



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Catalog Announcements - 2015-2016

University Honors Program

Peter Shoemaker, Ph.D., Director

Jennifer Paxton, Ph.D., Assistant Director

[^top](#)

Faculty

Andrew Abela, Ph.D.	Economics, University of Virginia
Maria S. Aguirre, Ph.D.	Economics, University of Notre Dame
Rev. Regis J. Armstrong, O.F.M. Cap., Ph.D	Theology, Fordham University
Antón Barba-Kay, Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of Chicago
William Barbieri, Ph.D.	Religion, Yale University
Aaron Barkatt, Ph.D.	Chemistry, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Joshua Benson, Ph.D.	Historical Theology, St. Louis University
Claudia Bornholdt, Ph.D.	German, Indiana University
Fr. James Brent, O.P., Ph.D	Philosophy, St. Louis University
Joseph Capizzi, Ph.D.	Theology, University of Notre Dame
Mark Clark, Ph.D.	Medieval History, Columbia University
Deborah Clawson, Ph.D.	Psychology, University of Colorado, Boulder
John J. Convey, Ph.D.	Education, Florida State University
Dennis Coyle, Ph.D.	Political Science, University of California, Berkeley
Martha Cruz-Zuniga, Ph.D.	Economics, Western Michigan University
Jean DeGroot, Ph.D.	Philosophy, Harvard University
William Dinges, Ph.D.	Religion, University of Kansas
Gregory T. Doolan, Ph.D.	Philosophy, The Catholic University of America
Thérèse-Anne Druart, Ph.D.	Philosophy, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

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Sherif El-Helaly, Ph.D.	Mathematics, McMaster University, Canada
Jennifer Fleeger, Ph.D.	Film Studies, University of Iowa
Kevin Forbes, Ph.D.	Economics, University of Maryland
Kerstin Gaddy, Ph.D.	German, Georgetown University
Daniel Gibbons, Ph.D.	English, University of Wisconsin
Bradley Gregory, Ph.D.	Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism, University of Notre Dame
Tobias Gregory, Ph.D.	English, University of Michigan
Sidney Griffith, Ph.D.	Semitic Languages, The Catholic University of America
Nora Heimann, Ph.D.	Art History, City University of New York
Tobias Hoffmann, Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of Fribourg
Cristina Ionescu, Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of Guelph, Ontario
Katherine L. Jansen, Ph.D.	History, Princeton University
Glen Johnson, Ph.D.	English, Indiana University
Sister Margaret Mary Kelleher, O.S.U., Ph.D.	Religious Studies, The Catholic University of America
Michael C. Kimmage, Ph.D.	History, Harvard University
William Klingshirn, Ph.D.	Classics, Stanford University
Angela McKay Knobel, Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
V. Bradley Lewis, Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
Rev. Nicholas Lombardo, O.P., Ph.D.	Divinity, University of Cambridge
Mary Cusimano Love, Ph.D.	Politics, Johns Hopkins University
Michael Mack, Ph.D.	English, Columbia University
John McCarthy, Ph.D.	Philosophy, The Catholic University of America
William J. McCarthy, Ph.D.	Greek and Latin, The Catholic University of America
Rev. Paul McPartlan, S.T.L., Ph.D.	Theology, Pontifical Gregorian University, Oxford University
Dr. Robert Miller, O.F.S, Ph.D.	Theology, University of Michigan
Jerry Muller, Ph.D.	History, Columbia University

