

CMU Honors Program Course Description Guide

Fall 2026

Priority Registration for the 2026-2027 academic year begins on February 16, 2026

Honors Program Courses					
Courses Credits UP	Course Title	Section Number	Days & Times	Registration Requirements/ Honors Protocol	Instructor
HON 100 (3 cr)	Introduction to Honors	22476055	M 6:00-7:50 pm 08/31/2026-12/14/2026	First Semester Course for incoming Freshman	Patricia Williamson
HON 201WI (3 cr) I-A	Honors Studies in Human Events & Ideas "The Moral Machine: Ethics, AI and Human Decision Making"	22480015	MW 2:00-3:15pm 08/31/2026-12/16/2026	First year Seminar Open to all Honors students	John Gustincic
HON 201WI (3 cr) I-A	Honors Studies in Human Events & Ideas "Rehtoric of Social Protest"	22485065	M W 2:00-3:15pm 08/31/2026-12/16/2026	First year Seminar Open to all Honors students	Ed Hinck
HON 202WI (3 cr) I-B	Honors Studies in the Arts "Gaming Story, Reading Play: Games Across Media"	22480229	Tu Th 9:30-10:45 am 09/01/2026-12/17/2026	First year Seminar Open to all Honors students	Gretchen Papazian
HON 203WI (3 cr) I-B	Honors Studies in Natural Sciences "Environmental Research around Central Michigan University"	22480080	W 3:30-6:20pm 09/02/2026-12/16/2026	First year Seminar Open to all Honors students	Mark Francek
HON 205WI (3 cr) III-A	Honors Behavioral Sciences "Our Screens, Our Selves"	22485068	Tu 4:00-6:50 pm 09/01/2026-12/15/2026	First year Seminar Open to all Honors students	Troy Hicks
HON 206WI (3 cr) III-B	Honors Studies in Social Structures "Influence in Action"	22485066	M W 3:30-4:45pm 08/31/2026-12/16/2026	First year Seminar Open to all Honors students	Elina Erzikova
HON 207WI (3 cr) IV-B	Honors Studies in Global Cultures "Environment and Livelihoods in the Global South"	22480068	M W 9:00-10:15 am 08/31/2026-12/16/2026	First year Seminar Open to all Honors students	Isaac Asante-Wusu
HON 208WI (3 cr) IV-C	Honors Studies in Racism & Diversity in the U.S. "Indigenous Native American Wisdom and Scientific Knowledge"	22480230	Th 1:00-3:45 pm 09/03/2026-12/17/2026	First year Seminar Open to all Honors students	Jim McDonald
HON 209WI (3 cr) IV-A	Honors Studies in Discrimination in the U.S. "Intersectional Shakespeare"	22481486	Tu Th 2:00-3:15 pm 09/01/2026-12/17/2026	First year Seminar Open to all Honors students	Nathaniel Smith
HON 209WI (3 cr) IV-A	Honors Studies in Discrimination in the U.S "America at 250"	22494114	M W 2:00-3:15 pm 08/31/2026-12/16/2026	First year Seminar Open to all Honors students	Catherine Tobin
HON 300 (3 cr)	Introduction to Honors II	22480057	M 6:00-7:50 pm 08/31/2026-12/14/2026	First semester course for Track II students	Patricia Williamson

HON 315 (1-9 cr)	Honors College Teaching Assistant	22481032	M 3:30-4:45 pm 08/31/2026-12/14/2026	By application only email honors@cmich.edu	Tracy Collins
HON 320 (3 cr)	Discrimination and Diversity in the U.S. "Subcultures in Action"	22485071	M W 11:00-12:15 pm 08/31/2026-12/16/2026	Counts as HON Cultural Diversity	Elina Erzikova
HON 321AF (3 cr)	"Obesity and Diabetes: A Growing Challenge and Our Strategies"	22484678	Th 5:00-7:50pm 09/03/2026-12/17/2026		Lixin Li
HON 321BD (3 cr)	"Creativity in the Age of Intelligent Technology"	22484939	W 4:00-6:50 pm 09/02/2026-12/16/2026		Michael Deschryver
HON 321DE (3 cr)	"The American City: Detroit and Beyond"	22484679	Tu Th 12:30-1:45 pm 09/01/2026-12/17/2026		Christi Brookes
HON 399 (1-6 cr)	Independent Study	22476056	08/31/2026-12/18/2026	Independent study form	Patricia Williamson
HON 499 (3-6 cr)	Senior Project	22476057	08/31/2026-12/18/2026	Capstone proposal approval required	Patricia Williamson
HON 499WI (3-6 cr)	Senior Project	22481075	08/31/2026-12/18/2026	Capstone proposal approval required	Patricia Williamson

