



# HONORS COLLEGE

## Spring 2025 Seminar List

### Spring Seminars

**HONR 3342.01: The Word - Money (CRN 20303)****W 3:00 PM - 5:50 PM****R. Milner**

Unlock your financial potential with our comprehensive Honors Money Management course! This program covers essential skills including effective budgeting, smart car buying strategies, and savvy stock investing. Learn how to navigate the mortgage process and master the art of salary negotiation. Designed to empower you with practical knowledge and real-world applications, this course will equip you with the tools to make informed financial decisions and achieve your goals. We will bring in subject matter experts to create engaging discussions on many of these topics. Join us and take the first step towards financial confidence and success!

**HONR 3342.02: The Word- Sam Houston (CRN 26166)****M 2:00 PM - 4:50 PM****R. Lewis****“Sam Houston: the Man, the Myth, the Legacy”****Sam Houston Museum**

Sam Houston is not only a Texas hero, but he also played a large role on the national stage. This course will explore Sam Houston in the realms of politics and sectionalism, interpersonal relationships, diversity and racial matters, and maintaining personal integrity in difficult times. Students will also learn practical methods of presenting historical information through diverse viewpoints in a museum setting. Students will have the opportunity to engage in historical interpretation in a public venue as well as to conduct research utilizing primary documents and artifacts.

**M. Denham,  
K. Gragert,  
R. Norris****HONR 3342.03: The Word - Fantasy (CRN 25216)****W 12:00 PM - 2:50 PM**

For centuries, people have been captivated by tales of questing knights, fair ladies, and magical encounters; moreover, such settings and characters have served as fertile ground for cautionary tales and rich, societal commentary. Despite being separated by centuries, modern writers (and their listening and reading audiences) still grapple with philosophical and political questions under the guise of fantasy. What is it that makes the Fantasy genre ripe for critical societal commentary? In this course, we take a critical lens to modern Fantasy juggernauts: Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, and Harry Potter, and consider why these fantasy worlds have taken hold of our collective consciousness.

**HONR 3342.04: The Word - Backpacking (CRN 26147)****R 3:00 PM- 5:50 PM****E. McClellan**

Learn the basics of hiking and backpacking and prepare to explore the backcountry. This seminar will teach students how to safely and effectively plan for long-distance hikes and backpacking trips. We will discuss the physical and mental training necessary for long hikes, learn how to stay safe in the backcountry, examine various backpacking gear (from the “big 3” to cool gadgets and luxury items), learn the proper techniques for packing and carrying a backpack, examine ways to pack light, and practice cooking scrumptious backpacking meals. We will also explore some of the most iconic long-distance trails in the country - virtually, of course, but in the hopes that one day students will embark on their own adventure on some of those trails. This seminar will be a great first step in what will hopefully become a lifelong love of hiking and backpacking , which really is the best way to see and experience the beauty of this world.

**HONR 3365.01: Decision Making (CRN 26145)****T 11:00 AM - 1:50 PM****S. Koether**

In today’s complex world, the ability to make effective decisions is paramount. From selecting political representatives, heeding medical advice, or even choosing a meal, decisions have an impact, both large and small. This course delves into the intricate mechanisms and constraints behind decision-making and why even the brightest minds can sometimes arrive at incorrect conclusions. Students will cultivate a nuanced understanding of decision-making processes through interactive lectures, engaging discussions, and hands-on exercises. By exploring the interplay of worldview, bias, group dynamics, logic, and reason, participants will emerge equipped to navigate the complexities of decision-making with heightened awareness and discernment.

**M. Castanon,****HONR 3375.01: Emotional Insight (CRN 26146)****R 4:00 PM - 6:50 PM****S. Stokes**

In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, understanding and managing emotions—both our own and those of others—is crucial for success and fulfillment. This course delves into the transformative power of emotional insight, exploring how it can drive personal and professional growth. Students will examine theories and practices from psychology, neuroscience, and leadership studies through an interdisciplinary approach to develop a nuanced understanding of emotional intelligence. Key topics include emotional awareness and regulation, empathy and social skills, and conflict resolution. Students will engage in interactive discussions and reflective exercises to enhance their emotional competencies.