



# Bascom Honors Program



## Seminar Descriptions (Fall 2021)

### **ADAH 270H: Ancient Technology in Art and Archaeology (Brenningmeyer)**

This course introduces students to technologies and materials that have been used by artists and architects throughout the course of human history. Students witness and participate in demonstrations of art production using both ancient and modern techniques. Course topics may include explorations of metallurgical technologies, ancient kiln design, pottery and tile manufacture, fresco and tempura techniques, casting techniques, stone tool manufacture and raw material location and sourcing. The course combines in-class lectures with hands on experiences to provide students with the knowledge to experiment, explore and understand the artistic and architectural technologies of various cultures and time periods.

**Qualifying Categories: Fine Arts, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#)

### **ADSA 297H: Silver: Tears of the Moon, Metal of Allah (Baltrushunas)**

This course will introduce metalworking techniques and discuss the creative process while exploring the traditions and meanings of jewelry. At the conclusion of the course each student will have designed and executed a collection of silver jewelry. **Qualifying Categories: Fine Arts, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#)

### **ENGL 204H: Composition and Community (Marino)**

This seminar develops students' skills in argumentative writing, while giving students the opportunity to serve others through their writing. The course is built on the premise that writing is a social act, and that serving others will allow students to invest in themselves as writers. Students will be asked to tutor others during the course of the semester. This is a hands-on, discussion-oriented, service learning course that requires engagement with a diverse community. Students will examine texts that will serve as models for writing arguments. The course will build towards a research project allowing students to put sources in dialogue. When students finish the class, they should be able to write effective argumentative essays based on research. Students will participate in a service-learning environment, small group work, peer editing, and conferences with the instructor. **Qualifying Categories: ENGL204H, Humanities, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#)

### **ENGL 225H: Modern Fantasy (Marino)**

The fantastic has been around in story and literature as early as the medieval and Renaissance periods and even earlier. Many people actually believed in trolls, elves, dragons and fairies, and some people still do. Why does Fantasy persist, even thrive, in the modern period? How do we define Fantasy as a genre? We will ask these questions and others as we adventure in the weird worlds of Lord Dunsany, H. P. Lovecraft, Robert E. Howard, George MacDonald, Ursula LeGuin, and others (including film). We will investigate the nature of belief, our need for quests, explore the unknown and unusual, and encounter characters that defy categories of being. **Qualifying Categories: Humanities, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#)

### **ENGL 288H: Greek/Roman Myth in Literature and Film (Murray)**

Greek and Roman Mythology forms the bedrock of story and symbol in our civilization. In this course we will study the origins of these stories and the purpose of them as they evolved in their original contexts up to the present day. The course will look at how a variety of writers and filmmakers have used these stories in their poetry, fiction and screenplays. Moreover the class will consider why these stories endure and why they continue to capture the human imagination. Finally, we will read Homer, Hesiod, Apuleius and a variety of other sources along with modern adaptations of the most enduring myths of the Greek and Roman tradition. **Qualifying Categories: Humanities, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#)

### **ENGL 297H: International Film History (Bowers)**

This course is a survey of the history and key developments of film—as an institution and as an art form—from its beginnings to roughly the end of World War II in 1945. Along the way we will study some of the important directors and view films that are considered landmarks in the history of cinema. The course is international in scope; in addition to screening a number of American films, we will also examine films by Soviet, French, German, Spanish, and Italian directors. The course emphasis is on film history rather than narrative form, but students will be introduced to key elements of visual analysis. We will also consider how film history reflects larger history and how cinema and national culture intersect, including how race, gender, class and sexuality are both represented and regulated within film. Students will be expected to view full films as homework assignments. **Qualifying Categories: Humanities, Fine Arts, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#)

**ENGL 400H: Tutorial – The Ghost Story in Culture and Literature (Murray)**

An honors tutorial is based on a theme where students: a) complete common weekly readings; b) write individual essays; c) meet in groups with the faculty member to discuss the readings and essays; and d) meet with each other to further discuss the readings. Students must be of sophomore rank or higher. The theme of this tutorial is the ghost story in culture and literature.

