



Summer Honors Institute

July 7-13, 2019

Course Descriptions

Honors Core Course

Every student will participate in the Core Course each morning.

Religion, Animals and the Environment

Dr. Frances Flannery (Department Head, Philosophy and Religion)

Dr. Wren River Stevens (Director, Madison Art Collection)

What can the attitudes towards non-human animals in ancient religions tell us about our own relationships with animals and the environment? In this Summer Honors Institute core class we'll examine the religions of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, Rome, and China. We'll discover a variety of ways that religious texts and artifacts reveal human attitudes towards the natural world and our perceived rights to control it. Together, we'll explore our own assumptions about non-human animals, potentially revealing more about us than about other species.

Subject Area Courses

Offered twice each day during the week for 90-minutes. Students will choose a selection of classes that fit their interests and goals.

Philosophy – Critical Thinking

Dr. Mark Piper

This class is designed to help students become better critical thinkers. Students learn about the nature and purpose of arguments, how to critically assess them, and how to identify flawed forms of persuasion. Students will also have an opportunity to subject parts of their own belief system to critical scrutiny during the course of the class.

Health Sciences – Sexuality and College

Dr. Katherine Ott Walter

This session will introduce students to sexual health, safer sex, and healthy relationships in college.

Theater – Ensemble-based Storytelling: Actors and Directors in Collaboration

Dr. Kate Arecchi

In this hands-on workshop students will start with ensemble building exercises, move on to partnering, and improvisational exploration, and ultimately work collaboratively as a group to create a short theatrical presentation based on a picture using an open scene text. Come dressed to move comfortably, and bring your imagination, and collaborative spirit!

Hospitality Management – Event Planning 101

Professor Theresa Lind

You have a great idea for an event, festival or meeting--but where do you start? What does it actually mean to organize an event for 30 people? Let alone 300 or even 3,000 people. What does an event planner do? Welcome to the workshop *Event Planning 101*. Event planning is an exhilarating, lucrative, rewarding, and fast-paced career choice; however, it is not for everyone. This workshop will give you a great basic understanding of event planning. It will also give you the fundamentals to start thinking about the Hospitality field and event planning as a rewarding, challenging and often fun-filled career. By the end of this workshop you will know what event planning is and all the amazing career opportunities available within the Hospitality industry!

School of Music – Musical Theatre Performance

Professor Scott Zane Smith

A study of several composers throughout musical theatre history and discover of proper vocal techniques required in performance.



Summer Honors Institute

July 7-13, 2019

Course Descriptions

Economics – *Money, Debt, and Higher Education*

Dr. Andre Neveu

Debt plays an important role in our modern economy. Have you ever wondered how money came about or what it means? Is our government on the edge of bankruptcy? Does one always have to repay their debts? We will explore these questions and more in this short-form course designed to introduce you to the concepts of money, banking, and credit. These ideas will be applied to a short advocacy exercise related to higher education, tuition, and student loan debt. While you can probably see how money and debt play an obvious and important role in economics and finance, they also play a key role in the study of politics, psychology, literature, and art. We invite you to come learn a little about how money and finance affect your world.

Psychology – *The Biopsychology of Deceit*

Dr. Melanie Shoup-Knox

Do polygraphs really work? What are they testing anyways? In this session you will have the opportunity to witness digital detection of concealed information using modern physiology equipment. We will discuss the meaning of these measurements, the psychology of lying and concealing information, other ways psychologists attempt to detect lies, and ways in which liars attempt to conceal information.

Neurobiology—*How Do Neurons in the Brain Communicate?*

Dr. Corey Cleland

This class will explore how neurons, the cells of the brain, communicate with each other. Through comparison to digital electronics, students will learn how brains can process sensory information rapidly and effectively. The central activities will be conducting experiments on human muscle (yours!) and cockroach legs where students will see and hear actual action potentials, which are the digital messages neurons use to communicate.

