HONORS PROGRAM

The honors program at Fordham College at Lincoln Center is an opportunity for talented and motivated students to explore many areas of learning in a small intellectual community of student scholars and faculty. The program is limited to approximately 16 students in each year and is directed by a faculty member who stays with each class through their four years. The honors program gives students a solid grounding in the major academic disciplines, and then prepares the student for independent learning and research, culminating in a senior thesis or project.

Students are selected for invitations to the honors program in the spring before their freshman year. On rare occasions students are admitted to the program in the middle of their freshman year or at the beginning of their sophomore year. The honors curriculum replaces the regular Core Curriculum of the college with a series of intensive seminars. A dedicated honors seminar room on the ninth floor of the Lowenstein Building is available for honors classes and other activities. Students enrolled in the honors program gather outside of class for occasional dinners, visits to museums and libraries, and theatre trips.

For more information
Visit the Lincoln Center Honors Program web page.

Requirements

Program Requirements

During the first year the honors student takes four honors seminars (two each semester) in philosophy, English, theology, and history. In addition students take a year of a lab science (e.g., Natural Science I and II with Natural Science Lab I and II or General Biology I and II and General Biology Lab I and II) or mathematics at the level of calculus or higher. Freshmen also take a year of a modern or classical language at the intermediate level or higher. (If a student starts a new language, four semesters will be required.) The course of study is rounded out with a fifth course each semester chosen by the student; it may be an elective course or the beginning of a major course of study. Freshmen also take instruction in composition and public speaking.

In sophomore year honors students have more choice in their schedule. Each semester they take two interrelated honors courses. The other six courses taken in sophomore year are chosen by the student in consultation with the class adviser.

In the junior year, the student’s primary focus is on the major course of study, but students also complete an honors course from among the following options:

- They may elect to study abroad in a program approved by the honors committee.
- They may complete a tutorial designed by the student and one or more faculty and approved by the committee.
- They may arrange a special internship/tutorial (e.g., work with an artist, writer, or scientist, with directed academic readings), approved by the committee.
- They may undertake a yearlong directed reading course (outside the student’s major) with written and oral examinations, approved by the committee.

In addition, juniors-in-residence will participate in the organization of cocurricular forums designed to enhance the intellectual experience of participants in the honors program at all levels. In the senior year, honors students will participate with their peers in the Honors Senior Values Seminar. Finally, to receive honors, a student will have to show the committee that he/she has successfully completed a thesis or the equivalent (i.e., completed a special scientific research project or artistic project) in the major. Departments will be encouraged to conduct a public thesis examination for honors students in the honors program meeting room.

Courses

HPLC 1001. HONORS PHILOSOPHY. (3 Credits)
Borrowing the Thomistic idea of philosophy as a perennial discourse, the honors philosophy course encourages seminar participants to cultivate their own intellectual grounds through the study of classic and contemporary philosophical works. Topics may include the nature of philosophical discourse, of consciousness, of knowledge, of existence, and of human nature.

HPLC 1011. HONORS: SPEECH AND RHETORIC I. (1 Credit)
1 credit lab session in effective speaking techniques to be combined with the honors core.

HPLC 1201. HONORS: ENGLISH. (3 Credits)
Beginning with the premise that works of literature and criticism constitute an ongoing dialogue that shapes and is shaped by historical, cultural, and aesthetic movements, seminar participants will be encouraged to develop their own voices in that literary dialogue.

HPLC 1401. HONORS: THEOLOGY. (3 Credits)
Introduces students to the issues and methodologies of theology, providing a foundation for the exploration of religious traditions from various perspectives while focusing on the common and varying approaches of those traditions. Ethical, social, and political impacts of religion, along with major historical figures and periods in the history of religion, will be incorporated. Attribute: REST.

HPLC 1501. HONORS: ART HISTORY. (3 Credits)
Selected topics in art history within an urban context. 

