

HNR102HC-A, B, C, & D: Honors Forum on Faith & the Arts II

Spring 2011 1 credit hour

"Blessed is the mind which has gone beyond all things and takes unceasing delight in the divine beauty." Maximus the Confessor, Four Centuries of Love, I, 19.

Instructor

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to expose students to a broad range of fine arts experiences in order to help them understand the important roles that aesthetic spheres of expression play in a Christian liberal education. In particular, the course challenges students to ponder the unique ways that art, music, theatre, and the literary arts can illuminate the meaning and significance of human life, intellect, and the Christian faith. The intent of such learning experiences is to help students broaden their powers of critical thinking, creativity, and discernment beyond the cognitive limits typically perpetuated by the rationalistic discourses of the modern academy. Through participation in a program of fine arts events, readings, group discussions, and reflective writing, students are equipped to appreciate aesthetic pursuits as integral to lifelong learning and the cultivation of a Christian life well-lived.

HNR 102 A, B, C, and D is the second in a four-course sequence that Honors College students take to fulfill their General Education Humanities Fine Arts requirement. This course introduces students to the history and significance of the fine arts in the Middle Ages. The course is limited to Honors College students.

Learning Outcomes

Through their completion of course requirements, students should gain the following:

- A general understanding of the fine arts and the capacity to reflect critically on artistic expressions from the Middle Ages.
- A basic proficiency in assessing the meaning and value of works of art, music, drama, poetry, etc.
- A fundamental grasp of the contributions that aesthetics make to the goals of a liberal education.
- A developing comprehension of the theological significance of the fine arts and its implications for pursuing a life of "faith seeking understanding."

Requirements

In order to complete HNR 102 A, B, C, or D, each student will:

- 1. Attend class for the nine sessions that will occur.
- 2. Complete the **required readings** listed on page 2 of the syllabus. Readings must be completed **before** attending class.
- 3. Submit two discussion questions via Blackboard for the reading for which you sign up.

- 4. Complete at least five credits of elective events (see list of elective events, starting on pg. 4).
- 5. Complete a **final project.** Details for this assignment are provided at the end of the syllabus. Assignments must be turned in by **Friday**, **April 15**, at 5:00 p.m. You may choose either option.

Required Readings

The required readings must be completed by the class period indicated. Other readings may also be posted on Blackboard.

Hildegard of Bingen, Scivias, brief excerpts. Available on Blackboard.

Nichols, "Aesthetics in Augustine and Aquinas," Available on Blackboard.

St. John of Damascus, On the Divine Images. Introduction, Apology 1, and Ancient Documentation...1. Available on Blackboard.

Jim Forest, Praying with Icons, excerpts. Available on Blackboard.

Frank Burch Brown, Good Taste, Bad Taste, Christian Taste. Read chapters 3 and 4. Available at the IWU bookstore or for purchase online.

Participation and Attendance Policies

Class Sessions: Since a major part of our class is discussing the readings and art that we will encounter, only one excused absence will be allowed. After that, 4% of your final grade will be lost for each absence.

Elective Events: Participation in **five elective credits** is required. The credit value of each event is listed on pages 5-7. Students may participate in more than five credits of electives, depending upon availability. Students must choose one elective each from the performing, visual, and musical arts.

Release Form: A completed release form is required for participation in any off-campus events. Forms will be handed out during the first class meeting and are also available on Blackboard.

Cancellations: You may cancel your reservation up to two weeks before the date of the event, provided that you have a justifiable reason for canceling. You may also cancel within the two weeks leading up to the event, but you will be responsible for finding another Honors Forum student to take your place. Exceptions for emergency situations will be made on a case-by-case basis. Any questions or requests to cancel an event should be directed to honors.forum@indwes.edu.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week of 1/24, 1/25, 1/27: Chant and organum
Reading: Hildegard of Bingen, Scivias.

1/31, 2/1, 2/3: Medieval architecture

2/14, 2/15, 2/17: Early medieval art
Reading: Nichols, "Aesthetics in Augustine and Aquinas."

2/21, 2/22, 2/24: Late medieval art
Reading: John of Damascus, On the Divine Images.

2/28, 3/1, 3/3: Byzantine art and architecture

Reading: Forest, *Praying with Icons.*

3/14, 3/15, 3/17: Polyphony

3/21, 3/22, 3/24: Music just prior to the Renaissance

Reading: Brown, Chapter 3.

3/28, 3/29, 3/31: Drama

4/4, 4/5, 4/7: Final discussions Reading: Brown, Chapter 4.

