Honors Course Descriptions

Honors classes are designed to provide as broad an educational experience as possible, to be as interactive as possible, and to use a greater range of resources and presentations for students. All Honors classes are writing enhanced. In order to receive Honors credit for a course, students must earn a grade of “B” or higher.

Honors classes are open for enrollment by non-Honors students with permission of the Dean once all Honors students have had a chance to register for the courses. All students who take Honors classes shall have an “H” affixed to their transcript immediately after the course number.

In order to graduate with Honors, a student must complete at least 24 hours of Honors classes. At least 6 hours of these must come from any of the Honors seminars. Courses are listed below. The course number and courses offered per semester are subject to change.

UNIV 1301: Honors Introduction to Collegiate Studies: This course is designed to enhance the first-year experience for beginning Honors College students and to increase student success in collegiate studies at Sam Houston State University. Students receive academic and personal survival tools, get a general orientation to the resources and services available at Sam Houston State University, get to know other Honors students and the Honors College faculty, receive personal mentoring and advising and have fun.

HONORS SEMINARS

Students are encouraged to wait until their sophomore year to take their first seminar. The seminar content is often challenging and integrates in-depth papers and oral presentations in an effort to provide students with research experience.

HONR 1331: Honors Seminar I: Science: This course will explore (a) the scientific facts and theories related to the origin of the universe, life, and intelligence; (b) the variety of possible implications of those facts and theories for humankind and human values. Credit 3.

HONR 2331: Honors Seminar II: Decision Making: This course will include (a) an analysis and description of the development of humankind’s moral and social consciousness; (b) a description of the political, economic and religious responses to humankind’s physical and social environment; and (c) an emphasis, with discussion and analysis, on the future prospects of humankind. Credit 3.

HONR 2375: Honors Seminar IV: Fine Arts: An investigation into the theories, meanings, purposes and practical experiences of the fine arts: dance, music, the visual arts, and theatre. It will include attendance at dance and music concerts, theatre productions, and art exhibits. This course will be team taught by professors from each of the four disciplines named. Spring semester. Credit 3.

HONR 3331: Honors Seminar III: Business: This course is designed to deal with contemporary social, economic, political, and international issues. The course content will by necessity
change every semester that it is offered, but will provide important background information and perspective on current debates and events. Credit 3.

HONR 3332: Humanities Seminar: This course traces the social context of Darwinian evolutionary theory and its subsequent impact on Western societies, especially Britain and the United States. Students will employ cross-disciplinary techniques to explore the related issues through law, history, philosophy, the arts, and culture. Credit 3.

HONR 3332: Journeys Seminar: This is a new concept in seminars. Each week, outstanding faculty, such as Distinguished Teaching or Research Faculty, will present the stories of their academic and personal journeys. Credit 3.

HONR 3375: Difficult Dialogues Seminar: We are continuing the popular “Difficult Dialogues” seminars, this time on the subject of animal rights. Faculty from the sciences and humanities will participate. Credit 3.

SCIENCE
BIOL 1311: General Botany Honors: General principles of botany are presented. Emphasis is placed on morphology, taxonomy, genetics, physiology, and ecology of plants in an evolutionary and ecological context. Credit 3

BIOL 1313: General Zoology Honors: General principles of zoology are presented in an evolutionary context. Emphasis is placed on the anatomy, behavior, and ecology of animals. Students are introduced to evolutionary and ecological principles of biology. Credit 3.

BIOL 2440: Introductory Cell Biology: An introduction to the study of cells is presented, including scientific methods, biochemistry, metabolism, cell energetics, membranes, cellular evolution, DNA, protein synthesis, the cytoskeleton, cell division, and the cellular basis of inheritance, with emphasis on the development of problem solving skills. Two-hour laboratory. Credit 4.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CRIJ 2365: Correctional Systems and Practices: Analysis and evaluation of contemporary correctional systems; discussion of recent research concerning the correctional institution and the various field services. Credit 3

CRIJ 3378: Research Methods in Criminal Justice: Methods and techniques of research in the behavioral sciences; historical development of psychological and social research; techniques and problems. Credit 3

CRIJ 4382: Social Deviance: The psychological and sociological aspects of socially deviant behavior; theoretical overviews and implications for social control and social policy. Credit 3.
**ECONOMICS**

**ECON 2302: Principles of Microeconomics:** Basic economic principles including individual decision making, price theory, analysis of the firm, competition and monopoly, and the distribution of income. Credit 3.

**ENGLISH**

**ENGL 1301: Composition I:** Students with high marks in English on the SAT/ACT exams may qualify to enroll in this class, an accelerated class for students with superior skills in English. Students earning an A or B in ENG 1301 will receive advanced credit for ENG 1302 and automatically become eligible for sophomore English. Credit 3-6.

**ENGL 2331: Readings in Literature of the Western World:** Readings in the classical, medieval, and modern masterpieces of the western world. Written assignments are based on themes and concepts found in the works studied. Open to all students. Required of English majors and minors. Suggested for all majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. Prerequisite: ENG 1301 and 1302. Credit 3.

**ENGL 2332: World Literature I:** Readings in the classical, medieval, and modern masterpieces of the western world. Written assignments are based on themes and concepts found in the works studied. Open to all students. Required of English majors. Credit 3.

