If you are not planning to do an individually-contracted Honors Thesis or Project, consider one of the following seminar courses that fulfill the Commonwealth Honors College culminating experience requirement. Thesis seminars are structured so that students complete their honors thesis in a community of classmates.

The following thesis or project seminar courses that are being offered in the fall include a variety of offerings in areas such as health care, wearable technologies, biomechanics, writing and multimedia, legal issues, financial crises.

While most of these courses are open to ALL MAJORS, some give preference to certain majors. Most require “Consent of Instructor” to enroll. Rising seniors have priority; rising juniors by permission on space available basis.

Below is a list of open thesis seminars with scheduling information and course descriptions.

ANTHROPOLOGY 499C.

Title: Conquest by Law: The Use of Law to Subjugate and Marginalize in the U.S.

Instructor: Kathleen Brown-Perez.

Class#: 33870.
Credits: 4 in Fall 2017 (and Anthro 499D for 4 credits in Spring 2018).

Mtg Pattern: TUTH 10:00-11:15AM.

This course is open to Senior Commonwealth Honors College students in all majors.

Instructor consent required; contact instructor Kathleen Brown-Perez [brown-perez@honors.umass.edu].

This two-semester Thesis Seminar considers current and past legal structures that have marginalized certain groups in the U.S. - including American Indians, immigrants, African Americans, and the poor - while perpetuating inequality. It also looks at how state and federal laws have been used over the centuries to perpetuate inequalities while addressing the potential to legislate equality and social justice. From the time Europeans first arrived on this continent, there was competition for resources and control. First the colonies, then the U.S. government, enacted laws to ensure that resources and control remained in the hands of a select few. Even today, the top 1% of Americans own 40% of the wealth in this country while the bottom 80% owns just 7%. However, marginalization affects more than just wealth. Its effects are also evident in access to health care, access to a healthy space to live and work, and access to clean air and water. While there are state and federal laws in place that address some of these issues, not every aspect of social justice can simply be legislated. In addition to looking at the legal aspects of social justice, this course considers the potential for other means of leveling the playing field. Students who register for ANTHRO 499C in the fall are expected to take the 4-credit continuation course in the spring (ANTHRO 499D).

COMMUNICATION 499C.

Title: Media Effects.

Instructor: Erica Scharrer.

Class#: 34089.

Credits: 4 in Fall 2017 (and Comm 499D for 4 credits in Spring 2018).

Mtg Pattern: TUTH 1:00-2:15PM.

This course is open to Senior Commonwealth Honors College students.

Instructor consent required; contact instructor Professor Scharrer [scharrer@comm.umass.edu].

In this Thesis Seminar, students will theorize and read about media influence on individuals as well as conceptualize and carry out an original research study on a specific topic of their choosing within the broad research tradition known as "media effects." The first semester of this two-semester experience will feature the introduction of theories and relevant research findings on the ways in which television, video games, the Internet and/or social media, print media and other media forms
shape the thoughts, attitudes, emotions, values, and/or behavior of individuals of various ages. Principles and practices related to quantitative research methods traditionally used to carry out inquiries regarding media effects will be introduced and discussed, as well. By the end of the first semester, students will have produced literature review/theory sections of their original research papers as well as a detailed methodology section and the materials they will need (e.g., a questionnaire) to collect their data. The second semester will mainly be organized as a research methods workshop, in which students will continue to develop their Honors thesis research projects, conducting their studies, writing up their findings in a formal Results section, and creating a Discussion section to draw more generalized conclusions. Students will learn the basics of SPSS, a statistical computer package, to analyze their data. The end result will be a comprehensive, rigorous Honors thesis that students will present at the annual Undergraduate Research Conference on campus in late spring 2018 and that satisfies the requirements of the Commonwealth Honors College.

ENGLISH 499C.

Title: Foundations and Departures in Creative Writing: Fiction, Poetry and Literary Non-Fiction.

I. John Hennessy.

Class#: 30853.

Credits: 4 in Fall 2017 (and English 499D for 4 credits in Spring 2018).

Mtg Pattern: MON WED 4:00-5:15PM.

