

Montreat College Honors Program Scholars Curriculum FOR INCOMING FIRST TIME FRESHMEN ONLY

Mission

The mission of the Montreat College Honors Program is to be a community of students and faculty who support and challenge one another's intellectual and spiritual growth. Our curriculum is oriented towards a Christian vision of flourishing, both for humanity and creation. As humans created in the image of God we are called to love God and neighbor. We dedicate ourselves to the flourishing of others because Christ first loved us. We live into this anthropology through the development of our creative, and especially our intellectual, capacities.

Together we explore texts and topics from the Christian, Western, and World traditions from the perspective of multiple disciplines across the arts and sciences asking the big questions of human existence such as what is the nature of the universe, what is truth, how do we know, what is humanity, and what is beauty? We study these texts and topics in relation to the Christian scriptures, creeds, and narrative. We practice a mature posture of humility, empathy, and charity towards one another, towards the authors whose works we study, and towards our larger Montreat community.

Format

The Montreat Honors Program includes two tracks, the Honors Scholars and the Honors Fellows. The Scholars curriculum is for students entering the Honors Program during their freshmen year and consists of 22 required hours. This curriculum is the more intensive of the two tracks and is the best option for students who desire their entire four-year experience at Montreat to be within the vibrant community of the Honors Program. The Fellows curriculum is designed for motivated students who either transfer into Montreat as sophomores or juniors or for those students who matriculated at Montreat as freshman and following that year desire to take on the challenge of the Honors Program. The Fellows curriculum is 18 hours. Both tracks supplement Montreat College's general education core.

Method

The Montreat College Honors Program curriculum has five main components: engagement with texts and topics, formal and informal discussion, mentoring, writing and co-curricular opportunities.

Texts and Topics

Students and faculty read a rotating set of works of world literature and engage with topics of perennial concern in all honors courses. These classroom discussions are grounded in the big existential questions of life including, what is Truth, how do we know, what is the nature of the universe, what is Beauty and what is Goodness? The curriculum of the Honors Program is also based in a Christian understanding of reality which is brought into the classroom through discussion of the Christian scriptures, creeds and the theological narrative.

Formal and Informal Discussion

Classes consist of faculty-led discussions of texts and topics. The conversational pedagogy is designed to develop students' confidence in their critical thinking, writing and oral expression. Additionally, the content of the courses as well as the manner of conversation are designed to encourage the community to grow in humility, charity and empathy.

Mentoring

Every student is mentored by the Program Director or an assigned faculty member involved in the Honors Program. This relationship encourages students to think more deeply about their courses, to process their

questions and concerns, and to have a faculty member encourage them as they think through vocational possibilities.

Writing

Montreat College's campus-wide emphasis on writing across the curriculum is enhanced in the Honors Program by a series of assignments designed to help students be reflective and articulate. These skills serve students well beyond their years at Montreat College.

Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Opportunities

All Honors Program students also participate in co-curricular activities, such as being given exclusive access to college speakers in a conversational setting. This allows the community to explore ideas more deeply than in a general audience venue. Students also build community through social events and service projects.

Honors Program Scholars Program (22 credits required)

First Year

English
English

Courses:

ENGL 1131 Honors English Comp (3)
ENGL 1132 Honors English Lit (3)

Notes:

Replaces ENGL 1111 Requirement
Replaces ENGL 1112 Requirement

Second Year

History
History

Courses:

HIST 2301 Honors World Civ I (3)
HIST 2302 Honors World Civ II (3)

Replaces HIST 1301 Requirement
Replaces HIST 1302 Requirement

Third and Fourth Year

Honors Elective
Honors Elective

Courses:

HONS 3100 Honors Text Seminar (3)
HONS 4120 Honors Topic Seminar (3)

Humanities credit
Humanities credit

Fourth Year:

Senior Year Elective

INDS 4161 Honors Faith and Life Seminar (2)

Seminar on Faith and Life

The Range of Honors Interdisciplinary Electives Offered as Text or Topic Seminars

Dante's *Comedy* (Literature, Philosophy, History & Theology)
Jane Austen (Literature and History)
Christian Cultural Engagement (Philosophy, Film and Literature)
Origins of the Universe (Philosophy, Astronomy and Physics)
Empire and Its Discontents (History and Theology)
Scientific Revolution (History and Biology)
Environmental Policy (Environmental Science and Law)
The American Dream: The Rural View (History and Literature)
Existentialism (Philosophy)

Partial List of Frequently Occurring Authors in the Honors Program Curriculum

Augustine, *Confessions*, c. 397; *On Christian Doctrine*, c. 426

Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*, c. 524

Bartolome de Las Casas, *Destruction of the Indies*, 1542

Cicero, *On Duty*, 44 BC; *On the Orator*, 46 BC

Dante, *The Comedy*, 1320

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, 1956

Euripides, *Medea*, c. 700 BC

Herodotus, *The Histories*, 440 BC

Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*, 1395

Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*, 1994

Christine de Pisan, *Book of the City of Ladies*, 1405

Plato, *The Republic*, c. 51 BC

Marilyn Robinson, *Gilead*, 2004

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, c. 1600; *Measure for Measure*, 1623

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian Wars*, ca. 400 BC

Mark Twain, *King Leopold's Soliloquy*, 1905

