

Wheeling Jesuit University | Department of English
HONR 101-401 | Laut Honors Program and Ignatian Honors Seminar (3 crs)
Spring 2019 | Wednesday 7:00 pm –9:00 pm
Acker Science Center G10

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Office Hours: MWF, 12:30-2:30 pm, TR 11:00 am – 1:15 pm, and by appt.

[Catalog Description] Laut Honors Program (3 crs)

The essential design of the Honors Program is to offer outstanding University students the opportunity to explore, in an atmosphere of inquiry unclouded by grade anxiety (participating students receive CR/NC), a topic or topics whose general breadth will encourage a multi-faceted approach. While a single faculty member mentors the Stephen J. Laut, S.J., Honors College (LHC) and another faculty member, selected by the rising senior honors students, mentors the Ignatian Honors Seminar (IHS), both initiatives are actually about a plurality of voices and insights; authorities from within the faculty and beyond visit the seminars and interact with students during the course of the year's exploration of an intellectual topic.

HONR 101-201 Seminar Topic: Killers Among Us

The seedy underbelly to our culture's obsession with youth and life (see your Instagram feed for life-affirming quotes on pretty backgrounds) is a preoccupation with death. We spend billions of dollars a year trying to prevent being killed—5 billion a year on cancer research, 2 billion on treatment for heart disease, 150 billion on preventing terrorism (which kills fewer people annually than lightning). This Honors Seminar examines the things that are killing us, both on a large scale (disease, war, drugs, poverty, guns) and on a small scale (serial killers, crimes of passion, suicide) in an effort both to unpack our fascination with death and to deepen our understanding of the powerful psychological factors associated with death (like fear!) that consciously and unconsciously influence our lives.

HONR 301-401 Seminar Topic: Seven Deadly Sins

Pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth: For most members of the animal kingdom, these sins are the essential motivators of both individual survival and survival of species. Our approach to these concepts is a critical part of our humanity. This course will examine the seven deadly sins in depth, tracing each back to its biological foundation as well as exploring how authors, artists, and filmmakers have approached each.

Required Texts¹

1. Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*. Wordsworth Classics, 1997. [DO NOT PURCHASE: supplied by Honors Program!]
2. ***Please note: Other reading assignments will also be forthcoming via handout(s) on Blackboard.***

¹ There may be times during this class, when writing exams or an in-class term paper, that students may access a course text while writing. If so, the text must be the approved, hard-copy edition; there will be no access to electronic readers during exam- or essay-writing sessions, and there will be NO EXCEPTIONS.

Student Learning Objectives

1. All Honors Students will define and apply the seminar topic to a wide variety of intellectual disciplines and perspectives (*Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding*).
2. Ignatian Honors Students will relate their seminar topic to the Laut Honors College seminar topic (*Bloom's Taxonomy Scale: Applying*).
3. Ignatian Honors Students will synthesize their analysis in a lesson plan, which they will present to the Laut Honors College students near the end of the Spring semester (*Bloom's Taxonomy: Evaluating*).

Evaluation Methods

There are no letter grades in this course. As stated in the WJU Course Catalog, honors students receive credit for work they have accomplished; they do NOT receive credit when they fail to meet the expectations for an honors student.

Honors students . . .

- Complete assigned reading before class, and are prepared to offer perspective on the ideas they have absorbed;
- Attend to (rather than merely attend) all meetings, devoting full attention to the ideas under presentation or discussion in the seminar;
- Work collaboratively and collegially with their peers both in full-class and small-group sessions;
- Submit written work as instructed: on-time, on-topic, and with a level of polish and sophistication worthy of an honors student;
- Represent the honors program appropriately to invited guests, to the campus, and to the community at large.

You will know if you are doing well in this course. I will be sure to let you know if I think you could be doing better. At any point, I want you to feel welcome to stop by my office or email me if you have questions or uncertainties.

At the Advisory-Grade periods in the Fall and Spring semester, all honors students receive an "X" to indicate the course is still in process; honors students ALSO receive an "X" at the end of the Fall semester, because the course is only halfway to completion at that point. Please do not misinterpret the "X" as a failure. Satisfactory completion of the seminar results in a "CR" at the end of the Spring semester, which is when the 3 credits are awarded. Please Note: If you have concerns about your credit-load for a given semester because of HON, please see the Honors Program Director, Prof. Whitehead. Honors students are never charged for the HON seminar as long as they carry no more than 18 credits other than HON.

