



Bascom Honors Program



Course Descriptions (Spring 2026)

ADAH/HUM206H: Interpreting World Art (Brenningmeyer, W/F 11:00-12:15p)

This course surveys the visual representations of myths and the use of symbols in art from the Paleolithic period to the present. The course examines the topic from a global perspective and investigates the use of symbols across a variety of cultures and time periods. Students gain an understanding of how images manipulate and define or re-define mythologies and how meanings are embedded within visual culture. The course is designed to provide students with no previous background in art or art history with the knowledge and ability to read and comprehend meaning within works of art from western and non-western cultures. **Qualifying Categories: Humanities, Fine Arts, Elective. MCORE: Creative, Cultural.**

ADSA 203H: Painting with Powders & Potions (Lebo, M/W, 9:25-12:05p)

A hands-on introduction to painting that focuses on methods and materials. Students explore different types of mediums, including cold wax, galkyd, liquin, linseed oil, stand oil, neo meglip, and make their own paints from scratch with pigments. **Qualifying Categories: Fine Arts, and Elective. MCORE: Creative.**

ADSA 231H: 20,000 Years of Adornment (Parrett, T/TH, 3:30-5:50p)

Despite the evolution of civilization and humankind's advancement in every field of study, one thing has remained constant – the need to express our individuality while maintaining a sense of belonging. From the dawn of civilization to contemporary society, humans have been using methods and objects of adornment to define themselves. From warding off evil spirits to signifying status or wealth to modern-day activism, objects and displays of adornment show us who we are, where we came from and what our beliefs systems are. This studio course's interdisciplinary approach will include class lectures, research, guest speakers, field study and hand making a body of work culminating in a public exhibition. Working in the ADSA metalsmithing and jewelry making studio, students will explore and experiment using traditional crafts. Materials and techniques including found objects, wood, metal and fiber/textiles to create objects of adornment. **Qualifying Categories: Fine Arts, and Elective. MCORE: Creative, Cultural.**

CRIM/WGS 203H: Sexual Violence & Aggression (Brandt, T/TH, 11:00-12:15a)

Even though there have been considerable monetary and time resources spent on violent crimes by local, state and federal agencies, law enforcement have had a difficult time prosecuting the sexually violent criminal because of societal views on personal freedoms. This course is a systematic introduction to the causation of violent offending and extreme aggressive behavior and the treatment and incarceration of this type of criminal. The readings and course framework will stress a criminological approach to sexual violence and aggression. **Qualifying Categories: Social Science, and Elective. MCORE: Civic.**

CRIM/ENGL 224H: Detective Fiction (Brandt & Murray, T/TH, 12:30-1:45p)

The seminar will study the origin of detective fiction and the cultural and scientific circumstances which made the genre possible. Secondly, the course will explore the reasons behind the popularity of this kind of fiction for the last two centuries. The course will also examine the development of forensic science and detecting by studying the evolution of police investigation procedures from the 19th century to then present day. Students will read a variety of detective stories beginning with Edgar Allan Poe and Arthur Conan Doyle ending this study in the 21st century. **Qualifying Categories: Humanities, Social Science, and Elective. MCORE: Creative, Social.**

FPAR 206H: Reading Rock & Roll (Kavadlo, W/F, 2:00-3:15p)

This course will explore rock & roll's origins, contexts, images, lyrics, and the music itself. Students will consider how the music creates meaning and what the relationship of rock & roll is to American culture and history. **Qualifying Categories: Humanities, Fine Arts and Elective. MCORE: Creative, Cultural.**

ENGL 215H: Tolkien: Medieval and Modern (Marino, M/W, 3:30-4:45p)