J. Michael Mullins, Ph.D.	Microbiology, University of Texas at Austin
Timothy B. Noone, Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of Toronto
Taryn Okuma, Ph.D.	English, University of Wisconsin
Jennifer Paxton, Ph.D.	History, Harvard University
Chad C. Pecknold, Ph.D.	Theology, University of Cambridge
Kenneth Pennington, Ph.D.	Ecclesiastical and Legal History, Cornell University
Fr. Ignacio De Ribera-Martín, Ph.D.	Philosophy, The Catholic University of America
Michael Rohlf, Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of Texas
Philip H. Rousseau, Ph.D.	Study of Early Christianity, Oxford University
Alexander T. Russo, Ph.D.	Media Studies, Brown University
Stephen Schneck, Ph.D.	Political Science, University of Notre Dame
Marc Sebrechts, Ph.D.	Psychology, Yale University
Joseph Sendry, Ph.D.	English, Harvard University
Prasad Senesi, Ph.D.	Mathematics, University of California, Riverside
Caroline R. Sherman, Ph.D.	History, Princeton University
Peter Shoemaker, Ph.D.	French, Princeton University
Leslie Tentler, Ph.D.	History, University of Michigan
Matthais Vorwerk, Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of Munster, Germany
David J. Walsh, Ph.D.	Political Science, University of Virginia
Andrew Weaver, Ph.D.	Music History, Yale University
Kevin White, Ph.D.	Philosophy, University of Ottawa
Jeffrey Dirk Wilson, Ph.D.	Philosophy, The Catholic University of America
Rev. Michael Witczak, S.L.D.	Theology, Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome
Stephen K. Wright, Ph.D.	English, Comparative Literature, University of Indiana
Ernest M. Zampelli, Ph.D.	Economics, University of Maryland

Goals

The University Honors Program provides special intellectual challenges for undergraduates with motivation and outstanding academic promise. The program hones skills in critical thinking and supplies a solid foundation in the classical liberal arts. The core of the program is interdisciplinary: it provides an integrated world view based on the interrelation among the disciplines of knowledge, while stressing the traditional values of our Christian heritage.

Undergraduates in the program have access to the university's best scholar-teachers and to small seminar-style classes that allow intensive exchange among teachers and students. Special attention is paid to the development of writing and communication skills. Students also have access to research projects and enrichment programs outside the classroom.

The University Honors Program was developed with support from a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Curriculum

The core curriculum consists of five integrated sequences of four courses each in the classical liberal arts tradition. University Scholars complete three of the five sequences and, in addition, present a senior honors research project in the Senior Honors Capstone Seminar.

The core sequences of the University Honors Program cross disciplines and form an integrated liberal arts curriculum. Interconnections with requirements in each student's area of concentration are established on an individual basis.

The School of Arts and Sciences has established guidelines for acceptance of University Honors Program courses in fulfillment of distribution and departmental requirements. The Schools of Architecture, Business and Economics, Engineering, Music, NCSSS, Nursing, Philosophy, and Theology and Religious Studies allow students to use honors courses to fulfill liberal arts requirements.

A Liberal Studies option, which combines courses from multiple sequences, is open to students in Architecture, Business and Economics, Engineering, Music, NCSSS, Nursing, as well as to students in Arts and Sciences who are earning Bachelor of Science degrees.

Rules and Regulations

Admission to Program

Freshmen are selected for participation in the program after they have been accepted by the Office of Admissions. Selection is based on the results of the standardized college entrance examinations (combined Verbal and Math SAT of at least 1300 or at least 29 on ACT), and upon secondary school achievement (minimum 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale). Transfer students and advanced students with a 3.5 GPA may also apply for admission to the program by passing a brief application process.

Honors

Students who complete sequences in the University Honors Program with grades of B- and above and graduate with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 receive special designations on their transcripts:

University Scholar - Successful completion of three of the University Honors Program four-course sequences, supplemented by a senior honors research project in the Senior Honors Capstone Seminar. Students in the professional schools and those majoring in the natural sciences may also be designated University Scholars if they complete two of the University Honors Program sequences and either a) the Senior Honors Capstone Seminar or b) a Senior Honors Research Project in their profession reflecting a liberal arts perspective.

Honors in the Humanities - Successful completion of all four courses of The Christian Tradition.

Honors in Classical Philosophy - Successful completion of all four courses of An Aristotelian Studium.

Honors in Social Sciences - Successful completion of all four courses of Critical Approaches to Social Reality.

Honors in Environmental Studies - Successful completion of all four courses of The Environment, Energy, and Policy.