**HISTORY**

**HIST 1301: United States History to 1876:** The colonial origins of the United States and growth of the Republic to 1876. Credit 3.

**HIST 1302: United States History since 1876:** Continuing survey of the United States to the present. Credit 3.

**HIST 2311: World History for the Dawn of Civilization Through the Middle Ages:** A survey of world history from the dawn of civilization in Mesopotamia, China, India, Egypt, and Mesoamerica through the Middle Ages in Europe and Asia. The Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation, as well as the rise of nation states and the commercial economy are stressed as background to modern history. Recommended as a basic history course for all liberal arts majors. Credit 3.

**KINESIOLOGY**

**KINE 2333: Honors Fitness for Living:** This course is designed to provide Honors students with an in depth and current exploration of the sub-disciplines within Kinesiology. The content will branch off to include the historical, sociological, psychological, and biomechanical aspects of physical activity and sport and their impact on society. Field trips are planned to support selected content. The culminating experience will require students present a data-based research project focusing on some aspect of the course’s content. This class will substitute for KINE 2115, which is required for all students. Credit 3.
**MATHEMATICS**

**MATH 1332: College Mathematics:** This course is designed to meet the objectives of Component area 2 of the core curriculum for non-business and non-science related majors. Topics may include sets, counting principles, probability, logic, linear algebra, linear programming, mathematics of finance, geometry, and calculus. Applications are emphasized. Prerequisites: Two years of high school algebra and high school geometry. Credit 3.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**POLS 2301: Principles of American Government — National and State:** This course deals with the origin, development, and Constitution of the American governmental system, citizenship and civil rights, suffrage, the national party system, the national executive, organization of congress, national judiciary, federal-state relations, and the Constitution of the State of Texas. This course meets the legislative requirement for a course on the Constitutions of the United States and Texas. Credit 3.

**POLS 2302: American Public Policy:** This is a study of national and state policy. Both the policy process and the substance of selected policies will be examined. Topics may include foreign policy, civil liberties, health care, social issues, economic problems, environmental policy, and/or others. Prerequisite: POL 261. Credit 3.

**POL 2365: Comparative Survey of World Political Systems:** A survey of important issues and trends in world political systems that places American government and politics in a comparative context. Included will be terminology, concepts, and methods of comparative politics. Topics may include institutions, behavior, constitutional processes, political parties and interest groups, public policy, political development, transitions from authoritarianism to democracy and from statist to market economies, sources of domestic violence, and other major concerns of the field. Prerequisite POL 261. Credit 3.

**PSYCHOLOGY**

**PSYC 1301: Introduction to Psychology:** This course is designed to be a broad survey of the field of psychology covering such topics as learning, perception, personality, development, psychopathology, etc. It covers both the theoretical basis and the empirical content of these areas. Credit 3.

**READING**

**READ 3370: The Teaching of Reading:** The fundamental concepts and principles of reading instruction and focus on the developmental stages of reading. Word attack, comprehension, study strategies and other aspects of a balanced literacy program are learned and applied. Must be taken concurrently with RDG 390, and RDG 380. Concurrent enrollment in ESL 314 is required for EC6 students. Field experiences in PK-12 public schools required. Advance departmental approval and BSL 333 required. Admission to educator preparation program required. Credit 3.

**READ 3371: Literacy Assessment & Instruction:** Students will administer and interpret varied assessment tools as well as select and implement appropriate instructional techniques to plan
and conduct effective classroom literacy instruction. Field experiences in PK-12 public schools required. Must be taken concurrently with RDG 370 and RDG 390. Concurrent enrollment in ESL 314 is required for EC6 students. Advance departmental approval and BSL 333 required. Admission to educator preparation program required. Credit 3.

**READ 3372: The Teaching of Language Arts**: Focus on the developmental stages of writing and the interrelated language processes of listening, speaking and reading and writing. Pre-service teachers will explore theories and instructional practices in the elementary school language arts program. Must be taken concurrently with RDG 370 and RDG 380. Concurrent enrollment in ESL 314 is required for EC6 students. Field experiences in PK-12 public schools required. Advance departmental approval and BSL 333 required. Admission to educator preparation program required. Credit 3.

**Thesis**

**HONR 4375**: Students are given the option of completing a two semester, 6-hour thesis in order to graduate with “Highest Honors.” The thesis should be completed within the student’s major under the supervision of an advisor in that department. In order to receive Honors credit, a thesis contract must be completed and approved by the Honors Dean at the beginning of the first semester of research.

**Other Class Benefits**

Honors students who score above a 700 on the verbal section of the SAT are exempt from freshman composition (both ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302). Students who receive either an “A” or “B” in the Honors section of ENG 1301 will automatically get credit for ENGL 1302. This grade, however, will not contribute to the student’s GPA twice. They will only get GPA credit for ENG 1301.

All Honors students are allowed to take up to 12 hours of classes for Pass/Fail credit. This must be agreed upon by the student and professor at the beginning of the semester and will not affect the student’s GPA. All coursework must be completed, but instead of receiving a letter grade, either a pass or fail will appear on the transcript. This opportunity is designed to encourage students to take classes they are interested in outside their major.