In this course students will explore Tolkien as a medievalist and a modern writer. They will study and discuss *The Lord of the Rings*, *Silmarillion*, *Adventures of Tom Bombadil*, *Leaf by Niggle*, and *On Fairy Stories*, as well as the medieval texts *Beowulf*, the *Elder Edda*, and the *Saga of the Volsungs*. Students will learn how Tolkien's work, in sentiment and detail, continues the early-medieval heroic tradition of the Old English *Beowulf* and the Old Norse *Elder Edda* poems in regard to the heroic code, the vitality of legend and the past (even a romantic view of history), the pantheon and otherworldly beings (elves and dwarves), cosmology, fate and free will, and the subtlety of cultural speech acts. Nevertheless, twentieth-century concerns are also central to Tolkien's fantasy texts, such as worldwide warfare, fear of tyranny by way of overwhelming power, industrialization and the environment, fading tradition, and the nature of good and evil. **Qualifying Categories: Humanities, and Elective. MCORE: Creative.**

HUM297H: The World in Six Songs (Ross, M/W, 12:30-1:45)

Inspired by Daniel Levitin's *The World in Six Songs*, this discussion-based course explores how six types of songs—friendship, war, joy, comfort, religion, and knowledge—have shaped the human experience throughout history. Students will analyze and discuss musical examples, their cultural implications, and will be able to explain the significance each song type has had on the human endeavor. **Qualifying Categories: Humanities, Fine Arts and Elective. MCORE: Creative, Cultural.**

MATH 202H: Honors Everyday Data (Herath, W/F, 8:00-9:15p)

Data is important and is effectively changing the world we live in. We can use data to help us make good decisions and take advantage of new opportunities. This seminar course gives students a foundation to the world of data and statistical skills. By the end of the course students will be familiar with data collection, processing, analysis, visualization, and interpretation. **Qualifying Categories: Science, and Elective. MCORE: Do Not Take.**

MATH 297H: Your Life in Numbers (Herath, T/TH, 11:00-12:15p)

This 16-week course delves into the diverse applications of mathematics in everyday life, exploring how mathematical principles are utilized in such activities as **cooking, sports, nature, personal finance, predictions, and gambling**. Through a combination of lectures, hands-on activities, and real-world case studies, students will gain a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts and their relevance to their lives in various contexts. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and practical application of mathematical techniques. **Qualifying Categories: Science, and Elective. MCORE: Scientific.**

PHIL 397H: Do the Right Thing (Wickersham, T/TH, 2:00-3:15p)

This course will examine four ethical theories, Natural Law, Stoicism, Utilitarianism, and Emotivism which tell us how best to identify "the right thing." To conduct this examination will require us to read ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary philosophers. It will be up to the students to decide which of these theories provide the most compelling analyses of human ethical experience. **Qualifying Categories: Humanities, and Elective. MCORE: Social.**

PSCI 297H-H2: International Relations and Diplomacy (Craddock, M/W, 3:30-4:45p)

This course examines the structure, process and challenges of international relations through the study of 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 diplomats representing countries at the UN Security Council. Through these simulations, students will be tasked with analyzing international issues while trying to promote their country's positions. **Qualifying Categories: History/Political Science, Social Science and Elective. MCORE: Civic.**

PSYC 202H-H1: Thinking Like a Social Scientist (T/TH 3:30-4:45p)

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, Elective. MCORE: Do Not Take.**

SCI 131H: Honors Nutrition (Bruzzini, M/W 12:30-1:45p)

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.**

MCORE: Scientific.

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Creative Discovery	ADAH/HUM206H: Interpreting World Art (Brenningmeyer, W/F 11:00-12:15p) ADSA 203H: Painting with Powders & Potions (Lebo, M/W, 9:25-12:05p) ADSA 231H: 20,000 Years of Adornment (Parrett, T/TH, 3:30-5:50p) FPAR 206H: Reading Rock & Roll (Kavadlo, W/F, 2:00-3:15p) ENGL 215H: Tolkien: Medieval and Modern (Marino, M/W, 3:30-4:45p) HUM297H: The World in Six Songs (Ross, M/W, 12:30-1:45)
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Social Discovery	PHIL 397H: Do the Right Thing (Wickersham, T/TH, 2:00-3:15p)