**Qualifying Categories: Humanities, and Elective. Seminar Video**

**HIST 297H: The Holocaust and Genocide (Probst)**

This course will explore some of the darkest and most difficult to understand topics in recent human history - the Holocaust and other genocide events of the 20th century. Our course will explore the complex historical factors which produced genocide events. We will also examine the stories of those who fought repressive regimes and spoke out against genocidal leaders, seeking to understand how confronting these issues in the past may help us confront human cruelty in the present.

**Qualifying Categories: History/Government, and Elective. [Seminar Video](#)**

**HONR 260H: Colloquium I (Craddock, Arr Hrs)**

This colloquium introduces students to what it means to be Bascom Honors Scholars and provides them several opportunities to engage in different events depending on their schedule. **Qualifying Categories: Honors Colloquium #1**

**HUM 297H: Creativity and Storytelling in the Sciences (Anderson)**

We often assume that science and storytelling are as different from each other as fact from fiction. However, in Science and Storytelling, we will see how storytelling often has played a role in the scientific process throughout modern history -- and vice versa. We will explore how scientific achievements shape contemporary culture and how culture, in turn, helps shape the kind of science that we are conducting (as well as how we communicate about that science to the public). In Science and Storytelling, students will hear from paleontologists who rely on imaginative narrative to explore the scientific possibilities of the prehistoric world. We'll read the work of scientists who think of the human genome as a series of stories waiting to be told. And we'll see what happens when our everyday reality catches up with science-fiction. Science and Storytelling will focus primarily on developing skills in research, critical thinking, close reading, and cultural analysis. This class is taught by a humanities faculty member but will also feature visits from faculty members from throughout the sciences at Maryville. Students also will be required to attend periodic science lecture events at the university. **Qualifying Categories:**

**Humanities, and Elective. [Seminar Video](#)**

**PHIL 297H: The Idea of God in the Western Tradition (Wickersham)**

This course will examine the major philosophical and theological questions concerning God, His existence, His nature, and His relationship to the universe. **Qualifying Categories: Humanities, and Elective. [Seminar Video](#)**

**PSCI 297H: Media and Political Socialization (Akanbi)**

This is a student led course that relies on seminar discussions. This course uses mass media to explore common misconceptions and misinformation that is often absorbed by the general public. Additionally, we will examine how these misconceptions and falsehoods can shape political socialization and behaviors. The course will investigate political trust and why it is important in a democratic society. Students will have the opportunity to expand their media literacy and explore the various perspectives dominating current events. This course is designed to improve critical thinking, expand scholarly research skills, and encourage political and social discourse. **Qualifying Categories: History/Government, Social Science, and Elective. [Seminar Video](#)**

**PSCI 387H: National Security and Terrorism (Craddock)**

This course examines the central challenges to U.S. national security by considering current, historical and theoretical readings and case studies. Students will apply their learning through a series of simulations where they will be expected to address issues as if they were professionals on the National Security Council. Through these simulations, students will be tasked with analyzing the challenge, assessing the current strategy, and identifying alternative strategies for protecting and advancing U.S. national interests. **Qualifying Categories: History/Political Science, and Elective. [Seminar Video](#)**

**PSCI 400H: Tutorial – The Promise and Problems of Democracy (Craddock)**

An honors tutorial is based on a theme where students: a) complete common weekly readings; b) write individual essays; c) meet in groups with the faculty member to discuss the readings and essays; and d) meet with each other to further discuss the readings. Students must be of sophomore rank or higher. The theme of this tutorial is the promise and problems of democracy. Students will examine democracy from a theoretical, historical and practical perspective to assess how democracy is performing in the U.S. and around the world. **Qualifying Categories: History/Political Science, Social Science and Elective. [Seminar Video](#)**

**PSYC 202H: Thinking Like a Social Scientist (Austin)**

This seminar course introduces students to the research methods and principles of psychological science. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and understanding the scientific methods used in the social sciences. **Qualifying Categories: Social Science, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#).

