

Pathways to Honors
Fall 2015 - v1.0

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Kucera
Office: Science Wing Room 215
email: skucera@ut.edu, phone: 257-3324 (X3324)
Office Hours: Posted on my website homepage: <http://skucera.com>
Peer mentors: Tasha & Bella

Text on Reserve in the Library: **Science As A Way Of Knowing**

This course is designed to introduce you to important issues of life in a University environment and the Honors program. We will be covering some of the issues that are being addressed in other Gateways classes, but will focus on exploring themes related to scientific thought and knowledge, its origins and evolution, and its furthering by the human mind.

From the Honors Program Director, Dr. Gary Luter - Course Objectives:

The fundamental goal of Pathways to Honors 100 is to help introduce Honors students to the University of Tampa's Honors program and to make their college experience more challenging, more meaningful and more successful. To accomplish this, the following objectives are woven into this course:

1. To create an intellectually stimulating environment for students.
2. To familiarize students with an array of Honors enrichment opportunities.
3. To foster students' critical thinking skills.
4. To increase students' capacities to be global citizens.
5. To develop students' leadership abilities.
6. To instill in students an appreciation for research, discovery and creativity.
7. To assist the academic progress of students by periodic faculty evaluation and self-evaluation of coursework.
8. To assist students in gaining an understanding of the "Baccalaureate Experience" at UT.
9. To assist students in developing and implementing an academic plan to create enrollment options for the spring and subsequent semesters.
10. To motivate students to adhere to the *Honors Pledge* printed below.

“We, the students of the Honors Program at the University of Tampa, recognizing that learning isn't a means to an end, but it is an end in itself, pledge to follow a life of the mind, to devote ourselves fully to intellectual growth and to take responsibility for our own education.

We pledge to never stop pursuing the wonder-filled questions of the world, to never stop challenging the academic *status quo* and to never choose expediency over excellence.

We pledge to work with the faculty to establish an environment of academic integrity and mutual respect and to create and maintain an Honors community that fosters freedom of expression and discovery.

By choosing to become a part of this community, we each promise to uphold the principles recognized in this statement.”

Grading:

You will submit all written assignments and your end of the year report on seminars you attended to me by email to skucera@ut.edu.

Grading Scale:

Because this course depends on your participation in the discussions, review of your written assignments, and attending and reacting to a minimum number of Honors symposia, there is a significant subjective component to the assignment of grades. The grading rubric is outlined below. You start with a score of 0 (zero) in the course and the further you move away from this score, the lower your final course grade will be. There is no "extra credit" in this course. Add 1 to your score for each instance of the following:

- An unexcused absence from class or a presentation scheduled for the week;
- Failure to submit a written assignment on time and with minimal grammatical and spelling errors, meeting the minimum length requirement, and demonstration of high quality and thoughtful writing that earns you a grade of "ME" (see below). Informal, free flowing writing is permitted, provided you are communicating ideas clearly. Avoid run-on sentences and/or paragraphs, if you write your essays this way;
- Failure to attend the required minimum number of 4 Honors symposia during the Fall semester. Add 1 to your score for each symposium missed from this minimum requirement. For example, if you only attend 1 symposium, add 2 to your score. Sign the attendance sheet at the symposium to prove you attended. You may elect to attend a published biology, chemistry or math scholarly seminar to substitute for 1 Honors presentation. Notify me by email if you do so;
- Failure to frequently participate in classroom discussions (if you are shy, you are going to have to learn to express yourself publicly so you are not penalized here) in a thoughtful and respectful manner during the semester. I give a grace period of a couple of weeks to help build comfort in the classroom and I make the judgment for this criterion over the entire course of the semester. I will add 0 to your score if you *exceed my expectations* here, add 1 to your score if you simply *meet expectations* (that is, talk occasionally during the semester) and add 2 to your score if you *do not meet expectations* and rarely or never talk in class.

Your score determines the final grade you will earn for the course as shown below for the score you receive for the semester.