Open to Senior and Junior Commonwealth Honors College students only. Priority will be given to English Majors who are pursuing Departmental Honors. Enrollment requires instructor permission. Please submit a complete story or essay, or 5-10 pages of poetry. Some combination of poetry and prose is also acceptable. Also include a 2-3 page personal statement (Why are you interested in this class? Describe your reading preferences and habits; address your writing and work habits, preferences, and aspirations.) to Professor Hennessy's email address: jjhennes@english.umass.edu, by April 15th.

This is a multi-genre, two-semester course in creative writing designed to help students complete a Capstone project within the genre of their choice. Both a class in contemporary literature and a writing workshop, Foundations and Departures will offer students a wide variety of reading assignments and writing exercises from across all three genres. At the end of the first semester students will submit a portfolio of original work; in the second semester students will finish drafting and revising their Capstone projects. Textbooks will include two fiction anthologies (Charlie Chan Is Dead 2 and The Art of the Story), novels by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Virginia Woolf, and Milan Kundera, memoir by Helene Cooper, non-fiction by Joan Didion, poetry collections by Major Jackson, Katia Kapovich, Nick Carbo and other contemporary poets, and The Alhambra Press Poetry Calendar 2010, which provides a selection of poetry from all over the Anglophone poetry world—from Africa to Oceania to India, Canada, and the Caribbean.
FINANCE 499C.

Title: International Macro-finance and Financial Crises.

Instructor: Nikolaos Artavanis.

Class#: 40253.

Credits: 4 in Fall 2016 (and 499D for 4 credits in Spring 2017).

Mtg. Pattern: MON WED 7:00PM - 8:15PM.

This course is open to Senior Commonwealth Honors College students in all majors; others as space permits.

Instructor consent required; contact instructor Professor Artavanis [nartavanis@isenberg.umass.edu].

This two-semester Honors Thesis Seminar examines the phenomenon of financial crises and investigates their causes and consequences and the potential solutions. The class will meet twice a week for 75 minutes during the fall semester and once a week for three hours during the spring semester. In the fall semester, we will develop the necessary macroeconomic tools to understand the complicated interactions between the “key-players” in the global financial system; investors, governments, central banks and international financial organizations. We will start with an introduction to national income accounting (GDP, GNP, external accounts) and the important macroeconomic variables of an economy (inflation, unemployment, growth, interest rates and business cycles). Then we will examine the equilibrium in the goods/services and money markets, the importance of the exchange rate system for the effectiveness of monetary and fiscal policy and the factors that determine the long-term equilibrium of an economy. Next, we will apply this knowledge in two ways; first, each student (as part of a team) will be asked to monitor an “economy in distress” (i.e. Greece, Portugal, Italy, Spain) and submit weekly reports for the course of this economy along with a small presentation. This exercise aims to replicate the process followed in Central Banks and investment funds, where analysts gather, filter and evaluate information to make forecasts in a frequent basis. Second, we will review past financial crises, in order to identify common features and differences, causes and consequences, as well as the effectiveness of the implemented solutions. We will try to learn from the past, since very often history tends to repeat itself. At the end of the fall semester, each student will be asked to write a proposal for a Thesis related to financial crises that will be completed during spring semester. Students can choose from a list of proposed topics or they can develop their own question of interest, given the instructor’s consent. The course is completed with the submission of the Final Thesis Manuscript and its presentation at the Commonwealth Honors College Undergraduate Research Conference. Mexico 1994, Thailand 1997, Russia 1998, Argentina 2000, United States 2008, Greece 2009, Portugal 2010, Cyprus 2013. Financial crises appear with increasing frequency in every part of the world, carrying an immense financial, social and political cost. No economy, developed or developing, appears to be invulnerable and the solutions implemented do not always yield the desired results. Why do financial crises appear with increasing frequency in every part of the world, carrying an immense financial, social and political cost. No economy, developed or developing, appears to be invulnerable and the solutions implemented do not always yield the desired results.
crises happen? Why do they tend to cluster in time? Can we predict them or even prevent them? Do financial crises look alike or not? Is there a “cure” for them? Can we face them effectively once they start? What is the role of international financial organizations (i.e. World Bank, IMF)? This course will attempt to address these challenging questions. We will develop the necessary macroeconomic tools to understand the complicated interactions in international finance and the role of the “key players” in the global financial system (investors, governments, central banks, international financial organizations). We will learn how an economy achieves its equilibrium in the goods, money and currency markets, what events can destabilize it from the equilibrium point and what policies can facilitate the process of recovery. Finally, we are going to review the most important financial crises of the last decades and learn from the lessons of the past. We will identify their common features, in an effort to be able to detect signals of a forthcoming crisis. We will notice in what aspects these crises differ and why there is not a unique solution for all cases. We will see how governments, central banks and international organizations have implemented their solutions and identify their motives and their mistakes.