Departmental Honors Sections					
Courses Credits UP	Course Title	Section Number	Days & Times		Instructor
ASL 100H (3 cr)	Introduction to Deaft Community and Culture	22482139	Tu Th 12:30-1:45pm 09/01/2026-12/17/2026	Counts as HON Cultural Diversity	Susan Velguth
BIO 111H (4 cr)	Foundations of Evolution and Diversity	22480552	M W F 9:00-9:50 am Lab Th 1:00-3:50pm 08/31/2026-12/18/2026		Kirsten Nicholson
BUS 100H (3 cr)	Introduction to Business	22479090	Tu Th 11:00-12:15 pm 09/01/2026-12/17/2026		Staff
BUS 102H (1)	Teamwork in Business	22481826	Th 9:30-10:20 am 09/03/2026-12/17/2026		Staff
BUS 202H (1)	Leading through Change	22481827	W 12:00-12:50 pm 09/02/2026-12/16/2026		Staff
BUS 302H (1)	Career Management	22482145	Tu 12:00-12:50 pm 09/01/2026-12/15/2026		Staff
BUS 331HS (3 cr)	Integrated Business Experience	22480553	Tu Th 9:30-10:45 am 09/01/2026-12/17/2026		Staff

CHM 131H (4 cr) II-B	General Chemistry I	22479086	M Tu W Th 10:00-10:50 am Lab F 9:00-9:50 am Lab F 10:00-11:50 am 08/31/2026-12/18/2026		Janice Tomasik
COM 101H (3 cr)	Introduction to Communication	22479003	M W 12:30-1:45 pm 08/31/2026-12/16/2026		Kelsey Ellis
HSC 214H (4 cr)	Human Anatomy	22476167	M Tu W 9:00-10:50 am 08/31/2026-12/16/2026		John Andraka Thomas Masterson
HSC 308H (3 cr)	Physiology of Sport and Exercise	22479253	M W 2:00-3:15 pm 08/31/2026-12/16/2026		Paul O'Connor
HSC 411H (3 cr)	Pathophysiology	22480093	Tu Th 2:00-3:15 pm 09/01/2026-12/17/2026		Leslie Wallace
TAI 170H (3 cr) I-B	Oral Interpretation of Literature	22478747	M W 2:00-3:15 pm 08/31/2026-12/16/2026		Stacey Pattison

Honors Program Course Descriptions

HON 201WI: The Moral Machine: Ethics, AI and Human Decision Making

Dr. John Gustincic

Monday/Wednesday 2:00-3:15 pm AN 260A

This course challenges students to explore how artificial intelligence makes choices with moral consequences, from self-driving cars to healthcare triage systems. Through interactive simulations, real-world case studies, and design challenges, students apply ethical frameworks like utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics to modern dilemmas. Blending philosophy, law, psychology, and computer science, the course invites students to debate life-and-death decisions, uncover bias, and design their own moral algorithms." By the end, students will be equipped to think critically, argue ethically, and lead conversations about AI's impact on humanity.

HON 201WI: Rhetoric of Social Protest

Dr. Ed Hinck

Monday/Wednesday 2:00-3:15 pm MO 111

United States history reflects attempts on the part of citizens form a more perfect union through social protest of unfair, unequal, and unjust actions, policies, and conditions created by those who hold economic, social, and political power. Within reasonable restrictions, the First Amendment of the Constitution protects the right to free speech giving citizens the right to criticize leaders, challenge the status quo, and advocate for a more just society. Excluding acts of violence, this course takes up a study of how human beings, deprived of economic resources and power of political office, use language to express dissatisfaction, draw attention to social problems, reveal gaps between existing policy and democratic principles, advocate for compelling visions of a more just society, and more.

HON 202WI: Gaming Story, Reading Play: Games Across Media

Dr. Gretchen Papazian

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45 am Anspach 260

Characters. Avatars. Chapters. Levels. Plot. Boss Battles. Point of View. HUD. Drawing on both narrative and gaming theory, this course will explore dialogues between digital and print, as well as between reader/viewer/player and text, to consider how story games, game stories, and stories about games play and narrative to make meaning. In exploring the structures and mechanics of various kinds of texts (novels, film, board games, and videogames), students will investigate the ways that games, stories, gaming stories, and story games offer insight into personal experiences, social dynamics, and even political ideas.

HON 203WI: Environmental Research around Central Michigan University

Dr. Mark Francek

Wednesday 3:30-6:20pm Dow 135

The goal of this course is to promote problem-solving and critical thinking through a semester-long research project addressing REAL environmental problems around CMU and Mt. Pleasant. Sustainability, stewardship and social justice will all be addressed. Students will work in partnerships with classmates to collaboratively solve problems.

HON 205WI: Our Screens, Our Selves: Growing Up in a Digital World

Dr. Troy Hicks

Tuesday 4:00-6:50 pm EHS 215

This course explores how technology affects childhood and adolescence. Students will examine historical and current perspectives using books like Technopoly and The Anxious Generation, while also researching modern issues. The course encourages creative expression through writing, podcasts, and video essays, and promotes active, thoughtful engagement with digital tools—including AI. Together, we will think critically about the role of technology in our lives and society.