Honors in Theology and Religious Studies - Successful completion of all four courses of Tradition and Renewal in Contemporary Catholicism.

Honors in Liberal Studies- Successful completion of four approved courses in three different tracks. Only open to students in the professional schools and to students majoring in the natural sciences. See restrictions below.

Courses of Instruction

The Christian Tradition

Faculty members from Early Christian Studies, English, Greek and Latin, History, Modern Languages and Literatures, Politics, and Semitics teach in this interdisciplinary four-semester sequence. The sequence presents major topics and themes in the history of Christian culture from its origins in late antiquity to the present. The Christian Tradition courses fulfill Literature (HSHU 102 and 203) and Humanities requirements (all HSHU courses).

Core Courses

HSHU 101	Jesus to Muhammad: The Early Christians in the Mediterranean World
HSHU 102	Charlemagne to Chaucer: Christian Life in the Middle Ages
HSHU 203	The Age of Discovery
HSHU 204	Christian Culture/Secular Age

An Aristotelian Studium

Faculty members in the School of Philosophy present this four-semester sequence. The Studium focuses on the original Aristotelian texts, which offer a coherent system of knowledge and provide tools for inquiry still useful in the present day. The readings in Aristotle are supplemented with

works by philosophers responding to his "great questions." Courses in the Aristotelian Studium fulfill Philosophy requirements.

Core Courses

HSPH 101	The Desire to Know
HSPH 102	Human Action and Government
HSPH 203	Nature & Human Nature
HSPH 204	Ultimate Questions

Critical Exploration of Social Reality

Faculty members in Economics, History, Politics, Psychology, and Sociology present this cross-disciplinary sequence, which explores crucial social topics and provides an introduction to theories and methods from the social sciences. Courses in the Critical Exploration of Social Reality fulfill Social Science and Math requirements.

Core Courses

HSSS 101	Person and Community in the Social Sciences
HSSS 102	Economic Reasoning and Social Science
HSSS 203	Social Data Analysis
HSSS 204	Families, Markets, Cities: Social and Scientific Perspectives

The Environment, Energy, and Policy

In this four-course sequence, faculty members from Economics, Engineering, Politics, and Theology and Religious Studies bring the expertise from their fields to bear on one of the most troubling policy issues facing modern society: the challenge of meeting the world's need for energy while protecting the environment. Courses in the Environment, Energy, and Policy fulfill Natural Science, Theology and Religious Studies, and Social Science requirements.

Core Courses

HSEV 101	Environmental Science and Engineering
HSEV 102	God, Ethics and the Environment
HSEV 203	The Economics of Energy and the Environment
HSEV 204	Environmental Politics and Policy

Tradition and Renewal in Contemporary Catholicism

Faculty members from The School of Theology and Religious Studies teach in this four-semester sequence grounded in the documents of the Second Vatican Council. Courses fulfill Theology and Religious Studies requirements.

Core Courses

HSTR 101	Scripture: God's Word in Human Words
HSTR 102	Liturgy and the Christian Life
HSTR 203	The Church: Community and Institution
HSTR 204	The Church in Dialogue with Contemporary Culture

Honors in Liberal Studies

Open to students in the professional schools and to students majoring in the natural sciences. This option provides students in the professional schools with multiple perspectives on human nature, community, ethics, public policy, and other areas of academic inquiry broadly relevant to the practice of their professions. The exact combination of courses is flexible, in order to accommodate students' schedules and interests, but students must take courses in at least three different tracks and consult with the director of the University Honors Program in order to develop a coherent plan. One Learning Community Philosophy course or Theology course can be counted toward the track.

Honors Senior Capstone Seminar

HSCP 490 From the vast quarry of the Western Tradition, this seminar excavates and examines fundamental concepts that have informed generations of peoples. The topics are multidisciplinary and allow students to integrate and connect the knowledge acquired in their various disciplines to the traditions of thought that inform Western history.