Nursing – *Exploring Hypertension and Diabetes in East Africa: Views from Undergraduate Nursing Students*

Dr. Betsy Herron

It is well publicized that communicable diseases such as HIV are prevalent in Africa. However, recently, non-communicable diseases such as high blood pressure and diabetes have been on the rise. In May of 2019, a group of nursing students traveled with the JMU Study Abroad program to East Africa to explore how high blood pressure and diabetes are affecting the population and to screen local communities for the presence of these health conditions. This presentation will review the students' study abroad experience, how they viewed working in this area of the world, and how the experience will influence their future nursing practice.

Sport Management – *Sport and Recreation Management: More than Pro Sports and Public Parks*

Dr. Emeka Anaza

This class will introduce students to successful careers in sport and recreation professions within government, voluntary, private, public, and commercial settings. Like any industry, there's a lot behind the scenes, but unlike other industries, sport and recreation draws a crowd and positively improves communities. Students will learn about factors that make sports and recreation unique, as well as why these industries make for a fulfilling career.

Physics – *Physics and Baseball*

Dr. Chris Hughes



Summer Honors Institute

July 7-13, 2019

Course Descriptions

Math – *Using Math to Rig Elections*

Dr. Edwin O'Shea

Ever wondered about how each state gets assigned its number of seats in the House of Representatives? Or about "gerrymandering" and what it means for fairness in democracy? Or are you perplexed at the claim that "every vote counts" when most House elections are non-competitive? Starting with a retracing of a dispute between Washington, Jefferson, and Hamilton, this course/workshop will explore the mathematics, politics, and geography behind these questions.

Political Science – *Religion and Politics*

Dr. Martin Cohen

They say religion and politics are two things you don't discuss in polite company. Well, I teach a whole class on them and today we will explore the two subjects with a specific focus on the Free Exercise Clause which can be found in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. It is the second part of the following: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Through a combination of lecture, group discussion, and group presentations we will tackle this thorny aspect of American jurisprudence.

School of Communication Studies – *Building White Identities that Disrupt White Supremacy*

Dr. Jennifer Peeks Mease

What does it mean to be a white person in a society where our history is riddled with white people who have legally sanctioned horrid treatment of People of Color? Moreover, People of Color continue to experience systematic inequality and violence even though most white people don't want it to be that way. In this class, we'll think through these questions and imagine what kind of white identities (and the corollary behaviors, commitments, and self-understandings) are needed in today's social context in order to disrupt racism and white supremacy.

Computer Science – *Hour of Code with Python*

Dr. Chris Mayfield

Discover a new world of creativity and fun with computer programming. Using Python code, you and a partner will program Finch robots to do a dance, avoid obstacles, and react to light. We will sharpen your problem-solving skills and introduce you to the basic building blocks of computing. Come see why Python is the most popular language for teaching introductory computer science at top-ranked universities. No experience necessary...anyone can learn!

Computer Information Systems and Business

Analytics – Games People Play: An Introduction to Game Theory

Dr. Scott Stevens

How can you get what *you* want when everyone else is busy trying to get what *they* want? Finding answers to that question is what game theory is all about. In this session we'll analyze several classic games that come up repeatedly in daily life, from dating to doing the dishes, and see what game theory says about how they should be played. We'll play games ourselves, too, and the results might reveal some surprising things about you, the people you deal with, and how we can find a better way to play.

Biotechnology – Viral Discovery

Dr. Stephanie Stockwell

Viral Discovery is a course-embedded research opportunity for JMU students of all levels and majors. This two-part Honors Institute course will give you a taste of this program by allowing you to try your hand at isolating a brand new virus from a soil sample that you provide. You will grow mixed and pure microbial cultures, set-up infections, and analyze REAL scientific results. *Please come to the first session with 1-2 tablespoons of soil in a Ziploc bag collected using a clean utensil from anywhere on or off campus. Close-toed shoes are also required.*