A : Outstanding performance - 0 -to 1	AB: Excellent performance - 2
B: Very good performance - 3	BC: Good performance - 4
C: Average (not mathematical average) - 5 to 6	CD: Satisfactory performance - 7
D: Passing (unsatisfactory) - 8	F: Failure - 9 or more

Grading Your Written Work: You are honors students. I expect your written submissions to be free of grammatical and/or spelling errors and meet the minimum length requirement. I expect you to communicate your thoughts clearly and your writing to improve as the semester

progresses. Keep in mind that my assessment of the clarity of your written communication is subjective. You will receive a grade of "ME" (Meets Expectations) or "DN" (Does Not meet expectations) for each assignment.

You may re-do and re-submit, within 1 week of the due date up to TWO written assignments for re-consideration of your "DN" grade during the semester. All late submissions are, by definition, automatically given a grade of "DN."

There are resources on campus to help you with your writing, if you would like to seek out their assistance. The Saunders Writing Center (PH 323, call 253-6244 to schedule an appointment) is free to use and an excellent resource.

Unexcused vs. excused absences: Sleeping through your alarm, flat-out forgetting, etc. (etc. includes every other reason for missing class without discussing with me in advance, save emergencies - see below) are counted as un-excused absences. You must discuss with me, in advance, circumstances that will cause you to miss class, if you do not want your absence counted as un-excused. Good reasons for missing class include, but is not limited to, a family emergency or important celebration, a major University sanctioned function (e.g. NCAA sporting event for student athletes on the team, travel to Honors Bowl and the like) or other situation that I decide, at my sole discretion, is acceptable. I will send you an email confirming you are excused from the class. I do not give simply verbal permission to miss a class - if you do not receive the email from me excusing you from class after we discuss your situation, it is your responsibility to follow-up with me and notify me that you did not receive the email.

You are still responsible for the written work that may be required per the lecture plan for a class you miss, whether it is excused or not. I will notify you, in writing, if I am granting you an extension for the deadline of an assignment.

Your responsibilities in OUR learning environment: Please show respect and tolerance when you speak. The consequences for failing to meet this obligation and/or engaging in this disruptive behavior are as follows: First time: A private warning from me. Second time: I will refer you to the Office of Student Conduct for possible sanction by the University. You should be aware of your responsibility as a UT student who falls under the auspices of the Office of Student Conduct. Visit <http://www.ut.edu/studentconduct/> for more information. I absolutely encourage you to do disagree, even with me, when we are discussing ideas. That is not disrespectful.

Disagreement, even strong disagreement, about ideas can be uncomfortable and unpleasant. That is to be expected and it is an important component of University and intellectual life. Making others uncomfortable because of your ideas that are relevant to this course and our discussions is fine.

Emergency situations and their effect on your grade: Should an emergency happen that causes you to miss class, you must notify me within 24 hours, either by sending me an email (I will confirm you sent me with a response) or calling and leaving me a voice message on my office phone, unless you are unconscious or have some other good reason for not notifying me on this time frame (I will decide whether it is a good reason after you communicate it to me). You should keep my confirmation as a record. I rarely check my office phone voice messages, but

that's ok... Leave the message as a record. For emergencies, I may, at my discretion, request that you provide proof documenting the emergency.

ADA - Self Disclosure: If you are a student who has special needs because of a documented disability, please visit the Academic Center for Excellence in North Walker Hall. You may phone 813-258-7251, or e-mail jdelvalle@ut.edu to report your needs and provide documentation of your disability for certification. Jennifer Del Valle is the associate director of the Academic Center for Excellence, Student Disability Services. Accommodations are only offered after disclosure. If you decide to wait to disclose, accommodations will not be applied retroactively, but will commence once I am notified by the ACE Center. Please feel free to discuss this issue with me in private if you need more information.

