

## University Honors Program

### Recommended Fall 2024 Classes for First-Years

*(For the most accurate and up-to-date information, check [chapman.edu](http://chapman.edu) to or course catalog to confirm data below!)*

*Honors Forum must be taken in Fall '24 or Spring '25*

**HON-280: Honors Forum.** *MWF, 10-10:50am or 11-11:50am or 12-12:50pm, Pace, Cosgrove, TBD.* The Honors Forum meets three times a week to familiarize students with the academic and civic dimensions of the University Honors Program. The academic component of Honors Forum introduces the theory and practices of interdisciplinarity, basic inductive and deductive logic, and theories on the civic responsibility of democratic citizenship. The civic component of Honors Forum introduces not only theories regarding civic responsibility but also opportunities for practical application of those theories through engagement in efforts to address different needs in our local community. *(CC) (3 credits)*

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**HON-209: Death, Self, and Society.** *TTH, 2:30-3:45pm, McGrane.* Students participate in an interdisciplinary investigation of death, dying, and the grieving process. Topics include: The American way of death as a social institution; dying as a psychological process; how society conditions us to deny death and repress grief; how students relate to "their own death" and the death of significant others. *(SI; VI) (SOC elective, similar to SOC 320) (3 credits)*

**HON-210: Monsters and Monstrosities.** *TTH, 11:30am-12:45pm, Van Meter.* Using an interdisciplinary approach, we will investigate and interpret the stories we construct about ourselves and "the Other" by exploring works from east/west involving the vampire, the specter, the witch. We will particularly focus on cultural, literary and political representations from various periods and locations. *(SI) (ENG Major: Diversity elective Lit. after 1850 elective, Additional elective; ENG Minor: Lower-division elective; Creative Writing major: Elective literature course) (3 credits)*

**HON-238: The Power of Storytelling; Narrative Theory and Practice.** *MWF 12-12:50pm, Jenner.* We begin understanding stories as early as we begin understanding language itself. Storytelling, or narration, is a distinctly human endeavor created to satisfy the need to remember and interpret past and present, and to prepare for a sustainable future. This course combines narrative theory and writing exercises to investigate the art of storytelling in its many forms. Students explore the humanistic value of storytelling through the composition of personalized projects that are both critical and creative, and through the analysis of narrative use across different genres and texts. *(WI) (English: electives for the BA and BFA) (3 credits)*

**HON-245: Writing for Life.** *MWF, 11-11:50am, Jenner.* This workshop-based seminar course encourages students to practice core concepts in writing studies. Writing is viewed as a complex social and rhetorical activity that requires significant cognition, creativity, and collaboration. Students from different disciplines come together to explore how language and visual storytelling can express and negotiate a particular point of view across various genres, media, and rhetorical situations. Students engage in various composing practices and texts and produce original products that are analytical, original, and multi-modal. *(WI Requested) (Creative Writing as elective practice and toward the BA (Literature and Rhetoric) as an additional elective.)*

**HON-286: Origins.** *MW, 2:30-3:45pm, Horner.* Where did the universe come from? Why complexity? How did life originate? Was life inevitable? How does evolution work? Why did humans evolve? Were we inevitable? This is an honors class for students of all disciplines, science and non-science majors. It is a class that will explore origins at a reductionist scientific perspective, as well as from a philosophical perspective. *(NI) (3 credits)*

**HON-329-01 Geomyth and Fossil Folklore.** *MW 1-2:15pm, Guyker.* This course critically examines the convergent field of Geomythology. Geomythologists consider the idea that traditional myths and knowledge conserve significant information of natural phenomena and episodes from Earth's deep history. While myths worldwide, as traditional tales, recount the shaping of cosmos, society, and humanity, geomyths concentrate on traditional worldviews about nature, landscape, and (pre)human epochs and ancestors. Fossil folklore traces legends emerging from natural and artistic objects ranging from paleontological oddities to fabulous relics. While

geomythologists have tended to focus on the historical observations of natural phenomena by ancient peoples and oral traditions, a discursive drift of applied mythmaking has been noted in expressive social charters, geotourism, and lessons of present-day crisis strategies: climate change, the Anthropocene, environmental justice, postcolonial critiques, and eco-criticism. We consider geomythology as a framework not solely for explaining away curiosities, fabulous beasts, and events of prehistory but understanding the lessons we glean from cultural framings of natural disasters, personhood of the natural world, and cryptids of modern-day legendry. We engage in our ongoing entanglements with landscape, co-inhabitants, and the human mind reconciling within the “mythocene.” Geomythology offers a unique opportunity to synthesize the insights of the Human, Social, and Natural Sciences. *(GC, SI) (3 credits)*