

University Honors Committee Annual Report 2022-2023

The University Honors Committee met twice during the 2022-2023 academic year: March 9 and April 12. Below is a summary of the committees' actions.

The committee met on March 9 to select the Honors Undergraduate Thesis Award recipients for Founder's Day.

Social Sciences/Business/ Education: Ai'cha Camara (International and Global Studies); Thesis Chair: Dr. Myunghye Kim; Thesis: Shift or Stagnation: Analyzing Changing Japanese Attitudes Towards Various Minorities

Engineering and Technology: Kasey Rigby (Biomedical Sciences); Thesis Chair: Dr. Kausik Mukhopadhyay; Thesis: Novel Microbe-Resistant Clay Dressing for Healing Burn Wounds

Arts, Humanities and Creative Inquiry: Mel Turnage (Film); Thesis Chair: Prof. Betsy Kalin; Thesis: TRANSCINEMATHEQUE: Defining Cinematic Language in the Trans New Wave

Health/ Natural Sciences: Rowan Hassan (Biology); Thesis chair: Dr. Suren Tatulian; Thesis: Structure of Unmodified Pyroglutamylated Amyloid Beta Peptide in Lipid Membranes

The committee met on April 12 to review and approve Honors seminar proposals. The following seminar was approved by the UHC, and it will be forwarded to the department, college and university curriculum review committees for their approval.

EUH/THE 3930H: Amusing and Biting: Dramatic Comedy Through the Ages
Vladimir Solonari/Julia Listengarten

The course teaches appreciation of dramatic comedy as a form of entertainment and social commentary. It exposes students to various ways comedians made their audiences laugh by engaging with anxieties, uncertainties, and cultural expectations of respective societies and by resolving dramatic tensions in a light-hearted fashion. Although widely considered a low-brow genre, classical comedy questioned established norms and hierarchies, and poked fun at powerholders and their ideologies while implying a possibility of a better and freer way of life. By learning how comedy functioned in antiquity, early modern, and modern societies, students will discover intersections between politics and culture and cultivate deeper appreciation for the arts and their compelling role in society. The course explores unfamiliar cultural contexts from multiple perspectives and helps foster a deeper thinking about contemporary popular culture in relation to classical texts. The course will enhance students' critical thinking as it will engage them in the examination of diverse cultural contexts through the interdisciplinary approach. It will sharpen their ability to interweave various historical and critical frames to produce a new knowledge on the subject of their exploration.