Other Honors Courses

In addition to the five Honors sequences, the Honors Program also offers other classes that fulfill various university requirements. All of these courses can be counted towards the Liberal Studies track. These classes include interdisciplinary courses such as HSLS 201 ("The Virtues"), as well as a series of seminars on world capitals (offered each fall in association with a trip during spring break), Honors sections of popular required courses, and special Honors contracts offered in non-Honors courses. Information on current Honors courses can be found at [insert URL link to the correct page on the Honors website].

Course Offerings

A full listing of undergraduate courses offered by the Honors Program is found below. Consult **Cardinal Station** for additional information about

courses and to determine course offerings by semester.

Course Catalog for Honors Program

HSAM

- 101 The Mortal and Divine in
Art and Music: Catholic
Inspiration across the
Ages

HSEV

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 101 | Environmental Science
and Engineering | This course covers the basic sciences of the environment, with a particular focus on the concept of sustainability. The course describes the structure and operation of natural systems and the implications of the study of such systems to sustainability in human societies. It analyzes ecosystem services, their critical role, the human impact, and the methodology of conservation, preservation, and restoration. It addresses the transition to renewable energy sources and issues of clean water availability and food production. |
| 102 | Religion, Ethics and
Ecology | Examines values in and duties toward the non-human world as well as how such values and duties impact other human concerns. Explores theological, philosophical and scientific sources. |
| 203 | The Economics of
Energy and The
Environment | This course examines why markets "fail" in the presence of pollution and how the "optimal" level of environmental quality can be achieved at the least cost to society. It focuses on energy where there are significant environmental costs of production and/or consumption. Topics include benefit/cost analysis, marketable emission permits, and carbon taxes. |
| 204 | Environmental Politics
and Policy | An introduction to environmental ideology, politics and public policy. Emphasizes the political and social implications of competing approaches to environmental and energy policy, and how policy preferences are pursued through |

politics, law and the administrative process.

HSHU

- 101 Jesus to Muhammad: The Early Christians in the Mediterranean World Discusses the formative years of the Christian tradition, from its roots in the Hellenistic World through its establishment in the second century to the rise of Islam. Special consideration of regional developments in the Christian community. Students read influential documents of this period and view and discuss early Christian art.
- 102 Charlemagne to Chaucer: Christian Life in the Middle Ages This course is the second of four courses in the Honors Humanities Sequence which aims to provide basic knowledge of major topics, figures, problems and developments of medieval Europe. Designed in a thematic rather than chronological format, the course explores the role and influence of medieval Christian institutions, thought, spirituality and religious practices within the context of social, political and economic institutions. In addition to weekly lectures, our discussions analyze primary sources drawn from a wide variety of genres and historical circumstances, which aid each participant to develop the critical skills for analysis. In addition to looking at pivotal figures such as St. Francis, Dante, Abelard and Heloise, topics include: church and state; war and peace; varieties of Christian experience; Jews, Christians, and Muslims; the Crusades; and the built environment.
- 203 The Age of Discovery A survey of Renaissance intellectual history taught through primary texts. Topics will include humanism, Protestant and Catholic Reformations, the impact of the New World, and scientific advances. Authors will include Petrarch, Pope Pius II, Machiavelli, Erasmus, Luther, Calvin, Montaigne, Bellarmine, Bacon, and Galileo.

204 Christian
Culture/Secular Age

This course explores the conflict between Christian thought and the secular age, from 1750 to the present. Beginning with Pietism and the Enlightenment of the 18th century, it concludes with a living defender of the Enlightenment, Jürgen Habermas, in dialogue with Joseph Ratzinger, shortly before he became Benedict XVI. This course does not propose a linear reading of Western culture. Instead, it traces the tension between Christianity and Secularism through several distinct historical phases: the pre-history of the French Revolution and the Revolution; the early 19th century, with its abiding revolutionary energy, which engendered enthusiasm and antipathy; the late 19th century, as shaped by the anti-Christian Nietzsche, the proto-Christian Wagner and the Christian Dostoevsky; the early 20th century and its revolutions (Nazi, Bolshevik and Freudian); and the later half of the 20th century, traumatized by Holocaust and Gulag, though alive with cultural radicalism, spiritual striving and its own version of the struggle between secular and Christian norms.

