

## Director

**Scott Huelin** (2009). Director of the Honors Community and Associate Professor of English. B.A. and M.A., University of North Carolina; Ph.D., University of Chicago.

The Honors Community at Union University is a community of faculty and students committed to rigorously and resourcefully pursuing the truth in a variety of disciplines as part of our larger calling to Christian discipleship.

The academic programs at the heart of the Honors Community are designed to engage intellectually talented students in conversations across disciplines that highlight the breadth and unity of knowledge while also exposing them to the depth of knowledge within a given discipline. Foundational to this design is the University's commitment to the unity of knowledge within the Christian intellectual tradition and to the particular traditions of knowledge which emerge from various academic disciplines.

The Honors Community includes two independent yet complimentary academic programs. Qualified students may take either program regardless of whether they have taken or will take the other.

## General Honors

General Honors courses provide freshman and sophomore Honors students with innovative, interdisciplinary, inquiry-based courses which are designed to tackle big questions of long-standing and contemporary relevance. General Honors courses fulfill both Honors requirements and some General Core requirements. All incoming students who are admitted to Union and have a 3.5 GPA or a 28 on the ACT will be invited to apply to the General Honors program. Transfer students, current Union students, and incoming freshmen who do not meet this criterion but think they are up to the challenge of Honors work are also welcome to apply. Additional details regarding the Admissions Standards and Procedures as well as the application itself can be found at our website: [www.uu.edu/academics/honors/](http://www.uu.edu/academics/honors/).

## Discipline Specific Honors

Discipline-Specific Honors provides an opportunity to pursue high level, funded research in your major under the direct supervision of a faculty mentor. Students interested in Discipline-Specific Honors typically apply to the program in the fall of their junior year. Eligible students must have a cumulative 3.5 GPA and meet any additional department-specific requirements. To graduate with Discipline-Specific Honors, students must attend four honors colloquia during their junior year and four honors colloquia during their senior year, complete 12 hours of honors contract courses in the major, produce an honors project/thesis in their major, maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA, and fulfill any other requirements established by the

department. Students already admitted into Discipline-specific Honors have access to research and travel funds to support their work. For more information on Discipline-specific Honors, consult your major advisor.

## University Honors

Students who satisfactorily complete the requirements for both General Honors and Discipline-Specific Honors earn University Honors, one of Union's highest accolades.

## General Honors—24 hours

### I. General Honors Core—18 hours

A. HON 205 and 215—12 hours/Freshman year

B. HON 225—6 hours/Sophomore year

### II. General Honors Electives—6 hours from HON 235/Sophomore year or opportunities for travel and study abroad, study with the Scholar-in-Residence, or approved courses across the University.

## Scholar-in-Residence Program

A scholar of worldwide reputation is invited each year to deliver a series of lectures at the University. Students may take the Scholar-in-Residence course which involves research, writing, and tutorials. Prerequisites: HON 205 and 215.

## Student Organization

The Honors Student Association (HAS) serves as the social arm of the program. It functions as any social organization does, choosing officers from the student participants and organizing functions to further the academic programs of the program. Any student enrolled in either General or Discipline-Specific Honors is eligible for membership in HAS; additionally any student interested in the program is invited to attend HAS events as a non-voting member.

## Student Awards

The Honors Student of the Year Awards are presented to the students active in the Program who have shown the most intellectual and perceptive growth in the year's time. The awards are determined by the Honors Community Leadership Committee.

## Course Offerings in Honors (HON)

( ) Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

### 205A-B. Wisdom (6) F

Prerequisite: Admission to General Honors.

Wisdom has served, in many civilizations, as the highest goal of education. The Old Testament declares that wisdom “is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her” (Prov. 3:15). We will inquire after the nature of wisdom and seek the means of acquiring it, giving attention to biblical and extrabiblical literature as well as their historical contexts and their elaborations in subsequent traditions. We will reflect on the purpose and pursuit of contemporary higher education in light of wisdom and consider contemporary applications of these traditions. Exercises are aimed at developing various dimensions of wisdom within self. Due to the nature and purpose of this course as well as its improvement of student writing, it will satisfy the Gateway and ENG 111 in the General Core.

### 215A-B. Beauty (6) S

Prerequisite: HON 205. Pre- or Co-requisites: HIS 101.

What exactly makes any particular person, poem, song or object beautiful? The nature of beauty will be explored through both theory and practice. Students will examine and produce beautiful things in various media, reflect on what makes them beautiful, and discuss the history of aesthetic theory—Eastern and Western, theological and secular—as a resource for answering these questions. The class will culminate in a gallery show involving both works of art and theoretically-informed reflections upon them. The content, along with improvement of student writing as a central concern, provides completion of the General Core requirements of ENG 112 and ART 210.

### 225A-B. Justice (6) F

Prerequisite: HON 215.

While most agree that a healthy society should be based on justice, there has been little agreement as to what justice is. In this course, we will search for an adequate definition—considering biblical and theological resources as well as philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, and Rawls—while looking closely at attempts to bring justice in particular communities and situations, both historical and contemporary. Includes service-learning work and reflection upon it. This course satisfies the General Core Social Science/Humanities requirement and, in light of the historical conflicts over justice, satisfies HIS 102.

### 235. Creation (6) S

Prerequisite: HON 225.

Exploration of the human relation to the natural world through the history of thought about creation as well as through immersion in the natural world itself. Giving special attention to the governing metaphors—gift, dominion, task, matter, threat, resource—used in various times and places for creation and our relation to it, especially those made dominant in and through the scientific revolution. We will examine how our practices of relating to creation change our perceptions both of ourselves and of nature. The course will seek to overcome the everyday estrangement of most students from the natural world through activities to include field trips to the lab: the natural world itself. This course fulfills the General Core Laboratory Science/Group B unless the student’s major or minor requires otherwise.

One or more of the following courses must be chosen to fulfill the requirements of the program. All are subject to the approval of the HCLC unless otherwise stated in the published schedule of class offerings.

#### 179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

#### 180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4) As Needed

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

#### 195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

#### 295-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) On Demand

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

#### 395-6-7. Special Studies (2 or 3)

Upper level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings. Includes, but not restricted to, offerings of the Scholar-in-Residence Program.

#### 495-6-7. Independent Studies (2-4)

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).