Commonwealth Honors College Courses

As a University of Massachusetts Amherst student, you'll choose from among the 90 academic majors a large research university offers. As a member of Commonwealth Honors College, you'll enjoy the small classes, individual academic counseling, and strong sense of community a college provides.

In honors classes, you’ll engage directly with faculty and peers in critical analysis and compelling dialogue. Limited to 25 students, these classes will challenge you to consider others' perspectives and then formulate and defend your own views. In-depth readings, oral presentations, group projects, field research, and other modes of learning will make for stimulating intellectual experiences.

Honors courses seamlessly integrate into your major, minor, certificate program, and General Education requirements. Students from all academic disciplines successfully meet the demands of both Commonwealth Honors College and their majors, and honors courses may be applied to General Education requirements. Most honors students easily negotiate multiple requirements and find that the honors curriculum complements and enhances their chosen field of study.

**Honors 201H**

The content of “Ideas that Change the World” is wide ranging but is united by the course’s theme: great achievements in human thought. Ranging from Plato to Rachel Carson to Gandhi, the texts for the course put students in conversation with great intellectual figures, to learn from, agree with and disagree with. The point is for students to dive deeply into the texts and develop their passion for exploring big ideas. Find out more

**Honors 391AH**
Honors is not just a list of requirements

While a list is a convenient way to explain what is expected of CHC students, there is much more to the honors curriculum than checking off boxes. Each honors course is an opportunity to...
engage with course material in a special way. Honors courses encourage participation and consideration of material critically rather than passively. Students should make the most of these special courses as they progress toward graduation.

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