

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

University Honors Program

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October 10, 2016

To: All University Faculty

From: Matthew Britzter-Stull, 
Professor of Music Theory and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education
Director, University Honors Program

Re: Call for proposals of Honors Seminars for 2017–2018

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to invite you to contribute to the University Honors Program's curriculum for the academic year 2017–18. Specifically, I ask that you consider teaching an **Honors Seminar** in your area of expertise. If you enjoy teaching fully engaged students in an interactive environment, experimenting with a variety of instructional styles (for example, consider team-teaching with a colleague), and shaping the minds of our University's best and brightest undergraduates, you will doubtless find teaching an Honors Seminar (HSEM) to be a richly rewarding experience.

The campus-wide University Honors Program (UHP) aims to provide a challenging and engaging undergraduate experience—an experience rich with a diversity of disciplines, topics, and viewpoints—to its outstanding students. (See the [UHP website](#) for a list of Honors Seminars offered in 2016–17.) HSEMs are offered for *two or three credits*, and usually *without specific course prerequisites* (although appropriate proficiencies can be expected of the students). HSEM enrollment is typically limited to no more than 20 students. Introductory-yet-comprehensive HSEMs may be taught at the 2xxx level for freshmen and sophomores students; these courses often focus on innovative ideas and topical issues addressing the technical, economic, societal, cultural, and ethical aspects of the human experience and the world we inhabit in the 21st century. HSEMs at the 3xxx level are more often aimed at juniors and seniors and may address complex themes through advanced reading, writing, and critical thinking.

Planning for an Honors Seminar should be done in consultation with your department chair or colleagues responsible for your department's undergraduate curriculum. The University Honors Program has set aside some funds for the development of a limited number of HSEMs from departments for which this would be a new initiative. While Honors Seminars carry the HSEM designator specific to UHP (i.e., not attached to any given college), tuition revenues from Honors Seminars will be returned to the offering unit or college. If you are non-teaching faculty, a per-credit payment will be arranged.

I hope you will give careful consideration to offering an Honors Seminar next year, especially if you have some flexibility in your teaching duties. If you have taught an HSEM in a previous semester and wish to offer it again, please resubmit the course through this year's process.

Do not hesitate to contact me at mpbs@umn.edu with any questions you may have about the program or about preparing a seminar proposal. To propose an Honors Seminar, please complete the [Honors Seminar Proposal form](#). If you have questions about the proposal process, please contact UHP's Associate Director, Pamela Baker, at p-bake@umn.edu. We ask that proposals be submitted by November 23, 2016 if at all possible. If you are interested but unable to complete the proposal form within this time frame, do email us to let us know; proposals submitted after November 23 will be considered until projected targets are met.

Thank you very much for contributing to the University Honors Program curriculum!



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