

HONORS PROGRAM FALL SEMESTER COURSES 2016

In order to enroll in the Honors Program freshmen must take one of the following courses. Either course will satisfy the Freshman TIDES requirement.

COLQ 1010, Honors Great Books Colloquium: “How Should One Live?” 3 Credits. The Honors traditional great-books seminar, in which students and faculty instructors discuss major works of literature and philosophy that address questions fundamental to the human experience. Reading lists vary, but past reading lists have included works by Homer, Aeschylus, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Dante, Cervantes; Montaigne; Marx; Nietzsche; Dubois; Woolf.

COLQ 1010-01, John Howard, Associate Director of the Murphy Institute **T R 9:30-10:45**
COLQ 1010-02, Mary Townsend, Department of Philosophy, **T R 12:30-1:45**
COLQ 1010-03, James Boyden, Associate Professor of History, **M W 3:30-4:45**

COLQ 1020/1025, Honors Colloquium: “Ways to Know.” 3 Credits. This course seeks to introduce students to the intellectual landscape of the university in two ways. On Monday afternoon, all students attend together informal lectures by prominent faculty from across the academic disciplines, in order to learn more about research at Tulane and what it means to “know” something—to conduct scholarship—in fields as diverse as Biomedical Engineering, History, and Studio Art, among others. Students will also meet in smaller discussion sections, led by members of the faculty, in order to discuss readings on multidisciplinary problems or issues chosen by the faculty members.

Faculty “Ways to Know” Seminars

COLQ 1025-01, Linda Pollock, Professor of History, “Living with Feelings: Emotions and Society from Ancient Times to the Present.” **M 4:30-5:45**

Emotions are an extremely important part of our lives, and they profoundly affect our actions, even though we are not always aware of them. The scholarly study of emotions has burgeoned over the last twenty years, and a variety of disciplines now grapple with the complexity and importance of emotions, including disciplines as disparate as: cognitive psychology; anthropology, literature, political science, art history, philosophy, and history. This seminar will discuss readings that examine emotions from a different disciplinary approach each week, in an attempt to bring the different approaches into conversation with each other.

COLQ 1025-02, T. R. Johnson, Associate Professor of English, “Psychoanalysis and Literature.”
M 4:30-5:45

This seminar will explore the four fundamental concepts of psychoanalytic theory — the drive, repetition, the transference, and the unconscious-as-language—and how these ideas can be approached through the study of literature. Reading will include several works of Sigmund Freud, as well as literary texts, including Henry James’s classic novella, *The Turn of the Screw*, and Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Purloined Letter.” Discussions will focus on how it means, in psychoanalytic terms, to read and to develop insights into literary texts.

COLQ 1025-03 James MacLaren, Professor of Physics and Dean, Newcomb-Tulane College,
“Relativity, Einstein and the Quantum World” **T 8:00-9:15**

This seminar will discuss some of the profound ideas presented at the turn of the 20th century that changed the way we view and understand the world. Without resorting to any complex mathematics we will explore the strange world of special relativity, including the famous equation $E=mc^2$. Einstein also contributed to the world of the atom and we will look at development of quantum mechanics too, and examine some of its peculiarities.

COLQ 1025-04 Raymond Taras, Professor of Political Science, “Fear, Hospitality, and the ‘Stranger’ in the West.” **T 12:30-1:45**

The politics of fear are all around us. They are used by notorious right-wing politicians, in France, England, the U.S., to trigger antipathy towards immigrants, and they are employed by liberal elites, all across Europe, to steer citizens away from voting for anti-establishment parties. The place of the stranger in Western societies is vigorously contested today. Whether she or he is a refugee, economic migrant, reunifying family member, student, just a foreign tourist, and even a national with citizenship but of immigrant origins – receiving societies have become skeptical about the truth claims the stranger makes while seeking to regularize a legal status in the West. This seminar surveys attitudes towards immigrants through source materials including novels about migrants and scholarship from sociology, ethnography, political science, psychology, and some economics (immigrants and labor markets).

