10:45
Rm: AH 161

HON
3515
Section 103

I am... Origins and Autoethnography
Dr. Garrett McDowell
The Honors College
mcdowellga@appstate.edu

"When you ask the question, 'Who am I?'—if you have enough time and concentration—you may find some surprising answers. You may see that you are a continuation of your ancestors. Your parents and your ancestors are fully present in every cell of your body; you are their continuation. You don't have a separate self. If you remove your ancestors and your parents from you, there's no 'you' left." — Thich Nhat Hanh, *Silence: The Power of Quiet in a World Full of Noise*

The search for identity is part of the human condition that begins as we come of age. Humans spend our lives asking ourselves, "Who am I." In this course, we will explore autoethnography as research method. By pointing the research lens at ourselves, we will better understand our own origins and identity. By asking ourselves, "Who am I?" we will delve into deeper understanding of the human condition.

This course is structured largely as a self-directed and collaborative research study. Students should expect to develop and conduct their own research projects with the support of course materials and in collaboration with the professor and colleagues in the course.

Mon 5:00 – 7:30
Rm: AH 162

HON
3515
Section 104

The Future and Religion
Dr. Randall Reed
Department of Philosophy & Religion
reedrw@appstate.edu

Is Religion dead? In the face of the younger generations abandoning the church, increasing technological unemployment, and artificial intelligence as both omnipresent surveillance mechanism and promised savior, what will happen to religion? In a combination of seminar reading, discussion, and research projects, students will examine the possible future of religion and its potential replacements.

MW 3:30 – 4:45
Rm: 116 IG Greer

HON
3515
Section 105

Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism
Dr. Louis Gallien
Department of Leadership & Educational Studies
The Honors College
gallienlb@appstate.edu

This course explores the various economic and political ties to chattel slavery that were held in common across the United States. It is widely believed that American slavery was uniquely situated in the Deep South, and while its labor was centered on those States, the economic effects of chattel slavery were felt through the entire Nation.

By the start of the Civil War, the South's economy was fourth in the world in production and profit. However, the economic impact that slavery had on the whole nation was disproportionate to all other industries. We will examine the ways and avenues that the insidious and horrific slave trade benefitted the entire country. We will read and learn through guest speakers (and, we hope, a field trip) how slavery is implicated throughout the entire American experience.

MW 5:00 – 7:30
Rm: AH 161

Inventing Languages

Dr. Donna Lillian
Department of English
lilliandl@appstate.edu

In this class, we explore what language is and what it takes to create a new language. For their first project, students will each investigate an invented language and report on it to the class. Then in small groups, we will invent mini-languages to learn the techniques of language creation. For the final project, the class will collaboratively create a new language and define the parameters of a culture or community in which that language might be spoken.

TR 2:00 – 3:15
Rm: AH 187

Please Contact Us!

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designed by: Hannah Labate