HPLC 1603. HONORS: NATURAL SCIENCE I. (4 Credits)
First semester or a two-semester laboratory science course open to Fordham’s strongest students who have not declared a science major. This interdisciplinary course emphasizes problem solving and analysis of classic experiments to explore the interrelationships of chemistry, biology, and physics in advancing our understanding of the principles that govern the natural world. The first semester focuses on two major themes: the interaction of matter and energy and the processing of information and logic by biological systems. The second semester applies the concepts from the first semester to analyze the origin and functioning of complex systems ranging from the early cosmos to the human brain. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

Updated: 11-15-2017
HPLC 1604. HONORS: NATURAL SCIENCE II. (4 Credits)
Second semester of a two-semester laboratory science course open to Fordham's strongest students who have not declared a science major. This interdisciplinary course emphasizes problem solving and analysis of classic experiments to explore the interrelationships of chemistry, biology, and physics in advancing our understanding of the principles that govern the natural world. The first semester focuses on two major themes: the interaction of matter and energy and the processing of information and logic by biological systems. The second semester applies the concepts from the first semester to analyze the origin and functioning of complex systems ranging from the early cosmos to the human brain. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

HPLC 1801. HONORS: HISTORY. (3 Credits)
Study of the Western cultural tradition from the Enlightenment to the Postmodern era by focusing on the quest for modernity. Course work will focus on the philosophical debates, the search for utopia, the role of the avant-garde, and the cultural tensions that make up the Western experience.

HPLC 1811. HONORS: WRITING INTENSIVE. (2 Credits)
One credit course to be offered in conjunction with the freshman honors seminar that does not offer Honors English.

HPLC 1999. TUTORIAL. (1 Credit)

HPLC 2211. URBANISM: NEOLITHIC TO N.Y.. (3 Credits)
Survey, via a series of in-depth case studies, of major moments of urbanistic development. Organized chronologically, it considers individual cities and the broader problems they address, such as changing architectural forms, demographic shifts, urban infrastructure, politics, religion, and memory.

HPLC 2610. GLOBALIZATION: SEMINAR. (3 Credits)
This course will introduce you to a comprehensive set of frameworks for the understanding and analysis of globalization understood as a process of global system formation. It provides you with the ability to survey and understand the wide variety of information regarding the historical development of globalization and prepares the student to assess the possibilities for the global future and its impact on our lives.

HPLC 2803. HONORS: TRENDS IN NYC. (3 Credits)
Analysis of topics illustrating the development over time of New York City's populace, governance, economy and social and cultural organization.

HPLC 2811. HONORS SACRED TEXTS. (3 Credits)
Through a selection of primary works from ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Israel, the New Testament, the Talmud, The Qur'an, and early Muslim writings, students will reflect on the social, historical, and theological contexts in which each writing emerged. Primary emphasis will be placed on the similar yet different ways humans construct themselves and their worlds in relation to the sacred.

HPLC 2999. TUTORIAL. (2 Credits)
Supervised individual project designed by the student in concert with one or more members of the faculty. Each course must be approved by the Honors Committee.

HPLC 3015. HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA. (4 Credits)
Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

HPLC 3515. REVOLUTION. (4 Credits)
Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

HPLC 3800. INTERNSHIP. (3 Credits)

HPLC 3970. LINCOLN: DEMOCRATIC VALUES. (4 Credits)
Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

HPLC 3999. TUTORIAL. (3 Credits)

HPLC 4050. HONORS: SENIOR VALUES SEMINAR. (4 Credits)
Using mostly recent scholarship in philosophy and politics, this class will focus on the history and basis for human rights, and in particular the question of whether we can justify the claim that there are universal basic rights: (1) Are universal rights consistent with a wide array of varying cultures and ways of life? (2) Are concepts of rights somehow inherently "western" or "individualist," or can relativist doubts about human rights be answered? We will relate the growth of rights law in international treaties to related issues in just war theory, including controversial questions about humanitarian intervention and ongoing transitions to democracy in parts of the developing world. We will also focus on the practical question of how the international order could be restructured if we take seriously the idea that there are universal basic rights to freedom from tyranny and to development out of poverty. Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

HPLC 4500. THESIS WORKSHOP. (3 Credits)
This course is for seniors in the FCLC Honors program. Participants will workshop thesis drafts and work on presentation skills for both the research showcase and the Honors Program presentation.

HPLC 4800. INTERNSHIP. (4 Credits)
Combines work with an artist, writer, scientist, or other expert with directed series of academic readings relevant to that experience. (Each course must be approved by the Honors Committee.) Four-credit courses that meet for 150 minutes per week require three additional hours of class preparation per week on the part of the student in lieu of an additional hour of formal instruction.

HPLC 4888. HONORS: INTERNSHIP. (3 Credits)
Combines work with an artist, writer, scientist, or other expert with directed series of academic readings relevant to that experience. (Each course must be approved by the Honors Committee.)

HPLC 4999. HONORS TUTORIAL. (4 Credits)
Supervised individual project designed by the student in concert with one or more members of the faculty. (Each course must be approved by the Honors Committee.)