

CMU Honors Program Course Description Guide

Spring 2027

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 149 (1 cr)	Intro to Honors College of Medicine Seminar	22482346	W 4:00-5:50 pm 01/13/2027-05/05/2027	Must be admitted to CMED Honors Early Assurance Program	Eric Davis
HON 249 (1 cr)	Intermediate Honors CMED Seminar	22482347	W 4:00-5:50 pm 01/13/2027-05/05/2027	Must be admitted to CMED Honors Early Assurance Program	Chris Austin
HON 349 (1 cr)	Advanced Honors CMED Seminar	22482348	01/11/2027-05/08/2027	Must be admitted to CMED Honors Early Assurance Program	Chris Austin
HON 317 (3 cr)	Honors Practicum in Publication	22482209	Tu 6:00-7:50 pm 01/12/2027-05/04/2027	This is a 1 credit course that can be taken multiple times	Mel Purdy
HON 319 (3 cr) IV-C	Culture & Inequality in the U.S.: "Abolition, Suffrage and the Fight for Human Rights"	22485048	M W 2:00-3:15pm 01/11/2027-05/05/2027	Meets HON Cultural Diversity credit	Hope May
HON 319SL (3 cr) IV-C	Culture & Inequality in the U.S.: "We All Are Americans: How Immigrants Built the United States"	22481762	Tu 5:00-6:50-pm 01/12/2027-05/04/2027	Meets HON Cultural Diversity credit *Study away *Course fee	Alejandra Rengifo
HON 320 (3 cr) IV-A	Discrimination and Diversity in the U.S "20 th Century Detroit and Beyond"	22481763	Tu Th 3:30-4:45 pm 01/12/2027-05/06/2027	Meets HON Cultural Diversity credit	Timothy O'Neil
HON 320 (3 cr) IV-A	Discrimination and Diversity in the U.S "Who's Afraid of Books"	22485176	Tu 6:30-9:20 pm 01/12/2027-05/04/2027	Meets HON Cultural Diversity credit	Maureen Eke
HON 321AS (3 cr)	Critical Materials for Clean Energy	22484929	Tu Th 11:00-12:15 pm 01/12/2027-05/06/2027		BingBing Li
HON 321AT (3 cr)	Writing for Multimedia	22484713	Tu Th 12:30-1:45 pm 01/12/2027-05/06/2027		William Anderson
HON 321BI (3 cr)	Sex, Sin and Censorship: Film Content Regulation in the U.S.	22484930	M 6:00-8:50pm 01/11/2027-05/03/2027		Patricia Williamson
HON 321AU (3 cr)	Paradigm Shifts in Science	22485153	M 1:00-3:45 pm 01/11/2027-05/03/2027		Jim McDonald

HON 321AV (3 cr)	Be Afraid. Be Very Afraid: Horror and Popular Culture	22485156	M W 11:00-12:15 pm 01/11/2027-05/05/2027		Joe Sommers
HON 399 (1-6 cr)	Independent Study	22477328	01/11/2027-05/07/2024	Independent study form	Patricia Williamson
HON 499 (3 cr)	Senior Project	22477329	01/11/2027-05/07/2027	Capstone proposal approval required	Patricia Williamson
HON 499WI (3 cr)	Senior Project	22481321	001/11/2027-05/07/2027	Capstone proposal approval required	Patricia Williamson

Departmental Honors Sections					
Courses Credits UP	Course Title	Section Number	Days & Times		Instructor
BIO 212H (4 cr)	Foundations of Form and Function	22481771	Tu Th 2:00-3:15 pm Lab W 1:00-3:50 pm 01/12/2027-05/06/2027		Kirsten Nicholson
BIO 500H (3 cr)	Biological Statistics	22481774	M W 11:00-11:50 am Labe W 5:00-6:50 pm 01/11/2027-05/05/2027		Hunter Carrick
CHM 132H (4 cr)	General Chemistry II	22476108	Tu W Th 10:00-10:40 am Lab M 10:00-10:50 am Lab 11:00-12:50 am 01/11/2027-05/06/2027		Janice Tomasik
COM 267H (3 cr)	Introduction to Debate	22477803	M W 12:30-1:45 pm 01/11/2027-05/05/2027		Ryan Corso-Gonzales
ENG 201H (3 cr)	Intermediate Composition	22476803	M W 11:00-11:50 am 01/11/2027-05/05/2027		Tracy Collins
ENG 201H (3 cr)	Intermediate Composition	22476805	Tu Th 11:00-12:15 pm 01/12/2027-05/06/2027		Gretchen Papazian
ENG 201H (3 cr)	Intermediate Composition	22476806	Tu Th 12:30-1:45 pm 01/12/2027-05/06/2027		Mark Freed
ENG 201H (3 cr)	Intermediate Composition	22484630	M W 10:00-10:50 am 01/11/2027-05/05/2027		Steven Bailey
HDF 110H (3 cr)	Oppression: Roots & Impact	22477067	Tu Th 11:00-12:15 pm 01/12/2027-05/06/2027		Cheryl Geisthardt
HSC 302H (3 cr)	Human Physiology	22481502	Tu Th 9:30-10:45 am Lab Th 1:00-2:50 pm 01/12/2027-05/06/2027		Leslie Wallace
PSC 444H (3 cr)	Refugees and Human Trafficking	22484890	Tu Th 11:00-12:15 pm 01/12/2027-05/06/2027		Prakash Adhikari
TAI 170H (3 cr) I-B	Oral Interpretation of Literature	22479674	M W 2:00-3:15 pm 01/11/2027-05/05/2027		Stacey Pattison