COLQ 1025-05 Colin Crawford, Professor of Environmental Law & Director, Development Studies Programs, “Global Urbanization Challenges.” **T 2:00-3:15**

Rapid urbanization is the greatest demographic shift of our time: by 2030, as many as 80% of people will live in cities. Cities typically are engines of economic growth and innovation and hubs for cultural production. But the millions who live in poverty or extreme poverty have are not able to enjoy the benefits of cities, and moreover are forced to live in squalid and dangerous conditions. This seminar will consider the nature and consequences of global urbanization: the effects of

urbanization on the built and physical environment and the challenges for infrastructure provision globally—whether transport, water, sewage or electrical utilities—and ask students to evaluate proposals for urban reform at the international and regional, and global levels. Readings may include selections Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities* (1972); Mike Davis, *Planet of Slums* (2006); Hernando de Soto, *The Other Path: the Economic Answer to Terrorism*(1989); Robert C. Ellickson, *Order Without Law: How Neighbors Settle Disputes* (2009)

COLQ 1025-06 Julie Alvarez, Senior Professor of Practice, Dept. of Psychology: “Sports Head Injuries and Concussions.” **W 12:00-1:15**

With the recent release of the movie “Concussion”, sport-related concussion (SRC) in professional, college, and youth athletes has received more attention in the media. Although national attention to this topic began approximately 10 years ago with the publication of Omalu et al.’s landmark 2005 paper (“Chronic traumatic encephalopathy in a National Football League player” in the journal *Neurosurgery*), neuropsychologists actually have been leading clinical and scientific advancements in the area of SRC for the past 25 years. The field of clinical neuropsychology has been involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of protocols for managing SRC and determining when an athlete has recovered and is ready to return to play. Over the past decade, research on SRC has exploded with hundreds of studies relating to the neurobiology of the injury, biomechanics, epidemiology, risk factors for slow recovery or poor outcome, and methods for improving assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation services for athletes. The breadth and depth of these research efforts likely will result in better health outcomes for future athletes. The goal of this seminar is to introduce students to the study of SRC through reading and discussion of peer-reviewed empirical journal articles published in the last 10 years on this topic.

COLQ 1025-07 Sally Brown Richardson, Associate Professor of Law, “The Theory of Property.” **W 3:30-4:45**

This seminar is a forum for students to begin exploring what is property, debate the merits of having a property law regime, and contemplate future issues that property law will face. We will read some fundamental political theory that has shaped American property law, such as portions of John Locke’s *Second Treatise of Government* and portions of William Blackstone’s *Commentaries*. We will also contemplate novel questions about whether certain things should be considered property. Specifically, we will cover whether the human body should be considered property, whether items in outer space should be considered property, and whether items in the virtual world should be considered property. To do this, we will read things like the *Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies*, as well as modern news reports on virtual items such as Bitcoin. Finally, we will focus on how we protect property. In this part, we will consider neighborhood issues such as how to protect a house being damaged by the next door neighbor’s overhanging tree, local issues like how do we protect a city from blight, national issues such as how to protect the water and supply supply from pollution, and international issues such as how do we protect historic sites from groups like ISIS?

COLQ 1025-08 Stephen Griffin, Professor of Law, “Constitutional Change and Reform in the U.S.” **W 3:00-4:15**

This seminar will focus both on the history of constitutional change and reform and on current interest in fundamental political reform. It will take up four past eras of constitutional change and reform: Reconstruction, the Progressive era, the New Deal, and the civil rights movement. And it will address evaluations of disfunction and heightened calls to reform during the current election season.