Freshmen/Sophomore Capstone Project:

You are required to craft a 6-10-page double-spaced essay, with appropriate documentation of external sources where relevant, in which you reflect upon these questions:

- What, exactly, qualifies someone as a killer or murderer? Defend your answer.
- What is/are the most dangerous "killers" in 21st-century culture? Defend your choice(s).
- Why do you think human are so fascinated with murder and death? What does this fascination reveal about human nature?

In writing your essay, be sure to:

- Reflect on the intellectual contexts provided by several (at least five) of the units we've discussed together in seminar meetings during the course of the year. Feel free to make references to ideas

drawn from class presentations/discussions, to our shared readings, and to the films we watch together.

Junior/Senior Capstone Project:

Juniors and seniors will complete additional assignment related to Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, which we discussed briefly at the end of the fall 2018 semester. Small groups will compose a presentation that explores one specific way in which contemporary culture in the 20th or 21st century has interacted with Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. HONR 301-401 students should connect their presentation directly to one or both of the course topics ("Killers Among Us" and "Seven Deadly Sins").

IMPORTANT: ALL LHC students, HONR 101 through 401, are required to read *Dracula*. The HONR 301-401 students will have additional responsibility with respect to the aforementioned presentation.

Additional Responsibilities for IHS (Junior/Senior) Students:

Juniors and Seniors: your contract outlines several additional responsibilities, which include:

1. At least **one evening of activity planned for the Laut Honors College students**, related to the IHS topic and, as possible, to the LHC topic;
2. A service-learning experience, with the Laut Honors College students, related to either the IHS topic or the LHC topic;
3. **A research project on the seminar's theme (whenever possible, connected to the student's discipline), to be presented at WJU's annual Undergraduate Research Symposium**, which IHS students must undertake in one of their two years in the IHS (students are, of course, welcome and encouraged to perform a research project each year if they so choose), and which may either be proposed, prepared, and presented individually or in partnership with another honors student.

Course Expectations

Attendance:

1. ***You are permitted to miss up to two class meetings each semester for any reason***, and you don't need an excuse. (You are, of course, responsible for everything you've missed, and you must be in touch IN ADVANCE with the seminar mentor to alert him or her to your absence and to make up work!) Your fifth absence for the academic year will automatically result in your forfeiting your place in the Honors Program, so please be diligent in conserving your cuts. You will receive a warning from me if you miss a second class during a semester. I won't make exceptions no matter how good you think your reasons are: if you're not here, you're ABSENT. Athletes, please figure out your schedules ahead of time so that you do not jeopardize your standing in this course. If you anticipate that you have a legitimate exception, please see me AND the Honors Program Director, Prof. Whitehead.
2. ***You need to be here on time and be alert***. Therefore, there are ways to be counted absent even when you're physically here. The announced time for this class to start is 7:00 P.M., but to facilitate those who volunteer with the H.E.S.S. Program, we will begin class at 7:15 P.M. Chronic lateness is rude to everyone in the class, not just me and our invited guests. It creates a distraction that I will tolerate once but not again. The second time you are late (and any times thereafter), you will be considered absent for that class (I still recommend you coming to class if

you are late, because it's worse simply to miss what we discuss). When late, take a seat with a minimum of fuss – do not interrupt with explanations for your lateness or lobby for extenuating circumstances. If you have a legitimate reason why you expect to be late to a future class, contact me ahead of time.

3. **Alertness in class is true presence: listen, ask questions, and add to discussion.** This is where you establish your identity as an honors student. Not all students manifest their attention in the same ways. There are very quiet, attentive students, and there are very loquacious, attentive students. There is a place for you in the seminar wherever you fit on the spectrum between quiet and loquacious. Make your presence felt; your professors are just as aware of good listening as they are good contributing. That said, it would be an act of generosity if you could find a way to offer your unique perspective at some point during a discussion. Please note: If I ever need to remind you more than once to stop non-classroom conversation or other distracting behavior (doing work for other classes, surfing the web, etc.), I will consider you absent. To be present, truly present, in any college class is more than being physically here. To be present, particularly as an honors student, is to be intellectually engaged in our shared seminar project.

Email: An official WJU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this WJU email address. In your emails, include a salutation, maintain a professional and respectful tone, use appropriate diction, and sign your name.

CELLULAR PHONES: Out of respect for your instructor and fellow students, turn your cellular phone (and all electronic devices) **off**—not on “silent” or “vibrate”—for the duration of the class. Moreover, I expect you to put your phone away in your backpack/purse—not on your desk, in your lap, on the floor, etc.—for the duration of the class. I will give you one warning; after that, I will mark you absent for the day.

Last Date to Drop the Course: The last day of the Add/Drop Period for this semester is Friday, January 11th, 2019. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of a W is Tuesday, March 26th, 2019.