Honors Program Course Descriptions

HON 149: Introduction to Honors College of Medicine

Dr. Eric Davis

Hybrid

Introduction to the medical world to provide support for College of Medicine Honors Early Assurance Program students. Must be accepted into the CMU College of Medicine Honors Early Assurance Program to take this course.

HON 249: Intermediate Honors CMED Seminar

Dr. Chris Austin

Hybrid

Expand upon medical knowledge and experience developed in HON 149 to provide support for the medical school application process. Must be accepted into the CMU College of Medicine Honors Early Assurance Program to take this course.

HON 349: Advanced Honors CMED Seminar

Dr. Chris Austin

Hybrid Asynchronous

Final course on undergraduate medical knowledge and experience, building on foundations from HON 149 and 249, in preparation for the medical school application process. Must be accepted into the CMU College of Medicine Honors Early Assurance Program to take this course.

HON 317: Honors Practicum in Publication

Mel Purdy

Tuesday 6:00-7:50 pm ROOM

For those interested in any aspects of publishing, this course is an opportunity to be a part of the editorial team of two annual periodicals published by the CMU Honors Program. This hands-on course provides experience in all aspects of the editing and publication process. Students select submissions for publication, copy edit submissions, and design and publish the periodicals. The first of these publications is *The Honors Platform*, a journal that publishes pieces written by CMU Honors students featuring a variety of formats (i.e., essays, papers, poetry, nonfiction, graphic arts, photography). Second is *The Great Lakes Platform*, a journal featuring the works of high school students in Michigan and the Great Lakes region. Both journals are produced during this course. Students meet as a team and complete independent work. All majors and fields are welcome. In addition to course requirements, you may also earn up to 30 hours of service if you wish to provide additional support for these activities beyond class requirements.

HON 319: Abolition, Suffrage and the Fight for Human Rights

Dr. Hope May

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

This interdisciplinary class frames the pre-Civil War network of reform movements (abolition, peace, suffrage) as precursors to the post World-War II International Human Rights Movement. Focusing primarily on the time from 1793 (the birth of U.S. Quaker abolitionist, peace activist, and suffragist Lucretia Mott (after whom the Equal Rights Amendment was originally named)) to 1948 (year that the U.N. General Assembly adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), this course frames early U.S. interconnected reform movements as attempts to articulate and implement a vision of universal human rights.

HON 319SL: We All Are Americans: How Immigrants Built the United States

Dr. Alejandra Rengifo

Tuesday 5:00-6:50 pm Pearce 328

This course will challenge students intellectually & strengthen their critical thinking skills by providing a focused look at the themes of immigration and migration history in the U.S., particularly in Michigan and New Mexico. The class will pay close attention to immigration to and within the U.S., the varied experiences of different ethnic group identities, and how their contribution to the country's cultural, social, political, educational, economic, and artistic creativity has had an impact on the character of the nation through its history. Spring Break (March 7-14) will be spent volunteering in Las Cruces, New Mexico. This class meets Honors Cultural Diversity requirement, UP IV-C credit, and up to 30 service hours.

HON 320: 20th Century Detroit and Beyond: Class, Race and Gender from 1910 to Present

Dr. Timothy O'Neil

Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:45 pm Pearce 329

This course examines Twentieth Century Detroit and beyond through the lens of Class, Race and Gender. In the first half of the 20th Century, Detroit—the Motor City—emerged as the automobile capital of the world and became the symbol of American industrial might and prosperity. People throughout the world made pilgrimages to Detroit to see what the future looked like. Students will examine where the auto industry drew its labor force from immigration, the organization of auto workers into the United Auto Workers (UAW) and developed the nation's strongest Labor movement as well as the equality of the workforce. Detroit's rise and decline in population because of the auto industry, immigration, war production, and the result of deindustrialization.