**SCI 131H: Honors Nutrition (Bruzzini)**

The course introduces students to the biology, chemistry and biochemistry disciplines by learning about the applications to nutrition in all three subject areas. In addition to an introduction to the human body the course covers carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals, and fluids. Understanding alcohol consumption, physical activity levels and healthy body weights will also be discussed. **Qualifying Categories: Science, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#)

**SCI 132H: Energy and Our World (Stary)**

This course will survey the significant chemical and physical concepts related to energy usage. An initial introduction to energy mechanics and the laws of thermodynamics, applied to 'real-world' situations, will be given. The course will have lab components woven into the course. **Qualifying Categories: Science, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#)

**SCI 297H: Science of Climate Change (Telford)**

Climate Change will be the greatest challenge facing humanity in your lifetime. In this course we will investigate key issues and concepts including: physical principles of the global climate system; climatic changes over time; interconnections between the biosphere, cryosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere; carbon-cycling, the chemistry of the “greenhouse” effect, and energy policy nationally & globally; biospheric changes over the last 100 years and implications for human food supply; and political and personal challenges to meaningful action. Weekly readings, online research, possible field trips, community interviews, and other activities will help students build a foundation from which to create a public-education event and resource to educate others about the issues. **Qualifying Categories: Science, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#)

**SOC 202H: Exploring Social Issues (Bausman)**

The design of this course is such to allow for a systematic exploration of complex social issues. We will give attention to various social issues and learn how the discipline of sociology offers us a framework for understanding them. **Qualifying Categories: Social Science, and Elective.** [Seminar Video](#)

Category	Fall 2020 Course Options
<b>Humanities</b>	<b>ENGL 204H: Composition and Community (Marino)</b> <b>ENGL 225H: Modern Fantasy (Marino)</b> <b>ENGL 288H: Greek/Roman Myth in Literature and Film (Murray)</b> <b>ENGL 297H: International Film History (Bowers)</b> <b>ENGL 400H: Tutorial – The Ghost Story in Culture and Literature (Murray)</b> <b>HUM 297H: Creativity and Storytelling in the Sciences (Anderson)</b> <b>PHIL 297H: The Idea of God in the Western Tradition (Wickersham)</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>SCI 131H: Honors Nutrition (Bruzzini)</b> <b>SCI 132H: Energy and Our World (Stary)</b> <b>SCI 297H: Science of Climate Change (Telford)</b>
<b>History/Government</b>	<b>HIST 297H: The Holocaust and Genocide (Probst)</b> <b>PSCI 297H: Media and Political Socialization (Akanbi)</b> <b>PSCI 387H: National Security and Terrorism (Craddock)</b> <b>PSCI 400H: Tutorial – The Promise and Problems of Democracy (Craddock)</b>
<b>Social Science</b>	<b>PSCI 297H: Media and Political Socialization (Akanbi)</b> <b>PSCI 387H: National Security and Terrorism (Craddock)</b> <b>PSCI 400H: Tutorial – The Promise and Problems of Democracy (Craddock)</b> <b>PSYC 202H: Thinking Like a Social Scientist (Austin)</b> <b>SOC 202H: Exploring Social Issues (Bausman)</b>
<b>Fine Arts</b>	<b>ADAH 270H: Ancient Technologies in Art and Archaeology (Brenningmeyer)</b> <b>ADSA 297H: Silver: Tears of the Moon, Metal of Allah (Baltrushunas)</b> <b>ENGL 297H: International Film History (Bowers)</b>
<b>Elective</b>	<b>All Honors Courses Except: Honors Colloquium #1</b>
<b>Colloquium #1</b>	<b>HONR 260H: Colloquium I (Craddock)</b>
<b>Colloquium #2</b>	<b>Offered in Spring semester only</b>

[Honors Seminar Videos Channel](#)