Academic Integrity:

You are to write your own essays. Where you include information from other sources, be they books, journals, the web or any other source that is included in your essay, you will properly acknowledge this work as the work of someone else. Do not copy any text and/or images from any source, including information from websites, and paste it into your essay without fully and properly acknowledging this is the work of someone else. Ask me if you have any questions about how to acknowledge other sources appropriately, if you are not sure. The consequences for academic dishonesty, such as failure to properly cite the work of others in your work, will be severe and at my sole discretion, while following the Universities policies/procedures on academic integrity. Visit:

<http://www.ut.edu/detail.aspx?id=5716&terms=spartan+code&fragment=&SearchType=&terms=spartan%20code>.

for the Spartan code that applies to all students. Visit:

<http://www.ut.edu/uploadedFiles/Academics/Provost/UT-AcademicIntegrityPolicies.pdf>

for the UT policies on Academic Integrity.

Academic dishonesty is, unfortunately, too common nowadays. Together, we will do our part to make a positive contribution to our academic community at UT in this regard.

I will hold you accountable, if you engage in academic dishonesty in my course, should I learn of this behavior. Trust me, you do not want to cross me on this one. By the way, if you get away with academic dishonesty in my class (or any other class for that matter), just know that I am true believer in Karma. Your behavior will catch up with you at some point in your life and could cost you, or someone else, dearly, depending on the nature of your dishonesty.

Classroom Behavior Expectations:

This is a learning environment in which I want you to stimulate your thinking and hope that you enjoy exploring your ideas, the ideas of others, what you may believe you know and what you do not know. To get the most out of this class, we will work together to foster an environment where people feel safe to explore and participate.

This is a University and you are in the Honors program. We can disagree and even passionately disagree. Don't lose sight of the importance of listening to others, even when you disagree with them. If you get swept away by your passions in making an argument or statement and if you are self-aware and realize that you have done so and hurt others in the process, think about how you could make amends and follow through on those thoughts in a meaningful way. Don't buy into the rage culture approach to disagreeing with others. Embrace civility. Being loud and/or insulting to others does not mean you are more correct or likely to convince others of your views. Rather, the more you express these behaviors to others, the less likely people who do not share your views will listen to you and consider your views with an open mind and heart. Rather, you will likely deepen their convictions and what they believe. At a most fundamental level, such behaviors interfere with learning for everyone in this class.

When you come to class, turn your cell phone off - texting, tweeting and the like is not permitted during class time. Don't sleep during class - I will wake you up if you do. Should you ignore my request to stop engaging in disruptive behavior, I can and will require you to leave the class and will count the day as a missed class for grading purposes.

Be Aware of Your Surroundings:

This classroom is a science laboratory and there are hazards found in this lab (e.g. hazardous chemicals). Do not poke around the cabinets or play with any equipment or materials that may be set out in the lab for the genetics students to use. If you do so, you put your personal safety and the safety of others at risk. Know the evacuation route and where the safety equipment is located, including the emergency phone that is around the corner. In the event of an emergency, ensure your personal safety, call 911 if you feel it is warranted, and call UT security. Chemical safety policies and procedures: <http://utweb.ut.edu/chemicalsafety>.

Emergency Planning:

You should monitor the "Emergency Planning" link on ut.edu in the event of a hurricane or other situation that could cause the University to close.. There may be work posted for my class on <http://skucera.com> that you are required to do while the University is closed. The University is open unless it is posted on ut.edu that it is closed.

Professor's disclaimer:

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time during the semester, for any reason that I deem necessary. I will notify you when this happens and post the modified syllabus on my website for you.

Weekly Schedule and Assignment Due Dates

All assignments are due no later than 10 am on the day of class.