350 Berlin in Literature and
Film

The iconic symbol of three failed political identities, Berlin is now a vibrant metropolis of political and cultural activity. The course is framed by the two German unifications of 1871 and 1990 and examines literary, artistic, and cinematic representations of Berlin. Films, documentaries, visual arts, novels, diaries, short stories, essays and poetry will provide us with a road map through two centuries of this amazing city.

461 Parallels in Western
Music, Art and
Literature

The Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the Romantic Era, Modernism and Post-Modernism--each of these historical periods had its own philosophies and aesthetics. This course will

address the artistic expressions of these ages, examining the creative parallels between the music, art, and literature of each age and identifying them as expressions of contemporary society and culture.

464 Modern
Japan: Continuity and
Change

Beginning with the "Meiji Restoration" of 1868, Japan experienced a remarkable and distinctive process of modernization, which drew from the nation's traditional culture and society but absorbed much from the West as a result of Japanese determination to catch up. Throughout this period, Japan displayed a unique gift for selectively incorporating ideology and developmental models borrowed from elsewhere. This course examines cultural and social change over the past one and a quarter centuries; it focuses primarily upon literature and language change, cinema, and education as, simultaneously, important factors of, and factors effecting and shaping, that change; and it explores the complex interactions between traditional and modern factors.

486 Kafka-The Endless
Quest

494 Independent Study

HSIN

495 University Honors
Program Internship

HSLs

201 The Virtues

This is an examination of some of the more important virtues, and the place they hold in Christian and other traditions. It is not primarily a philosophical or theological treatment. Rather, we will look at depictions of the virtues themselves (and some corresponding vices) in literature, essays, political debates, popular writing, and visual media (film, television, painting). Reserved for freshmen Honors Program

students.

- 202 Mary as Mother, Woman, Idea: An Interdisciplinary Seminar
- This team-taught, interdisciplinary seminar for first- and second-year Honors students will examine the figure of the Virgin Mary in theology, liturgy, art, literature, music, and history. Sources will include sacred texts and works of art, literature, and music spanning two millennia. Students will conduct original research on Mary under the guidance of the course faculty, who are drawn from the School of Theology and Religious Studies, the School of Music, and the Departments of English and History.

- 492 Directed Readings in Rome - Honors

HSSS

- 101 The Concept of the Person in the Social Sciences
- The first in the four course sequence of the honors social science track, HSSS 101 offers an intensive introduction to the basic principles and approaches to the social sciences. The course mixes readings from 19th century classics in social science literature along with more recent applications, case studies, and even novels. The course is organized around a consideration of the idea of the human person, a foundational concept for all the social sciences.
- 102 Economic Reasoning and Social Issues
- This course is intended to introduce the student to the discipline of economics, the economic way of thinking, and the tools of economic analysis. It seeks to demonstrate that economic theory and how economists view the world have important, practical, and problem-solving uses in a world of scarcity and are not empty academic exercises. Using a combination of algebraic and graphical analyses, it will introduce the student to the basic economic theory and tools necessary to explore systematically a variety of real world social/policy issues and

problems from the economist's perspective.

203 Social Data Analysis
and the Study of
Uncertainty

This course is an introduction to the analysis of data from the social sciences. A particular focus of the course examines the rules that govern uncertainty, the study of things whose truth or falsity is not known. In addition to being introduced to basic statistical concepts and computer applications, the student will study how uncertainty is measured and how it is used for everyday decision-making. Throughout the course, the emphasis is on critical interpretation of social science data and on effective writing on topics that deal with uncertain situations and quantitative information.