How to Reserve and Confirm Elective Events

Reservations: On the left hand side of the JWHC website (jwhc.indwes.edu), select "JWHC Academics," then "Honors Forum," then "Reservation Form." Click on that link, and type in all the Forum events, on-campus and off-campus, that you would like to attend this semester. We will confirm all requests via email. All reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are willing to drive the IWU van for any of the off-campus events, please let us know in the comments box of the reservation form. Drivers will be given first priority. If a driver cannot be found for a certain event, it will be cancelled, and students will be responsible for finding other elective credits. In order to drive for a Forum event, you must be an approved IWU driver. Even if you have been approved in the past, you will need to resubmit a driver's application to be re-approved for this year. It is an easy process to become one. Email honors.forum@indwes.edu for more information.

First Date to Reserve Events: Reservations for elective events will not be accepted prior to Saturday, January 22, at 1:00 pm. Any reservations made before that time will not be accepted.

Confirmations: In order to receive credit for any elective that you have attended, you must confirm your attendance online. On the left hand side of jwhc.indwes.edu, select "JWHC Academics," then "Honors Forum," then "Confirmation Form." Click on that link, and enter the number for the event that you attended. All confirmations must be made within one week after the date of the event. If you fail to confirm within one week of the event, you will be required to write a two-page reflection paper before receiving credit for the event.

Attending a "Full" Event: If you would like to attend an event that is already full, you may still attend and receive credit, but must pay your own transportation and event costs.

How Will I Know If You Have Received My Confirmation? We use Blackboard to track your Forum elective credits. You many visit Blackboard to find out which events you have confirmed and how many electives you have completed. Please allow about two weeks after submitting your confirmation before you expect to see it posted on Blackboard.

Additional Information

Questions and Concerns: If you have any questions about your elective credits, contact Annie Brooker and Taryn Coates at honors.forum@indwes.edu. Taryn and Annie will check this account regularly, but not daily. Other questions about the course may be directed to Dr. Peeler (see pg. 1 for contact information). In case of an emergency, you may also contact Sara Scheunemann, JWHC Program Coordinator, at ext. 1799, or at sara.scheunemann@indwes.edu.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism: Any form of academic dishonesty and/or plagiarism is deemed to be a serious violation of the fabric of our character as a community. As a result, any confirmed case of academic dishonesty and/or plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course. The student is then referred to the John Wesley Honors

College Committee in order that his or her further standing in that community can be reviewed. Confirmed cases of academic dishonesty/plagiarism are also submitted to the Academic Affairs Office of the College of Arts and Sciences and are thus subject to further review.

Students with Disabilities: In an effort to meet the aspiration of its mission to develop world changers and to respect federal law, Indiana Wesleyan University provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students need to self-identify in order to be eligible for such accommodations. In partnership with faculty members and administrators, staff members in the Center for Student Success coordinate this process. Please contact Mr. Nathan Herring (Student Center 220, ext. 2257) for further assistance.

Grading

Grading Scale:					
94 -100% =	A	77 - 79.9% =	C+	Below 64% =	F
90 - 93.9% =	A-	74 - 76.9% =	С		
87 - 89.9% =	B+	70 - 73.9% =	C		
84 - 86.9% =	В	67 - 69.9% =	D+		
80 - 83.9% =	B-	64 - 66.9% =	D		
 Value for Course Requirements: Active participation in discussion sections (i.e. showing thoughtful engagement with readings and lectures) 					
Elective events				40%	

Final paper

Late Work: Each day that any work is late, a 10% deduction will be made to the grade for that item.

The Writing Center: The Writing Center is a valuable resource for the writing you will do in this class. Trained Writing Consultants will help you with any stage of the writing process, from developing your topic to polishing your final draft. They WILL NOT write or edit your papers for you, but they WILL help you recognize your weaknesses as writers and provide you with tools for strengthening your writing and editing skills. The Writing Center is located in Elder Hall, Room 222, and is open from 8:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Friday, and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. To make an appointment, go to http://www.rich17.com/indwes/, call extension 2189, or stop by the Writing Center.

30%

Spring 2011 Forum Elective Opportunities

Students are required to select at least one event from the performing, visual, and musical arts categories for a total of 5 elective credits. If an event is listed as "Musical or Performing Arts," you may count it for either category. Please indicate the category you have selected in the comments box when you confirm the event. The costs of the events are listed. This information is for students who have signed up for the event after the maximum number of students has been reached, but still wish to attend on their own. If you are signed up for an event with Honors Forum, you will NOT need to pay.

Performing Arts

1. Jungle Games and Harry & Mort (or another play TBA)

Friday, February 4, 2011, 7:30 pm

IWU, PPAC, Black Box Theater

Includes mandatory discussion in the Black Box following the performance.