- 9/1 - We will discuss the Honors Program, the Baccalaureate Experience and Academic Integrity and Study Techniques/Time Management. Bring any schedule, dorm, billing, or other questions you may have thought of to class. No assignment due.
- 9/8 - Study techniques – Bring the info I requested of you to class. Formative and creative discussion about science. No reading required.
- 9/15 - Finish up study techniques, take class photo and review course requirements in the syllabus.
- 9/22 - Read Chapters 1 & 2 of SAAWOK. Write your reaction on the chapter and submit your writing by email to me We will discuss the chapter.
- 9/29 - Read Chapters 3 & 4 of SAAWOK. Write/email me your reaction. Class discussion of the readings.
- 10/6 - No class. Bella and Tasha will fill you in on what you have to do via Blackboard (library tutorial).
- 10/13 - Read Chapters 5 & 6 of SAAWOK. Write/email me your reaction. Class discussion of the readings.
- 10/20 - We do not meet in class. Student engagement Presentation. News from Bella and Tasha on what to do this week.
- 10/27 - Read Chapter 7 of SAAWOK. Write/email me your reaction. Class discussion of the readings.
- 11/3 – Developing your academic plan and turning your attention towards your future.
- 11/10 - Developing your academic plan and turning your attention towards your future. Individual appointments to discuss your academic progress and academic planning either this week or you can schedule to meet the previous week. NO CLASS.
- 11/17 - Read Chapter 8 of SAAWOK. Write/email me your reaction. Class discussion of the readings.
- 11/24 – Gobble, gobble! Thanksgiving week.
- 12/8 - Science Idol presentations (Part I... Part II continues in the spring semester)

**HONORS PROGRAM SYMPOSIA
Fall 2015**

Dr. Bruce Friesen, UT Professor of Sociology
Moral Systems and the Evolution of Human Rights
Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 PM, Trustees' Room, 9th Floor of Vaughn Center

.....
Dr. Gary Luter, Professor of Theatre
The Ultimate Censorship: Killing the Poet Garcia Lorca
Tuesday, September 15 at 5:00 PM, Library Room AV2

.....
Dr. Eric Hayot, Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature and Asian Studies, Penn State University
On Literary Worlds
Friday, September 18 at 6:30 PM, Crescent Club, 9th Floor of Vaughn Center

.....
Dr. Daniel Dooghan, UT Professor of English and Writing
Korea Beyond the Headlines
Tuesday, September 22 at 4:00 pm, Library Room AV2

.....
Dr. Christopher Boulton, UT Professor of Communication, with Honors students Eric Post and Eric Langhoff
Grand Debut
Tuesday, September 29 at 8:00 PM, Reeves Theater, 2nd Floor of Vaughn Center

.....
Drs. Christine Harrington and Walter Smith, UT Professors of Finance and Accounting
Fast Money and Loose Credit: The Rise and Fall of Homebuilders
Tuesday, October 6 at 5:00 pm, Library Room AV2

.....
Honors Student Presenters from the Southern Regional and Florida Collegiate Honors Council Conferences
Presenting Your Undergraduate Research
Tuesday, Oct 13 at 7:00 pm, Library Room AV2

.....
Professor Joseph Wisinski, UT Adjunct Professor of Communication
Mass Media Ethics: Maximizing Value and Minimizing Harm
Monday, Oct 19 at 4:00 pm, Library Room AV2

.....
Dr. Kacy Tillman, UT Professor of English, with Honors students from LITH277
The F-Word – American Feminism
Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 pm, Trustees' Room, 9th Floor of Vaughn Center

.....
Dr. Mary Martinasek, UT Professor of Public Health, Health Sciences and Human Performance
Vaping: Will Curiosity Kill the Cat?
Wednesday, November 4 at 5:00 pm, Reeves Theater, 2nd Floor of Vaughn Center

.....
Dr. Tony LaRose, UT Professor of Criminal Justice, with Honors student Maya Burtin
C.S.I. in Black and White: Does Race and Television Viewing Influence Attitudes and Understandings about Forensic Evidence
Tuesday, November 10 at 4:00 pm, Reeves Theater, 2nd Floor of Vaughn Center

.....
Dr. J. E. Sumerau, UT Professor of Sociology
Contemporary Religion and the Cisgendering of Reality
Thursday, November 19 at 12:00 Noon, Reeves Theater, 2nd Floor of Vaughn Center

.....
Dr. Liv Coleman, UT Professor of Government and World Affairs
Will Japan "Lean In" to Gender Equality?
Wednesday, December 2 at 4:00 PM, Library Room AV2

.....
*May be subject to change, check with Honors Program Office for updates.
phone: 813-257-3545 - email: HONORS@UT.EDU*