COLQ 1025-09 Michael J. Moore, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, “The Future of Health Care: Hope or Hype?” **T 8:00-9:15**

The popular press and our social media feeds are full of stories of miracle cures and hidden menaces that promise to impact our everyday health and well-being. In this seminar, we will examine some promising medical advances that seem poised to revolutionize modern healthcare—and some that have not lived up to the promise. We will also address some contemporary controversial subjects related to healthcare and discuss the differences between rigorous science, folk medicine, and pseudo-science, and what—if anything—each has to offer, as well as the role of society in the trajectory of medical advances. Topics to be discussed will be partially chosen by students’ interests and contemporary issues. Examples might include regenerative medicine, nanotechnology, precision medicine, cancer vaccines, and brain-machine interfaces.

COLQ 1025-10 Victor Holtcamp, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Dance, “Aesthetics and Style.” **R 12:30-1:45**

This is a seminar on the concepts of aesthetics and style as they are applied in a variety of disciplines. Students will discuss the concept of aesthetics and explain how aesthetic considerations and frameworks impact our lived experience; compare and contrast the use of aesthetic judgment in different disciplines; and consider how to apply and support various aesthetic frameworks. Examples of the texts that might be included are Robert Crease, *The Prism and the Pendulum: The Ten Most Beautiful Experiments in Science*; Adam Gopnik, *The Table Comes First: Family, France, and the Meaning of Food*; Daniel Alan Herwitz, *Aesthetics: Key Concepts in Philosophy*; Donald A. Norman, *The Design of Everyday Things*; and Patricia Hampl, *Blue Arabesque: A Search for the Sublime*.

COLQ 1025-11 Sarah A. Cramsey, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Jewish Studies, “Belief: Understanding the Power of Faith.” **R 2-3:15**

Evidence of belief, positive and negative is everywhere: majestic synagogues on St. Charles Ave., the headscarf on the student sitting across from you, the beads thrown at parade-goers during Mardi Gras; also “fanatical” religious beliefs by which people separate themselves from others, majorities discriminate against minorities and in the most extreme instances, believers are willing to kill or be killed to protect their beliefs. This

seminar approaches belief from psychological, biological, anthropological, philosophical, political, sociological and historical perspectives. By using an interdisciplinary approach we will investigate questions that seem endemic to human existence: what do humans believe, why do they believe it and how does belief influence their decisions over time? Readings will be drawn from “holy” texts-- the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, the Qur’an, the Bhavagad Gita—as well as short writings from Albert Camus, Maimonides, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Paul Tillich, the Dalai Lama, Elie Wiesel and C.S. Lewis.

COLQ 1025-12 Carrie Wyland, Professor of Practice in Psychology and Faculty Member in Residence, Wall Residential College, “The Psychology of Social Media.” **F 11:00-12:15**

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Tinder... In our current world, more and more of our social interactions are becoming virtual. In light of this, psychological research has begun to explore the effect of social media on psychological processes. In this seminar, we will discuss how social media has transformed our society, our relationships, and our selves. We will consider both the negative and antisocial effects, including lowered self-esteem and cyberbullying, as well as the positive and prosocial effects, such as social networking and digital altruism. We will read current empirical research addressing some of the psychology behind social media, examine journalistic coverage of the effects of social media, as well as explore various social media sites directly. The seminar will aim to be a balance between discussion of personal experience and opinions with scientific research and theory.

COLQ 1025-13 Rebecca Atencio, Associate Professor Brazilian Cultural Studies, “Memory and Justice in Post-Conflict Societies around the World” **T 9:30-10:45**

This seminar introduces students to the concept of Transitional Justice and explore its various applications throughout the world, especially Latin America, Africa, and Europe. Transitional Justice is an umbrella term that encompasses the ways nations reckon with pasts of dictatorship, civil war, or other forms of mass violence particularly in cases where human rights trials are deemed unviable. Truth commissions are one of most well-known mechanisms for dealing with national traumas, although there are many others such as reparations programs, lustration, and memorialization (through creation or removal of monuments; the producing of films, books, and art; and so on).