HONORS 499N.

(Students may alternatively sign up for Journalism 499N - contact Journalism dept.).

Title: Truth/Telling.

Instructor: Connie Griffin.

Class#: 41750.

Credits: 3 in Fall 2017 (and 499O for 3 credits in Spring 2018).

Mtg. Pattern: FRI 10:10AM-1:10PM.

This course is open to Senior and Junior Commonwealth Honors College students.

Instructor consent required; to apply email a letter of interest to Professor Griffin [cgriffin@uww.umass.edu].

This Honors Project Seminar is a two-semester interdisciplinary course. Interested in doing a creative honors project? Would you like to develop a multimedia project, photojournalism, documentary? Or, perhaps you are interested in writing literary journalism, memoir, biographical profiles, feature articles, or some other creative nonfiction project you've always hoped to get to. If creativity is at the heart of your honors project, this seminar will assist you in developing a concept, as well as refining and reflecting on the process for archival purposes. The honors seminar will establish a collaborative community and provide generous guidance, constructive critique, and mutual mentorship. Drawing on creativity and imagination, as well as research and reporting, we will incorporate narrative nonfiction techniques such as scene and setting, character and complication, dialogue, and thematic resonance. Students will present work in progress over the course of two semesters in a writing workshop style.
KINESIOLOGY 499E.
Title: Wearable Technologies in Physical Activity and Health.
Instructor: Catrine Tudor-Locke.
Class#: 38350.
Credits: 4 in Fall 2017 (and 499D for 4 credits in Spring 2018).
Mtg. Pattern: TUTH 4:00-5:30PM.
This course is open to Senior Commonwealth Honors College students in all majors. No prerequisites.
Instructor consent required; contact Professor Tudor-Locke [ctudorlocke@umass.edu].
This course is the first in a two-semester series fulfilling the honors thesis requirement. Wearable technologies are now widely used by researchers, practitioners and the lay public to track a variety of free-living physical activity and health parameters in real time. The market for fitness and health-related apps is large and growing. There will be continued need to expose students to these technologies and their possible applications. This course is designed to provide students with theoretical and practical knowledge related to using wearable technologies as an objective way to monitor individuals' physical activity in the laboratory and free-living environments. Students will learn about pedometers, accelerometers, and other wearable technologies for assessing physical activity in conjunction with traditional laboratory/clinical metabolic, anthropometric, and health assessments. Students will also learn about human subjects' related research and best practices and the behavioral theory that is the foundation for using wearable technologies to increase physical activity behaviors.

KINESIOLOGY 499E.
Title: Biomechanics of Overuse Running Injuries.
Instructor: Joseph Hamill.
Class#: 42048.
Credits: 4 in Fall 2017 (and 499D for 4 credits in Spring 2018).
Mtg. Pattern: TUTH 4:00-5:30PM.
This course is open to Senior Commonwealth Honors College students in all majors. No prerequisites.
Instructor consent required; application and in-person interview required to receive enrollment permission from instructor. Contact Professor Hamill [jhamill@kin.umass.edu].
This course is the first in a two-semester series fulfilling the honors capstone thesis
requirement. Overuse injuries in running are now widely investigated by researchers seeking to determine the cause of injuries such as patellofemoral pain, iliotibial band syndrome, plantar fasciitis, etc. This course is designed to provide students with theoretical and practical knowledge related to investigating the biomechanics of overuse injuries using laboratory techniques developed in the Biomechanics Laboratory. Students will learn about kinematic, kinetic, anthropometric, and metabolic data collection procedures for investigating overuse injuries. Students will also learn about human subjects' related research and best practices that is the foundation for conducting research.

MARKETING 499J and 499K.

