



## **John Wesley Scholars Program Course Descriptions**

### **HONORS HUMANITIES CORE**

The Honors Humanities Core is a total of twelve hours, made up of four classes. These are classes that every student at IWU takes, usually during his or her first two years. Each general education 180 course is taken as an honors course, meaning the section must be "HC," and it is capped at 15 students.

Professor Riggs teaches the first course, *Becoming World Changers* (UNV 180), each fall. This class is always taken during a student's first semester on campus, whether a member of the Honors College or not. UNV180 is meant to serve as an introduction to your collegiate education and will cover a wide range of topics, from basic tenets of Christianity to current issues. The other Humanities courses, *World Civilization* (HST 180), *Philosophy* (PHL 180), and *World Literature* (ENG180), give students a foundation in the important events, themes, and pieces of literature that have shaped the world in which we live today. Each class has unique projects and assignments that let you interact with the material in a variety of ways. For example, in ENG 180 the students work together in groups during the semester to write and perform a play. We offer these courses every semester, to ensure each John Wesley Scholar has the opportunity to take them.

### **HONORS RESEARCH TUTORIALS**

The Honors Research Tutorials (HRT) are classes that provide students with an opportunity to do hands-on research. This course serves as a useful and creative introduction to the world of academic research. The class consists of a professor integrating students into his or her research pursuits. The students are given semester-long projects that they complete in groups.

This class can be taken for one or three credits. The students can take HRT in any combination as long as a minimum of six hours are completed. We encourage students to begin taking these courses during the second semester of their freshman year. By taking these classes early, students are given a chance to see first-hand how research is both initiated and completed.

This experience will be useful during the Honors Scholarship Project, which comes into play during the junior or senior year.

### **LIBERAL LEARNING & LIFE CALLING PORTFOLIO**

The Liberal Learning and Life Calling (LLLC) Portfolio is a personal project that students begin in UNV180. The portfolio challenges students to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, explore the nature of their Kingdom-of-God vocation, and translate their collegiate learning experiences into an edifying liberal arts education.

After the *World Changers* course, students continue to develop, re-evaluate, and edit their portfolio in successive semesters through LLLC tutorials. The LLLC experience culminates in the Capstone course which is taken during the senior year. If taken seriously, the LLLC experience will help students to cultivate exceptional intellectual and spiritual growth during their time at IWU and to establish habits and skills that will foster enriching lives in Christ.

## **HONORS FORUM**

The purpose of the six-hour Honors Forum requirement is to expose students to a broad range of fine arts experiences in order to help them understand the important roles that aesthetic spheres of expression play in a Christian liberal education. In particular, the course challenges students to ponder the unique ways that art, music, theatre, and the literary arts can illuminate the meaning and significance of human life, intellect, and the Christian faith. The intent of such learning experiences is to help students broaden their powers of critical thinking, creativity, and discernment. Through participation in a program of fine arts events, readings, group discussions, and reflective writing, students are equipped to appreciate aesthetic pursuits as integral to lifelong learning and the cultivation of a Christian life well-lived. Forum has been a very popular part of the JWHC for students and is a great way to meet other John Wesley Scholars.

## **HONORS ELECTIVES**

In order to fulfill the six hour requirements for the Honors Electives, students typically take some of their general education courses as honors sections. For example, students might enroll in the honors sections of Old and New Testament (courses all students at IWU will take). Because the honors sections delve deep into the riches of biblical interpretation, they can be quite challenging, but extremely rewarding.

## **HONORS RESEARCH/CREATIVITY COMPETENCY**

During the sophomore or junior year, students begin the process of undertaking their own research project. There are two tracks to complete this requirement. Those in the natural sciences division take Impacts of Science on Faith & Society (SCI 380) as an introduction to research. They then complete a minimum of three hours of laboratory research by working with an existing lab on campus.

The second track is for those students in the other divisions at IWU, who enroll in Honors Research Seminar (HNR 350) as their introductory course. Student then engage in discipline-specific research on a topic of their choosing, advised by a faculty mentor in their major. By taking Honors Scholarship Project (HNR 497 and HNR 498), students can work on their research project for up to six hours, but must complete a minimum of three hours.

The culmination of both tracks is a public presentation of the research to the IWU community by the student. Students receive credit for this by enrolling in Honors Scholarship Presentation (HNR 499).