Blackboard

We will be using Blackboard during this course: <https://wju.blackboard.com/>. I will post pertinent course documents, announcements, and other helpful information on the site. Please visit Bb regularly before each class period. Although there are two separate Bb courses for HONR, I have merged the two courses into one course. In other words, everyone has access to HONR 101-01: Freshman Honors Seminar, which is the Bb site that all students in this course are to use.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity means giving credit where credit is due in an academic setting. A violation of academic integrity at Wheeling Jesuit University can fall under one of two categories:

1. It is unethical to present as your own work the ideas, representations, or work of another.
2. It is unethical to permit someone else to present your ideas, representations, or work as his/her own intellectual property.

Students are advised that WJU's Academic Integrity Policy will strictly be enforced in this course (see www.wju.edu/studenthandbook). Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of the

Academic Vice-President. The sanctions that may be imposed upon finding that a violation of academic integrity has occurred range from a reduction in grade on the assignment to dismissal from Wheeling Jesuit University without expectation of re-admission. If you are ever unsure about whether you have properly credited a source, please contact me before submitting the assignment.

Disability Services

Wheeling Jesuit University offers students with documented disabilities individual accommodations on a case-by case basis with confidentiality in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In order to receive academic or physical accommodations, students with disabilities must provide current (within three years) and comprehensive documentation concerning the nature and extent of the disability and communicate their needs to the Disability Services Director, located in Ignatius Hall Room G24 (phone number: 304-243-4484). Students are required to meet with the director to develop accommodation plans that they will present to their course instructors at the beginning of each semester. Students with disabilities that require specific housing accommodations must contact both the Director of Residence Life and the Disability Services Director.

Ultimately, all students with disabilities are responsible for their own academic achievement. They must attend classes, complete course assignments, and fulfill all university requirements for their chosen field of study. It is up to students with disabilities to seek out available assistance on campus and to utilize individualized accommodations that promote academic success.

The Academic Resource Center:

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) is a totally free academic-support service available to all enrolled Wheeling Jesuit University students and staffed almost exclusively by WJU students recommended for employment by WJU faculty. The ARC is located in Bishop Hodges Library and is open five days a week (Sundays 6:00-8:00 p.m.; Mondays-Thursdays 1:00-9:00 p.m.). Please visit the ARC's website (readily accessible on the Cardinal homepage under "Quick Links" or as the first listing under "Student Services") to learn about the ARC's services (emphasizing writing, math, and the sciences) and to schedule appointments.

Title IX Statement:

Wheeling Jesuit University seeks to provide an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual harassment, misconduct, or assault we encourage you to report this. If you report this to a faculty member, she or he must notify our college's Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). For more information about your options at WJU, please go to <http://wju.edu/titleix/>.

HONR 101-401 Tentative Schedule of Assignments
Dr. Phillips | Spring 2019²

Wed. 9 January	Introduction to course themes After-Meeting for rising seniors only to decide on mentor/topic for FA2019
Fri., 11 January	Approval of Research Symposium Topics (HONR 301-401 ONLY)
Wed., 16 January	An Overview of Victorian Culture: Why Vampires? <i>Dracula</i> , Chapters 1-10 Assignment of Group Projects for <i>Dracula</i> (HONR 301-401)
Wed. 23 January	Vampires as Killers <i>Dracula</i> , Chapters 11-19
Wed., 30 January	Seven Deadly Sins...and Vampires <i>Dracula</i> , Chapters 20-27
Fri., 25 January	Approval of Rough Abstract for Research Symposium (HONR 301-401 ONLY)
Fri., 1 February	Deadline for Research Symposium Abstracts (HONR 301-401 ONLY)
Wed., 6 February	HONR 301-401 Group Presentations on <i>Dracula</i>
Wed., 13 February	Killers/Seven Deadly Sins in the Animal Kingdom Dr. Ken Rastall, Associate Professor of Biology HONR 301-401 Discussion about IHS Special Projects
Wed., 20 February	The Seven Deadly Sins Dr. Andrew Staron, Assistant Professor of Theology
Wed., 27 February	Drugs as Killer Dr. Dan Weimer, Associate Professor of History
Wed., 6 March	NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK!
Wed., 13 March	Genocide!!! Dr. Jeff Rutherford, Associate Professor of History
Wed., 20 March	HONR 301-401 Final Planning for IHS Special Projects
Wed., 27 March – Wed., 17 April	Window for IHS Special Projects (service project, “Laut Nite”)
Wed., 24 April	Closing Meeting (all HONR sections) Rising juniors and seniors meet with new mentor (FA2019)

² Schedule subject to change. The reading and writing assignments are to be completed **prior to class on the date listed** in the left-hand column.