Title: Tools for Professional Success in Marketing and Honors Internship.

Instructor: Charles Schewe.

Class#: 37002 and 37001.

Credits: 6 (3+3) credits in Fall 2017.

Mtg. Pattern: TU 2:30-5:15PM.

This class will also meet on Thursday, Sept. 7,14,21, 2017; 2:30 - 5:15 PM

This culminating experience course is open to Senior Commonwealth Honors College Marketing students.

Instructor consent required; application required -- Forms available in MARKETING department - Room 338.

Students must co-enroll in Marketing 499J, Professional Success, and 499K, Honors Internship. Marketing 499J and 499K together satisfy the Commonwealth Honors College 6-credit Culminating Experience requirement. Professional Success focuses on applying the conceptual frameworks of marketing to real-world problems faced by actual companies. The purpose of the course is to give students some particular real-world experience as interns and to solve marketing problems with actual companies. Each student will have a specific marketing problem from their company that will require investigation and solution over the course of the semester. Company problems will cover a variety of topics and depend on the needs of the intern's company. This course's meetings will be run like a series of staff meetings rather than the traditional lecture/discussion course. Class meetings offer discussion, providing a variety of skills and direction for achieving success in the business world. Students will gain a better understanding of themselves and the strengths and weaknesses they bring to an employer, They will understand the field of marketing in various industries and explore many career choices. All capstones require that a thesis or project manuscript be produced according to guidelines found at https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone-experience-manuscript-content-formatting.
PSYCHOLOGY 499D.

Title: Explorations in Psychological Practice.

Instructor: Bonnie Strickland.

Class#: 36384.

Credits: 7 credits in Fall 2017.

Mtg. Pattern: TUTH 2:30-5:30PM.

This course is open to Senior Commonwealth Honors College Psychology students. Prerequisites: PSYCH 240 and 380.

Instructor consent required. Contact Professor Strickland [bonnie@psych.umass.edu].

Psychology 499D is an intensive 7-credit, one-semester Honors Thesis seminar that fulfills the Commonwealth Honors College Honors Thesis/Project requirement. Students in the course cover the workload traditionally completed over two semesters and spend a weekly average of 12 hours outside of class meetings on associated coursework as well as completing a 4-6 hour weekly practicum in a human services setting. The content of the course covers the important aspects of clinical psychology as it pertains to both current and future practices. A history of the field, clinical assessment and diagnosis, ethics, psychological interventions, biological foundations of behavior, and specialty areas such as child, family, forensic, and health psychology are covered. The class includes extensive reading on the part of students, several papers, a midterm and a final Honors Thesis paper suitable for archiving. The class format consists of lectures, discussion and experiential exercises.

SCH-MGMT 499C.

Title: Business Strategy and Entrepreneurial Leadership

Instructor: Anurag Sharma.

Class#: 37113.

Credits: 3 in Fall 2017 (and 499O for 3 credits in Spring 2018).

Mtg. Pattern: TU 4:00-7:00PM.

This course is open to Senior School of Management Commonwealth Honors College students only.

Department Consent Required. Enrollment by application only. The link to apply is available on the Isenberg Honors Capstone webpage: https://www.isenberg.umass.edu/programs/undergraduate/on-campus/advising/isenberg-and-honors-college.

This is the first part of a two-semester Honors Thesis Seminar that fulfills the Honors
Thesis requirement of Commonwealth Honors College. This course is designed to familiarize students with cutting edge ideas in strategic management of for-profit companies. Delivered over two semesters (fall and spring) in classes of 3 credits each, the course is an extension and an embellishment of the Capstone Strategy course (SCH-MGMT 497A). As such, the objectives of this 6-credit course include a conceptual understanding of business strategy fundamentals as well as a hands-on and practical grasp of what it means to strategically lead business organizations. Although the 2 phases are presented as separate classes, an attempt will be made such that students experience a seamless, integrated experience. Concepts, books, speakers, and field trips will be spread throughout the fall and spring semesters. Phase I (fall semester) will comprise an extensive review of prominent strands of thinking in Competitive Strategy. Phase 2 (spring semester) will be focused on practical application of strategy concepts via field trips and executive speakers as well as via public reports and management discussions of companies' operations.

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