

Honors Courses Fall 2026



Fall 2026					
Course	CRN	Days	Times	Professor	Room
UNIV 1007	10616	MW	12:30 – 1:45 pm	Dr. Lynn Stallings	Clement 218
HONR 1757	10032	MW	11 am – 12:15 pm	Prof. Michelle Aitken	Clement 218
HONR 1957	11341	T	2 – 2:50 pm	Prof. Christin LeJeune	Clement 214
HONR 1957	10994	Th	2:15 – 3:05 pm	Dr. Anshu Aggarwal	Clement 218
HONR 2757	11009	TTh	12:30 – 1:45 pm	Dr. Darren Harris-Fain	Clement 218
HONR 3757	10033	TTh	11 am - 12:15 pm	Dr. Shirley Toland-Dix	Clement 218

UNIV 1007: University Success/Honors *(3-hour seminar)*

Dr. Lynn Stallings

UNIV is designed to smooth your transition into college at AUM by asking you to assess your previous academic success, identify strategies needed for your college success, and prepare for your future beyond your AUM college degree. The Honors section will be differentiated as we also discuss readings that ask you to think deeply about topics such as your calling, finding balance in your life, and your obligations to others. We will develop the Honors core values of critical and creative thinking, teamwork and leadership, and citizenship in a global community.

HONR 1757: Hero's Journey *(3-hour seminar)*

Prof. Michelle Aitken

This first-year Honors seminar focuses on identity and representation -- in particular, the role of the self as an individual and as a community member. Students will practice developing their voice through reading and discussing relevant texts with their peers and through course writing projects. We will consider the following questions throughout the course:

- What does it mean to be an individual?
- What does it mean to be part of a community?
- What does it mean to have and harness your voice?
- What is representation?
- Why is representation important?

- Where do identity and representation intersect?

Although the course is designed to fulfill the ENGL 1010 Composition requirement for Honors students, those with credit for ENGL 1010 may count HONR 1757 towards AUM Core Requirements in Area II or IV.

HONR 1957: Disney Through the Decades (*1-hour colloquium*)

Prof. Christin LeJeune

From Steamboat Willie to Mickey Mouse, from Snow White to Elsa, from fairytale kingdoms to galaxies far, far away, the Walt Disney Company has been a cultural cornerstone in the United States for over 100 years. Journey through major moments in the company's history, including the birth and beginnings of the company's founder, Walt Disney, Disney's contributions to home front efforts in World War 2, the creation of the first full-length animated film, and much, much more! This course will strongly examine the impact of Disney's worldview on American culture, its branding and marketing, and various significant moments in its history (i.e. the Silver Age, the Disney Renaissance, etc.).

HONR 1957: Current Topics in Healthcare (*1-hour colloquium*)

Dr. Anshu Aggarwal

This honors colloquium course aims to address in a critical manner a variety of topics in healthcare status in the United States. Currently, there are many issues related to: (i) healthcare costs and affordability and significant effect on vulnerable population, (ii) health equity (to ensure equal access to quality healthcare regardless of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or other factors), (iii) mental health, which is on rise warranting an urgent attention and resources for better access to treatment and support services, (iv) Prevention and complications of chronic diseases, including metabolic syndrome (obesity, diabetes, hypertension), heart diseases, and cancer, to improve quality of life, (v) effect of environmental factors on human health and healthcare system, (vi) Artificial Intelligence beneficial effects to improve diagnosis, treatment, and patient care together with ethical and regulatory issues, (vii) long-term care services for aging population, and (viii) emerging technologies in healthcare. Critical thinking and communication skills will be enhanced through assigned articles, group discussion, and presentations by each student.

HONR 2757: American Film History, Part I

Dr. Darren Harris-Fain

Movies. Motion pictures. Cinema. Flix. Film. We know this visual medium through many names, and we may know many movies, but how much do we know about film history? And how much do we think about how interdisciplinary the medium is?

Movies are an international phenomenon, and even though they date back only to the late 1800s, they have a rich history. To focus our study, this course will concentrate on American film history from its beginnings to 1950.

As noted, the study of motion pictures is inherently interdisciplinary:

- Science: How do our brains and eyes make movies possible? What technological developments were needed to record motion on film and share the results with viewers? What other technological developments eventually led to films in color and movies with sound?
- History: Why were movies at first considered a lower-class form of entertainment? How did the fact that the first movies were silent relate to their popularity among immigrant populations? Why have there been concerns about the content of movies, and how did governments react to this and the studios respond to this? How did movies reflect contemporary concerns and debates?
- The arts: How are the movies a unique art form? How do audiences respond to visual and auditory elements in movies? How have acting styles changed over time in motion pictures?

This course will explore these questions and more.

In the process, students will explore interdisciplinary thinking through writing about examples of American cinema up to 1950 in shorter assignments and a longer multi-part research-oriented project. To help with this, the class will include a review of research techniques and the application and citation of research in upper-level courses.

HONR 3757: Challenging the Process: Black Arts Movement Dr. Shirley Toland-Dix

Coming at a pivotal moment in American history, the Black Arts Movement had a transformational impact on American culture. In this course, we will first examine that pivotal moment. Scholars date the Black Arts Movement as taking place between 1960 and 1975. However, BAM really came to prominence around 1965, after the assassination of Malcolm X and as the Civil Rights Movement began to wane. The movements' defining dynamic was a decisive change in audience as young Black artists turned to creating art specifically for the empowerment of their own communities. These were works that modeled self-definition, self-expression, self-discovery, self-embrace, and self-determination. It was an historically and intellectually grounded interdisciplinary movement in which Black artists prioritized using their art – poetry, drama, sculpture, painting, dance, music, etc. – to empower, inform, and celebrate Black people.

Among the topics that we will explore: Which artists are considered precursors to the Black Arts Movement? What was the “Black aesthetic”? What was the individual artist’s responsibility to the Black community? How did artists incorporate their brutal and often hidden history into their art? What international connections did US Black people share with anticolonial movements in Africa and the Caribbean especially? How did BAM contribute to the development of Black feminist consciousness? How were arts movements by other US ethnic groups influenced by the Black Arts Movement? How was BAM foundational to the development of rap and global hip-hop culture?

Learning Activities will emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of BAM. Excavating silenced history was essential so we will visit both the EJI Legacy Museum and the Sculpture Park. Students will

complete an individual or group creative project that will explicitly build on some performative aspect of the Black Arts Movement. Students will write a final research paper exploring some aspect of the movement or its impact more fully.

Honors Thesis:

If you can, schedule HONR 3957 in your junior year so that you can have plenty of time to complete your thesis.

Your thesis is done independently under the supervision of your mentor in your major. You will have a committee of three members: your major advisor, a second reader who is faculty in your major (or a closely related discipline), and the honors director.

HONR 3957: Honors Research

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In this course, you work with your faculty mentor to decide on your research direction and methods. See <https://www.aum.edu/academics/university-honors-program/> or talk to Dr. Stallings or Ms. Jackie for more information. Fill out the form by the 3rd Friday of the semester. Ms. Jackie will create a section for you under your faculty advisor's name.

HONR 4957: Honors Thesis

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In this course, you continue and complete the research begun in HONR 3957. See <https://www.aum.edu/academics/university-honors-program/> or talk to Dr. Stallings/Ms. Jackie for more information. Ms. Jackie will create a section for you.