204 Families, Markets, Cities:
Social and Scientific
Perspectives

Using perspectives from a variety of social sciences, this course examines two of the major institutions of modern society: the market and the family. Issues explored include the changing size, shape, and role of the family; the cultural prerequisites and cultural effects of the market; the uses and limits of economic forms of explanation; and the nature of debates in the social sciences.

494 Independent Study

HSMU

325 Honors Music History I

HSLs

328 Undergraduate
Research Journal
Production

HSPH

101 The Desire to Know

This course discusses the nature and function of logic in philosophical and nonphilosophical context. It teaches students the basic skills requisite for the appreciation of Aristotle's philosophy. It progresses through Aristotle's "Organon" presenting syllogistic and scientific

reasoning. Exercises require evaluation and application of course materials in the contexts of philosophy, science, politics, and literature.

- 102 Human Action and Government An introduction to moral and political philosophy with emphasis on the concepts of right reason and right action as developed in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Politics*. Focuses on the perfection of the soul through intellectual and moral virtues and the function of these virtues in the larger human context, along with an explanation of Aristotle's praxis.
- 203 Nature & Human Nature The key concept of the first part of the course is nature in the sense of *physis* or *natura*. Comparisons to mathematical explanations are offered by the founders of modern physics and chemistry. *Psyche* or *anima* is the focus of the second part of the course. Exploration of parallels with explanatory principles in biology, psychology, and cognitive science.
- 204 Ultimate Questions Aristotle's *Metaphysics* and Aquinas' *Summae Theologiae* provide the basis for the examination of the transition from being to a natural theology and the subsequent modern embrace of rationalism. "Ultimates" to be questioned include: Being, Truth, and the Good. Readings complemented by texts of David Hume and Immanuel Kant.

HSTR

- 101 God's Word in Human Words An examination of the concept of God's self-revelation as disclosed in the story of Israel, Jesus, and the Church. The course will consider the nature of Sacred Scripture and study select texts from the Old and New Testaments that reveal how God's Word is disclosed in human words.
- 102 Liturgy and the Christian Life An examination of the relationship between liturgy and the Christian life. The course will consider such

topics as the ecclesial and ritual nature of liturgy, the sacramental roots of the Christian life, the role of scripture in the liturgy, and liturgy as a cultural reality.

- 200 Theologies of Old Testament
This course offers an introduction to the books and theologies of the Old Testament. It will cover Priestly history, Deuteronomic history, the prophets, and Wisdom literature. Proposes and examines methods for interpreting the Old Testament, especially in light of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Divine Revelation.
- 203 The Church: Community and Institution
Why is the Christian life essentially one of community, and what kind of nstitutional organization is appropriate for this particular community? These were central questions addressed by Vatican II in its constitution on the Church, Lumen Gentium, and they remain central questions in ecumenical dialogue seeking the unity of the Church today. This course will consider the life and shape of the Church at various points in its history, and the flourishing of study of the Church or 'ecclesiology' in the 20th century. It will closely examine the teaching of the Council itself and issues that have arisen in ecumenical discussion in recent decades on this topic.
- 204 The Church in Dialogue with Contemporary Culture
This course is an examination of the Church in light of its dialogue with the contemporary world in which believers live. The course will consider questions of spirituality, social ethics, and interreligious dialogue.
- 210 Introduction to the New Testament
Study of the writings of the New Testament with special focus on the Four Gospels, The Acts of the Apostles, and the Pauline letters. Will cover the history and methods for interpreting the New Testament, especially in light of the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Divine Revelation. For Honors students only.

- 261 Enduring Questions in Catholic Theology An analysis of current questions on topics such as God, evolution, evil, revelation, Christ, Church, and sacrament. Examines Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterial teaching in an effort to engage the modern Catholic with classical answers to age-old questions. For Honors students only. (Previously REL 310)
- 312 Letters to Paul
- 393 Classic Texts of World Religions Reading of religious texts in translation from such traditions as Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. An introduction to these religious traditions through their literature by discovering how to read such texts and how they are similar and dissimilar among themselves and with one's own tradition. For concentrators and qualified advanced students; departmental approval required.

Footnotes

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