HON 320: Who's Afraid of Books?

Dr. Maureen Eke

Tuesday 6:30-9:20 pm AN 255

Today, books are being banned, challenged, and removed from libraries. Why ban books? How does book banning affect our sense of ourselves, narratives of ourselves and the communities whose stories are being banned? While book banning is not new in America, PEN America reports more than "2,532 instances of individual book" bans and challenges across more than 37 states since January 2022. The consequences of book bans are traumatic for everyone and destroy our sense of community. Book bans undermine our knowledge of our history, communities, and the world in which we live. Furthermore, book bans rob us of our dignity and empathy, especially for those whose stories are banned. This course will provide students an opportunity to examine selected banned/challenged books that address various identities and themes, including but not limited to LGBTQ+, race, racism, and gender. Students will engage in critical conversations that examine the rationale provided for the bans; the implications for and impacts on the students, the affected communities, and the society in general; explore restorative ways to address or combat book bans.

HON 321AS: Critical Materials for Clean Energy

Dr. BingBing Li

Tu/Th 11:00-12:15pm, DOW 174

Blood Cobalt is a documentary based on Australian reporter Michael Davie's journey to Congo, one of the poorest countries with over half of the world's cobalt deposits. Cobalt is essential for making batteries in electric vehicles, cellphones, and laptops. Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives, a book authored by Siddharth Kara, also discussed the human rights violation in Congo's cobalt mines. While the world is embracing the clean energy revolution, the transition is hobbled with high cost of mining and associated supply chain uncertainties.

This course will start from the basic chemistry of "the electric eighteen" (i.e., the 18 critical materials for clean energy, as determined by the US Secretary of Energy). We then focus on some of their properties and applications as critical materials for the clean energy industry. Material sustainability will be further evaluated through the life cycle lens, with emphasis on introducing cutting-edge chemistry and material research for waste management and recycling.

HON 321AT: Writing for Multimedia

Dr. William Anderson

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45 pm MO 109

This course would examine different mediums (print, aural, music, mediated, etc.) for telling stories. It would look at the advantages and challenges faced in creating narratives in respective mediums. I would bring in authors and content creators from different media to augment lecture material, examples and readings.

Students would work to create and share their own stories/content. No production experience is required for this class, but students with production experience will be able to incorporate their skills and personal equipment in creating their narrative projects.

HON 321BI: Sex, Sin and Censorship: Film Content Regulation in the U.S.

Dr. Patricia Williamson

Monday, 6:00-8:50 pm, MO 111

Film content that challenges societal norms is often subject to censorship. Since film developed into a popular entertainment form over 125 years ago, a variety of stakeholders have worked to silence the voices of content creators for a wide range of content deemed offensive, inappropriate, or harmful. This course will look at the various content regulation efforts used to censor filmmakers over the past century. Students will learn to critique and interpret film content while analyzing its historical significance and its commentary on cultural norms of the era. Key films will be viewed and discussed in class, and optional movie nights will be scheduled outside of class. Students will learn about the legal and policy-related implications of film content regulation, exploring some of the unintended consequences on free speech and artistic expression.

HON 321AU: Paradigm Shifts in Science

Dr. Jim McDonald

Monday 1:00-3:45 pm PE 107

This course is designed to engage students in high impact learning practices that foster critical inquiry and integrative thinking. Students explore transformative scientific ideas—such as heliocentrism, evolution, relativity, and plate tectonics—through a writing-intensive approach that includes reflective essays, analytical responses to readings, and a final synthesis paper. By critically examining both historical and contemporary texts, students engage in intensive reading and discussion, promoting a deeper understanding of the cultural and intellectual contexts in which scientific revolutions occur.

HON 321AV: Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid: Horror and Popular Culture

Dr. Joe Sommers

Monday/Wednesday 11:00-12:15 pm AN 309

Buried deep within the human psyche, somewhere at the liminal boundary between nightmares and the waking world, is social anxiety: the place where we find horror intertwined with popular culture, entertainment mirroring that which most disturbs us and manifests as fear masked as entertainment. Whether it be Jack Torrance breaking through our door announcing, “Here’s Johnny!” or a phone call asking, “What’s your favorite scary movie?”, this is the class looking at where horror becomes the books we read and films, we watch... for fun.