Maximum Students: 15 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 2 Cost: \$6

2. The Count of Monte Cristo

Saturday, February 12, 2011, 8:00 pm (leaving at 7:00 pm)

Taylor University-Mitchell Theatre

Maximum Students: 12 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 2 Cost: \$10

**Driver Needed

3. Little Women

Friday, April 1, 2011, 7:30 pm

IWU, PPAC, Auditorium

Maximum Students: 15 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Includes mandatory discussion in the Auditorium following the performance.

Credits: 2 Cost: \$6

4. The Gospel According to James

Saturday, April 9, 2011, 4:00 pm (leaving at 1:30 pm)

Indiana Repertory Theatre

May attend with students from Intercultural Student Services

Will include dinner afterwards (cost paid by JWHC)

Maximum Students: 6 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 2

Cost: Currently unknown, but generally \$15-20 for students

**Driver Needed

^{***}Release form required for off-campus event

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5. World Lit Trilogy Plays

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, Time TBA

IWU, PPAC, Black Box Theater Maximum Students: Unlimited

Credits: 1 Cost: FREE

Performing or Musical

6. Opera Theater: The Magic Flute

Sunday, February 6, 2011, 3:00 pm (leaving at 2:00 pm)

Taylor University—Recital Hall

Maximum Students: 12 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 2 Cost: \$10

**Driver Needed

7. Wagner's Lohengrin

Monday, February 7, 2011, All day event

Chicago Lyric Opera

This trip is organized through the Music Department; Dr. Lance Peeler will also be attending and driving.

There will be a discussion/lecture included in the event.

Maximum Students: 11 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 2 Cost: \$10

Lunch will be covered by the JWHC.

*Need permission from professors to be excused from class

8. Handel's Hercules

Wednesday, March 2, 2011, All day event

This trip is organized through the Music Department; Dr. Lance Peeler will also be attending and driving.

There will be a discussion/lecture included in the event.

Maximum Students: 11 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 2 Cost: \$10

Lunch will be covered by the JWHC.

*Need permission from professors to be excused from class

***Need to complete release form through the Music Department

^{***}Release form required for off-campus event

^{***}Need to complete release form through the Music Department

9. COSÌ FAN TUTTE by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sunday, April 10, 2011, 2:00 pm (leaving at 12:30 pm)

Ball State University-Emens Auditorium

Maximum Students: 12 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 2 Cost: \$5

**Driver Needed

***Release form required for off-campus event

Visual

10. Paul Siebenthal: Recent Works

Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

IWU, Beard Arts Center

Maximum Students: Unlimited

Credits: 1 Cost: FREE

11. Senior Art Exhibits: Art Attack 2

Monday, March 14, 2011, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

IWU, Student Center

Maximum Students: Unlimited

Credits: 1 Cost: FREE

12. Tyrus Clutter: Exploring the Matrix

Monday, March 21, 2011, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

IWU, Beard Arts Center

Maximum Students: Unlimited

Credits: 1 Cost: FREE

13. Visit to Second Presbyterian Church

Thursday, February 3, 2011, 7:00 pm (departing at 5:30 pm)

Indianapolis

Dr. Lance Peeler will drive and lead a mandatory discussion with the event.

Maximum Students: 11 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 2 Cost: FREE

***Release form required for off-campus event

14. Senior Art Exhibits: Art Attack 3

Monday, April 4, 2011, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

IWU, Student Center

Maximum Students: Unlimited

Credits: 1 Cost: FREE

Musical

15. Dr. Park-Kim: Faculty Piano Recital

Friday, February 25, 2011, 7:30 pm

IWU, Baker Recital Hall

Maximum Students: Unlimited

Credits: 1 Cost: FREE

16. Marion Philharmonic Orchestra: "Spring Pops" Concert

Saturday, March 19, 2011, 7:30 pm

IWU, Phillippe Auditorium

Maximum Students: 15 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 1 Cost: \$5

17. Jazz Ensemble Concert

Monday, April 11, 2011, 7:30 pm

IWU, Phillippe Auditorium

Maximum Students: 15 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 1 Cost: \$6

18. IWU Orchestra Concert

Friday, April 15, 2011, 7:30 pm

IWU, Phillippe Auditorium

Maximum Students: Unlimited

Credits: 1 Cost: FREE

19. Organ Concert: Guest Artist Paul Jacobs

Sunday, April 17, 2011, 4:00 pm (leaving at 2:30 pm)

Ball State University, Sursa Performance Hall

Dr. Lance Peeler will drive and lead a mandatory discussion after the event.

