Disciplinary Honors Electives

*HONS 166 – Introduction to World Politics:*

At its core, this course seeks to introduce you to the foundations of world politics with an eye toward inviting you to assess and join such a scholarly debate. In the process, you will encounter a number of key international relations concepts and explicitly use them to examine a host of pressing issues afoot in today’s world. This course will be concept-driven and by its conclusion, you will be able to employ a menu of the concepts under consideration to independently examine an evolving global challenge and explain the elements of continuity and change it illustrates in contemporary world politics. This course is designed specifically for both the prospective or newly-declared political science major who seeks grounding in international affairs and the non-major who simply wants to learn more about the world around them.

*HONS 167 – Introduction to Sociology:*

Sociology is the scientific study of society. Sociologists explore how social context shapes people's lives by systematically analyzing social interaction, the dynamics of human groups and organizations, and the institutions that organize our experiences. I designed this course to introduce you to a sociological way of thinking about society, your place in it, and the possibilities for social change. In this course you will be asked to question the taken for granted and to see yourself and your surroundings in a new way. While we are all members of a society, we are often too deeply immersed in that society to see its structure and influence on our lives. To borrow a familiar phrase, the fish is the last to discover the ocean. By the end of the course you will have a better understanding of U.S. society as part of a global system and the role that social forces play in shaping your behavior, attitudes, and values.

*HONS 170 – Introduction to Philosophy:*

In this course, we will discuss the important issues and questions raised by some classic texts: Plato’s *Apology* and *Crito*, Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, Descartes’ *Meditations*, Hume’s *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, and Mill’s *Utilitarianism*. Among the questions we will discuss are:

*HONS 216 – Conceptual Tour of Mathematics:*

The ambitious goal of this course is to help each student discover the beauty and fascination of mathematics, admire its strength and profound ideas, and appreciate its value in our everyday lives. Topics to be covered include key ideas in algebra, number theory, mathematical foundations and logic, complexity, topology and geometry, stochastics, and dynamics.  It fulfills the 200-level Math requirement for honors students and also counts as a general education math course.

*HONS 281 – Intro to Jewish Studies:*

This course is the honors version of the Jewish Tradition (HWST 200). It is a multidisciplinary introduction to the history, beliefs, practices and institutions of the Jewish tradition, from its biblical foundations to the modern state of Israel