

SPU University Scholars CURRICULUM

[The Honors General Education at SPU]

“What Does it Mean to Be Human?”

The SPU honors program is an **interdisciplinary, liberal arts, and seminar-based** curriculum designed as an **accelerated alternative** to the regular General Education track.

It requires fewer credits but in a **challenging, inquiry-based, and inter-connected** set of courses that ask our highest-achieving students to go deeper into the key questions at the heart of our lives, our faith, and our world.

	Autumn	Winter	Spring
<p>FIRST YEAR</p> <p>All students should expect to take these three courses together in a cohort for the first honors year only.</p> <p>(All courses taught MWF 9:30-11:00)</p>	<p>USCH 1000 Seminar: “Cultural Encounters”</p>	<p>USCH 1111: “Classics”</p>	<p>USCH 1112: “Renaissance”</p>
	<p>An introduction to the central ideas, modes of inquiry, and collaborative academic community of the honors program overall.</p> <p>Taught in two concurrent sections by Dr. Neuhouser (Sociology) and Dr. Mason (Economics).</p>	<p>The two first-year seminars now join together and will continue in one cohort for the rest of their time as U Scholars.</p> <p>“Classics” is the first in the series of honors courses studying what it means to be human in history, faith, and culture – this time focusing on the ancient foundations of our western world.</p> <p>These are the ideas and inquiry that have shaped our culture today and that form the foundational academic study of most liberal arts curricula.</p> <p>Taught by Dr. Ewald (Classics) and Dr. Thorpe (English).</p>	<p>“Renaissance” is the second in the ongoing series of honors courses studying what it means to be human in history, faith, and culture – this time focusing on the formative 14th-17th centuries in the west.</p> <p>These are the ideas and inquiry that have shaped our world and that form the foundational academic study of most liberal arts curricula.</p> <p>Taught by Dr. Kresser (Art History) and Dr. Amorose (English).</p>

<p>SECOND YEAR</p> <p>It is strongly preferable for students to take these courses in sequence, if possible, but not required. (See Dr. Chaney for scheduling + advising questions.)</p>	<p>UFDN 1000: Honors First Year Foundations/Theology</p>	<p>USCH 1113: “Modernity” (CUE, pending)</p>	<p>USCH 1114: “Globalization”</p>
	<p>A special section of the first required Theology course, only for University Scholars. (No additional small group section required)</p> <p>Taught by Dr. Koenig (Theology – and former SPU University Scholar).</p>	<p>“Modernity” is the third course in the ongoing series studying what it means to be human in history, faith, and culture. This time the course examines both the “light” of Enlightenment and the “darker” costs and consequences of the radical shift in thought that occurred in the 18th-20th centuries – especially new ideas about knowledge and the body. This period largely resulted in the modern western world as we know it today, with all its consequences and implications.</p> <p>Taught by Dr. Chaney (English and Honors Director).</p>	<p>“Globalization” is the fourth and final course in the ongoing series studying what it means to be human in history, faith, and culture. The focus this time is on our contemporary 21st-century economic world and the implications of the dominance of global capitalism.</p> <p>Taught by Dr. Ye (History) and Dr. Downing (Economics).</p>
<p>THIRD YEAR</p> <p>It is preferable to take these courses when offered, but the only course required to be taken in sequence is USCH 4950: Christianity and Scholarship.</p>		<p>USCH 3910: Faith and Science I</p>	<p>USCH 4910: Faith and Science II</p>
		<p>An exploration of the relationship between science, faith, and theology over the course of western history, focusing especially on how developments in physics, chemistry, and cosmology affected western thought, including key implications for the idea of “<u>origin</u>.”</p> <p>Taught by Dr. Stiling (History) and Dr. Grabow (Chemistry)</p>	<p>Building on the exploration of science, faith, and theology in the modern period begun in Faith and Science I, this course focuses on developments in biology and the human sciences, continuing the discussion on origins from the perspective of what is currently known about <u>the human body</u>.</p> <p>Taught by Dr. Craft (Psychology) and Dr. Rice (Philosophy)</p> <hr/> <p>USCH 4950: Christianity and Scholarship (2 credits)</p> <p>Learning how to prepare and complete the Honors Project along clearing the academic review process needed to begin work. Must be successfully completed before the Honors Project can begin. (taught by Dr. Chaney)</p>

**FOURTH
YEAR**

The honors project is the culmination of all your work as a University Scholar. It is an original and independent research thesis under the direction of two faculty readers (and may be combined with other senior projects, as approved). For many students, the honors project is one of their proudest undergraduate academic achievements and, for many, forms a key part of successful graduate and professional school applications.

USCH 4960/5: HONORS PROJECT (4 credits total)
May be taken in any quarter (4) or divided over two quarters (2+2)

All Other REQUIRED Honors Graduation Courses *(take in any quarter)*

- **UFDN 2000**
- **UFDN 3100**
- **Ways of Knowing/ Fundamental Science (WKFS)**
(Physics 1111 is no longer part of the curriculum.)
- **Ways of Knowing/Quantitative Reasoning (WKQR)**

Highly Recommended:

- **STUDY ABROAD**, especially in autumn of the Junior Year.

SPU students have been notably successful in several **Oxford University** programs designed for honors students but there are literally hundreds of study abroad options to explore.

A good choice for University Scholars with many time commitments and/or on-campus course requirements are SPU's many fantastic **Global Seminars** (August-September) that conclude before Autumn Quarter classes start, or those that take place during the Christmas holiday break (such as the Belize program).

(See Dr. Chaney or the SPU Study Abroad Office to learn more.)