Maximum Students: 11 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 2 Cost: FREE

^{***}Release form required for off-campus event

20. Heart of Indiana: Children's Choir Concert

Tuesday, April 19, 2011, 7:30 pm

IWU, Phillippe Auditorium

Maximum Students: 15 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 1 Cost: \$4

Lectures

21. Faculty Lecture Series: Dr. Brown and Professor Walters-The Art of Collaboration

Monday, January 24, 2011, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

IWU, Elder 143

Maximum Students: Unlimited

Credits: 1 Cost: FREE

22. Faculty Lecture Series: Dr. Smith-Protestant and Catholic View of Sunday Baseball in the Major Leagues from 1876-1934: Day Off or Play Ball?

Monday, January 31, 2011, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm

IWU, Elder 143

Maximum Students: Unlimited

Credits: 1 Cost: FREE

23. Banquet and Keynote Address at Taylor's Student Leadership Conference: Dr. James Hunter

Thursday, February 24, 2011, 5:30 pm (leaving at 4:15 pm)

Taylor University, Dining Commons Banquet Hall

Maximum Students: 12 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 1 Cost: \$15

**Driver Needed

24. Athens & Jerusalem Book Discussion: D. Stephen Long's Speaking of God

Date TBA, Time TBA

Location TBA

Maximum Students: 12 [Limited, you must reserve this event]

Credits: 2

Cost: FREE (book is provided)

^{***}Release form required for off-campus event

Final Projects

Option 1

Due date: Friday, April 15, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. Papers must be turned in on Blackboard.

Length: 6 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font

Topic

This semester, you have participated in a variety of aesthetic experiences as part of Honors Forum, from the performing to the visual to the musical arts. Pick one or two experiences that held the deepest meaning for you, and respond to some of the following prompts. Throughout your responses, be sure to refer to and draw from the works of art (performance, visual, musical, etc.) that you experienced. They are your primary sources for this topic.

- 1- Describe your one or two most meaningful aesthetic experiences in Forum, using the questions below to shape your response. It may be helpful to narrate your experience as you would if you were recording the event in a journal, including your self-reflections as they arise within the context of the story.
 - a. How did you enter into the experience? What did you expect?
 - b. Describe the work of art, the play, the musical composition, etc. What message(s) did you hear or see? What do you think the artist/playwright/composer was trying to communicate?
 - c. How did the experience (of the performance, the painting, the music, etc.) affect you intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, perhaps even physically?
 - d. Were you surprised in any way by your response? If so, how?
 - e. How did your Christian faith shape the way that you responded to the performance, music, painting, etc. and its message(s)?
- 2- What role did community have in helping you to understand your aesthetic experience more fully? For example, you may want to reflect on discussions that you participated in as a part of your Forum experiences or perhaps those that you had informally with others, before and after the event.
- 3- What insights did you gain through these experiences and conversations about:
 - a. The potential for the arts, broadly defined, to impact you?
 - b. The power of the arts to teach you about yourself, human relationships, the nature of God, or any other truths that may have been communicated to you through your aesthetic experiences?
 - c. How your participation in the Christian theological narrative provides the context that shapes how you understand and appreciate these aesthetic creations?
- 4- Did the readings you did for this class have an effect on your perception of this work of art? If you experienced this art early in the semester, did you think of it differently after some of the later readings?

Option 2

Due date: Friday, April 15, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. If it can be submitted via Blackboard, do so.

Topic

We have discussed many types of art, and looked and listened to many different things this semester. Thinking about the types of things we have experienced, create a work of art that could be used in your local congregation. Spend some time on it—a five minute stick figure drawing is not sufficient. Write at least a paragraph and up to a single page describing the thoughts behind your work. Here are some ideas for you:

- 1. Make a painting, pencil drawing, charcoal, etc. Any subject is possible—when I say "usable in your local congregation," that could take many different forms, not just a biblical story.
- 2. Write a drama that could be put on by a few people. Try to keep it to ten minutes or less.
- 3. Write a song or hymn. Try to avoid just using the chords G, C, D, and e minor.
- 4. Create a detailed plan for a new church building. In your description, tell why you made some of the decisions you did.
- 5. Sculpt something.
- 6. Take a series of photographs exploring a subject or idea. Feel free to use fairly traditional photographic techniques, or more creative editing if you wish. You can have them printed or submit them digitally (and, if you know of a good local photo printer, please tell me).
- 7. Write a short story of 15 pages or fewer.
- 8. Create an illuminated manuscript using a text that is meaningful to you.

If you have other ideas of something creative you would like to do, discuss it with me. You don't have to be a trained artist or musician to do this—the act of creating is something we should all participate in.