HON 206WI: "Influence in Action"

Dr. Elina Erzikova

Monday/Wednesday 3:30-4:45 pm MO 206

This course that how influence operates in today's interconnected world. Students become active investigators and ethical practitioners of persuasion through hands-on labs, digital simulations and collaborations with real-world professionals. Students will work on influence projects demonstrating both analytical sophistication and creative application ' skills essential for leadership in communication, business, public service and beyond.

HON 207WI: Environment and Livelihoods in the Global South

Dr. Isaac Asante-Wusu

Monday/Wednesday 9:00-10:15 am PE 225

Our planet is dying, and the need for action has never been more urgent. This course provides an eye-opening exploration of how centuries of capitalism have fueled environmental devastation and exacerbated global inequality, with the Global South bearing the brunt of these consequences. Through compelling case studies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, students will uncover the harsh realities of deforestation, water scarcity, and stark disparities in resource distribution.

HON 208WI: Indigenous Native American Wisdom and Scientific Knowledge

Dr. Jim McDonald

Thursday 1:00-3:45 pm EHS 232

This course will look at the cultural, scientific, and historical aspects of Native Americans in the fields of ethnobotany (plants), ethnoastronomy (astronomy), ethnotechnology (development of innovative problem solving to make living easier and adapt to an environment). Students will draw on the resources of the Zibiwing Center permanent exhibit, Diba Jimooyung, which means "Telling Our Story." Students will visit the center as a part of the class. Students will also develop a foundation in all these areas of study and write journals about their developing perspective and impressions of each topic. The journals will be used for discussion, peer interaction, and how their evolving understanding of Native American contributions is different from their initial thoughts.

HON 209WI: Intersectional Shakespeare: Adapting the Bard for the 21st Century

Dr. Nathaniel Smith

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15 pm AN 150

Shakespeare challenged the racist, sexist, anti-Semitic, and homophobic norms of his own society with stories that continue to resonate with readers and audiences today. Students in this course will explore Shakespeare's intersectional drama alongside authors and performers who have adapted his stories to make them directly relevant to 21st century American social struggles. Performance history, multi-generic adaptation strategies, critical analysis, and dialogic exploration will be exciting new contexts for reading and understanding the plays and their role in popular culture.

HON 209WI: AMERICA AT 250: GENDER, RACE AND ETHNICITY FROM THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FORWARD.

Dr. Catherine Tobin

Monday/Wednesday 2:00-3:15 pm

This class will look at key documents and speeches in American history, including the Declaration of Independence, Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Declaration of Sentiments, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the 14th Amendment and more. Students will discuss the ways in which these documents have impacted our conception of rights concerning race, ethnicity and gender. The course will look at the progress and regression of rights since the country's founding and will investigate the promise of America.

HON 315: Honors College Teaching Assistant

Dr. Tracy Collins

Monday 3:30-4:45 pm Anspach 260; 6:00-7:50pm Biosciences 1010

HON 315 provides supervision, training, and mentorship for Honors Program students selected to serve as teaching assistants for HON 100/300. HON 315 offers a structured opportunity for students to develop pedagogical knowledge, leadership traits, and essential job skills necessary to serve as impactful teaching assistants who support and mentor students of diverse identities as they transition into higher education and/or the Honors Program.

Note: To enroll in this course, students must first successfully complete the application process to be an HON 100/300 teaching assistant.

HON 320: Subcultures in Action

Dr. Elina Erzikova

Monday/Wednesday 11:00-12:15 pm MO 206

This course explores how subcultures around the world challenge dominant norms, express identity and inspire change. Through integration of academic study, creative experimentation and intercultural engagement, students will analyze how diverse groups use communication, art, and digital media to advocate for justice and visibility.

HON 32AF1: Obesity and Diabetes: A Growing Challenge and Our Strategies

Dr. Lixin Li

Thursday 5:00-7:50 pm HPB 2022

Diabetes is emerging as a global health care problem that may reach pandemic levels by 2030. The growing prevalence of diabetes is strongly correlated with the increasing rates of obesity. This course aims to equip students with an understanding of the current state of knowledge regarding epidemiology, prevention, and treatment of these interconnected subjects.

HON 321BD: Creativity in the Age of Intelligent Technology

Dr. Mike Deschryver

Wednesday 4:00-6:50 pm MO 107

This course is designed to foster awareness of the implications for creative thinking in a world of increasingly ubiquitous and intelligent technology. Students will be able to understand various inputs to creativity, how artificial intelligence is changing the nature of creativity, identify and foster aspect of creativity in themselves, evaluate the creative strengths and weaknesses of common AI tools and engage in productive creative partnerships with those tools.

HON 321DE: The American City: Detroit and Beyond

Dr. Christi Brookes

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45 pm AN 156

As the United States marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Detroit commemorates 375 years since its founding. As we ponder what it means to be American in the 21st century, what lessons does this Michigan city (and others) have to offer? This course will explore what Detroit and Michigan's other major cities can teach us. Together, we'll examine themes such as immigration, industry, design, urban unrest, gentrification, housing, gardening, and more asking where Detroit, and the nation, are headed in the years to come.

