

HONORS DIRECTED READINGS (HP 399)

The “Honors Directed Readings” course provides a student with the opportunity to explore, in depth, a topic of his or her choice. It is distinguished from the “Honors Independent Study” course (HP 398) in that HP 399 focuses on reading in the topic area rather than research.

In an Honors Directed Readings course the student will read an agreed upon number of books and/or articles, meet regularly with the faculty advisor to discuss the readings, and write analyses of the readings which not only demonstrate mastery but also the ability to reflect on the materials.

Directed Readings will not be authorized in areas covered by regularly scheduled courses. Only one Directed Readings course (3 credits) will count toward the Honors Program requirements. The course may be taken for 1 - 3 credits.

In order to arrange a Directed Readings course, the following steps should be taken:

1. Decide upon a topic area to explore.
2. Select an instructor who has some knowledge in your proposed area of reading and with whom you wish to work.
3. In consultation with your instructor develop a list of readings. This list may include both books and articles, and it should be extensive enough to warrant the granting of credit for your work. It is understood that, by mutual agreement, minor changes in the reading list can be made after the list has been approved.
4. Set the requirements for the evaluation of your work in the course. Normally, you will be expected to write a “response” paper for each piece you read. This paper should consist of a presentation of the substance of what you read and an analysis or evaluation of the work. In this analysis, you should consider such things as presuppositions and assumptions of the author, logic and effectiveness of the argument, soundness of the conclusions, intended audience, and effectiveness of literary presentation.
5. Write a description of your proposed course which includes a brief discussion of the subject area, the course requirements, an explanation of the evaluation process, a timetable, and a list of the readings (bibliography).
6. Submit this description and the contract sheet (see enclosed) to the Director of the Honors Program.
7. Once the Director has approved the course description, you will be granted “permission to register.”