HONR 120 Section Topics – Autumn 2015

INTRODUCTION TO HONORS (HONR 120)—1 cr.

This class is required for all freshmen DHC students. Students must enroll for autumn semester since it is not offered spring semester. Introduction to Honors (HONR 120) is a one-credit required course that provides Honors students with a common first-semester experience. The course is designed to emphasize the essentials of a liberal arts education including critical thinking, reading, writing, and speaking, as well as ethical reflection. The course also develops a sense of community and introduces students to the cultural activities available in Missoula and surrounding communities. Course requirements include reading the First-Year Reading Experience book, writing assignments, and a community service activity. Each section is organized around a specific theme, as described below.

As seating allows, students may select one of the following sections to meet their HONR 120 requirement:

• Sec. 80 Elizabeth Putnam – Presidential Leadership Seminar. Section 80 is open to Presidential Leadership Scholars only. This seminar will engage students in the pursuit of academic excellence, public service, and leadership skills. We will investigate the practical and ethical dimensions of civic leadership, using critical analysis of case studies to frame the discussion. The seminar will promote the development of critical thinking and ethical reflection through participation in small-group discussions, community service projects, and outdoor leadership activities.

• Sec. 81 Colleen Kane – Social Capital and Civic Engagement. Do our social connections make us more effective as people? What makes a strong community? This class will explore the concepts of citizenship, community, volunteerism, and social capital through a series of short readings, discussion, community service, and reflection.

• Sec. 82 Laure Pengelly Drake – Individual and Community. Students who want to be actively engaged in the extra-curricular intellectual, cultural, and political life of the campus and community will receive challenge, direction, and support for that engagement in this course. Because we will study both the historical and the contemporary theory and practice of the universally significant theme of individual and community relationships, this course can also provide an entry point for students interested in applying for competitive national scholarships.

• Sec. 83 Nathalie Wolfram – Live from Missoula. In the age of YouTube and Facebook, what does it mean to be “live”? What happens to a “live” event like a concert, a football game, or an academic lecture when it passes through digital media? In this course, we will explore the evolving concept of liveness through performances, exhibits, lectures, and civic engagement on campus and in the Missoula community.
• Sec. 84 Garry Kerr – **Celebrate Cultural Diversity.** This class is an exploration of self and community. As individuals you will find a member of a different language group for an interview and then present to the class. We will celebrate cultural diversity as well as view how cultures collide.

• Sec. 85 Mark Reiser – **Connection to the Cosmos.** How old is the universe? Where does the material in our bodies come from? Is space curved? Is there life beyond Earth? The field of astronomy has eagerly addressed each of these questions, and is still seeking to deepen our understanding of their answers. As our exploration of the cosmos has evolved, so too has our understanding of who we are as people. Join us for a tour of astronomy’s most stunning discoveries, and engage in lively discussions on how they shape our view of what it means to be human.

• Sec. 86 Eva Rocke – **Sustainability on Campus.** The University of Montana has a strong institutional commitment to sustainability. However, like hundreds of universities around the country, UM must grapple with what it means for a university to be “sustainable” while seeking perpetual growth. Together we will consider the myriad ways this word is interpreted, how UM has historically defined and pursued sustainability, and where we might find consensus on the word’s meaning and its application on our campus. Students will engage in hands-on projects that promote a vibrant and resource-efficient campus culture.

• Sec. 87 John Lund – **Finding Your Path.** There are many choices and options. How do you choose what is right for you? This class will take the time to self-reflect and ask the harder questions about our own life goals, dreams and directions.

• Sec. 88 Nicky Phear – [Topic TBA]

• Sec. 89 Jim Sears – **Missoula as Place.** This introductory geology course will focus on the origins of the Missoula landscape. We will take numerous nature walks along the rivers, creeks, hills, and mountains surrounding our unique campus. Our journey will cover more than four billion years, from the origins of the planet to the ice age floods. Bring a jacket, a camera, a notebook, and lots of imagination.

• Sec. 89D Frank Rosenzweig – **Astrobiology.** [Description TBA]