COLQ 1025-16 Jennifer Heil, Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in English, “Becoming Human.” **W 3-4:15**

This seminar takes its from a book published in 1998 by scholar and activist Jean Vanier, who in it defends the inherent dignity of human life, especially of those marginalized by utilitarian definitions of the person. Students will examine people who are usually dismissed or undervalued because they are disabled, sick, elderly, homeless or imprisoned. For example, during the weeks that we are studying the plight of the homeless, we might read works by journalist and activist Dorothy Day

and/or Peter Maurin, who founded the Catholic Worker Movement—their radical response to poverty during the years of the Great Depression—and then visit the ecumenical New Orleans Catholic Worker community (est. 2010) to help them serve a meal at the Hope House in the Irish Channel. Likewise, during the weeks we study the challenges faced by those with intellectual disabilities, we would read texts by Vanier, who founded the l’Arche community for adults with intellectual disabilities, and then visit a similar community, Magnolia, located just off River Road in Jefferson. Students will have the opportunity to contemplate these experiences in service and their relation to course readings in a series of reflection essays.

COLQ 1025-17 Teresa Villa-Ignacio, Postdoctoral Fellow in English, “Love and Intimacy.” **R 5:00-6:15**

This colloquium will investigate the historical, cultural, political, and economic phenomena that inform the human experiences of love and intimacy. Taking into account its various forms, from romantic love to love among parents and children, and from love of country to spiritual or religious love, we will read classic texts and an interdisciplinary range of recent scholarly and popular essays on the subject. In particular, we will explore how theories and practices of love and intimacy are transforming and being transformed by twenty-first century events, including globalization, digital media, religious extremism, climate change, and struggles for racial, postcolonial, LGBT, and transgender justice. Readings will include excerpts from, among other texts, Charles Baudelaire, *The Flowers of Evil* (1857, 1861); Leo Bersani and Adam Phillips, *Intimacies*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008; Spike Jonze, “Her” (Film, 2013); Randall Kennedy, *Interracial Intimacies: Sex, Marriage, Identity, and Adoption* New York: Vintage, 2003; Laura Kipnis, *Against Love: A Polemic* New York: Vintage, 2004; Tayeb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North* New York: Penguin, 2003 (1966); and William Shakespeare, *Sonnets* (1609)

COLQ 1025-18 Anna Mitchell Mahoney, Assistant Professor of Women's Political Leadership Newcomb College Institute, “Case Studies in Leadership.” **T 2:00-3:15**

The Harvard Business School originated and developed the phenomenon of the teaching case to simulate business experience in novices, to create a concrete vehicle for applying abstract theories to real world situations, and to engender engaged classroom discussion while fostering critical thinking skills as students were forced to wrestle with actual business dilemmas that had no easy answer. Cases marry learning about real world policy and organizational problems with critical thinking, abstract reasoning, and theorizing valued in all academic disciplines.

This course will utilize a variety of cases which highlight a real life example of a challenge in leadership. Fields covered will include business, politics, non-profit work, and social movements. In most class periods, you will be asked to “inhabit” the case and take up the dilemma of its protagonist. I may assign class members roles to prepare and play in the class discussion spontaneously or in advance. None of the cases have right answers, although we may have an epilogue that tells what actually happened (the historical outcome). You are asked to wrestle with the

problem as if it were your own, and bring your experience and classroom learning from Tulane University and elsewhere to bear on the questions.

COLQ 1025-19 Ryan K. McBride, Administrative Assistant Professor School of Liberal Arts,
“What is the Good Life?” **R 2:00-3:15**

This seminar uses classical thinkers including Aristotle, Plato, Seneca, and Plutarch as springboards for thinking through what sort of creatures we are and what sorts of lives might offer us genuine fulfillment. These ancient Greek and Roman authors saw philosophy not as a narrow academic discipline, but as a way of life. We will investigate Aristotle’s claim that happiness is “activity in accordance with virtue,” Socrates’ claim that the “unexamined life is not worth living,” and Seneca’s claim that only those who are at leisure can pursue activities that will allow them to be “truly alive.” Our discussions (both in class and on Tumblr) will enable us to think carefully about pleasure, wealth, mortality, contemplation, leisure, character, and friendship.