



HNRI00: Honors College Forum

Fall 2009

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.

Course Objectives

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 various cultures and periods of human history.
- 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 Forum, each student will:

- Attend and participate in the **Forum Plenary Event** on Thursday, December 3, at 7:00 pm in the Globe Theatre. The event will include a faculty panel sharing about their experiences as Christian artists, musicians, and performers who think seriously about how their faith shapes their art.
- Complete *at least six credits of elective events* (see list of elective events, starting on page 4).
- Attend the **Athens & Jerusalem Series Event** (on November 19 at 4:00 pm in the Globe Theatre with James K. A. Smith, author of *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*). Because of relevance of this event to Forum’s objectives, students are required to attend this lecture. If students would like to read this book and participate in an Athens & Jerusalem discussion group, they should email honors.forum@indwes.edu to sign up by Friday, September 25. This will count as *1 elective credit* toward the six elective credits needed for this course.
- Attend **Michele Perry’s presentation** on her book, *Love Has a Face: Mascara, a Machete, and One Woman’s Miraculous Journey with Jesus in Sudan* (on November 4, 2009, at 7:00 pm in the

Henry West Banquet Room). While the topic of Perry's lecture is not directly connected to the objectives of Forum, we believe that her work is beneficial enough to require attendance by Forum students. If students would like to read this book, several copies will be available on reserve in the JWHC office (Goodman 203). Those who read the book and write a *two-page reflection paper* about what they have learned will receive *1 elective credit*. Reflection papers must be turned in on Blackboard by **Wednesday, December 2, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.**

- Complete a **final reflection paper**. Details for this assignment are provided at the end of the syllabus. Assignments must be turned in on Blackboard by **Friday, December 11, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.**

Required Reading

The required readings must be completed by the Forum plenary event on December 3 and are available on Blackboard.

Brown, F. B. (2000). *Good Taste, Bad Taste, and Christian Taste: Aesthetics in Religious Life*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Chapters 1 and 2]

John Wesley's "Thoughts upon Taste," "Thoughts on the Power of Music," and "Thoughts on Genius"

Optional Readings

Students who read Perry's book and write a two-page reflection page will receive *1 elective credit* toward their participation in Forum events. Students who read Smith's book and participate in an Athens & Jerusalem discussion group will also receive *1 elective credit*.

Perry, M. (2009). *Love Has a Face: Mascara, a Machete, and One Woman's Miraculous Journey with Jesus in Sudan*. Grand Rapids, MI: Chosen Books. **Note:** Reserve copies are available in the JWHC office (Goodman 203).

Smith, J. K. A. (2009). *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. **Note:** If you are interested in reading Smith's book and participating in an Athens & Jerusalem discussion group, please contact honors.forum@indwes.edu by Friday, September 25, to sign up and obtain a copy.

Participation and Attendance Policies

Athens & Jerusalem Series, Michele Perry's Lecture, and the Plenary Event: Full participation in these events is mandatory for all Forum students. If a student cannot attend the event, he or she must send an email to honors.forum@indwes.edu at least one week in advance. Further information concerning the Athens & Jerusalem Series is available at <http://jwhc.indwes.edu/docs/Athens-Jerusalem-Seminar-FA09.pdf>.

Elective Offerings: Participation in **six credits** of electives is required. The credit value of each event is listed on pages 4-6. Students may register for more than six credits of electives, depending upon availability.

Skips: Students are allowed one skip for off-campus and ticketed on-campus electives. If a student skips more than one such event during the semester, he or she will receive a "No Credit" mark for the course.

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. If no student is found, then your absence will count as your one skip for the semester.

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 of 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 priority for reserving events. If a driver cannot be found for a certain event, it will be cancelled, and students will be responsible for finding other elective credits.**

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 which 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.**

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.

Please Note: Reservations for elective events will not be accepted prior to Saturday, September 19, at 1:00 pm. Any reservation made before that time will not be accepted.

Additional Information

Contacting the Office: Please send all Forum-related emails to Natalie Davis and/or Beth Freije at honors.forum@indwes.edu. Natalie and Beth will check this account regularly, but not daily. In case of an emergency, you may also contact Sara Scheunemann, JWHC Program Coordinator, at ext. 1799 or at sara.scheunemann@indwes.edu.

Fall 2009 Forum Elective Opportunities

Students are required to select *at least one* event from each of the categories *except* Literature. Due to the need for everyone in Forum to attend at least one Performing Arts elective, it is not likely that students will be able to attend more than two events in this category.

Performing Arts

1. All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

Thursday, October 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

IWU, PPAC, Black Box Theater

Maximum Students: 12

Includes a talk-back session with the director and actors in the Black Box Theatre following the performance.

Credits: 2

2. Mississinewa 1812

Saturday, October 3, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

Marion, IN

Maximum Students: 12

Credits: 2

** Driver Needed

3. The Heavens are Hung in Black – The Voice of Abraham Lincoln

Sunday, October 18, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Indiana Repertory Theatre, Indianapolis

Maximum Students: 12

Credits: 2

** Driver Needed

4. Yamato Matsuri-Fiesta (Japanese Drums)

Tuesday, October 27, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Emens Hall, Ball State University

Maximum Students: 12

Credits: 2

** Driver Needed

5. The Spencers' Theatre of Illusion

Friday, November 13, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

IWU, PPAC, Main Auditorium

Maximum Students: 12

Credits: 1

6. The Secret Garden

Sunday, November 15, 2009, 3:00 p.m.

Taylor University

Maximum Students: 12

Credits: 2

** Driver Needed

7. The Curious Savage

Friday, November 20, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

IWU, PPAC, Black Box Theater

Maximum Students: 12

Includes a talk-back session with the director and actors in the Black Box Theatre following the performance.

Credits: 2

8. World Literature (ENG-180) Trilogy Performances

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

IWU, PPAC, Black Box Theater

Maximum Students: UNLIMITED

Credits: 1

Visual Arts

9. Homecoming Art Department Faculty Show

Friday, October 2, 2009, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

IWU, Beard

Maximum Students: None

Credits: 1

10. Indianapolis Museum of Art

Saturday, October 3, 2009, 12:30-6:30 pm

Indianapolis

Maximum Students: 11

Credits: 2

Includes discussion with Dr. Stiles, who will be visiting the museum with this group.

11. 1920's Gallery Show

Monday, October 5, 6:00-8:00pm

IWU, Student Center

Maximum Students: None

Credits: 1

12. ART + TEXT Images, Concepts, Ideas – Art Show

Wednesday, October 7, 2009, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

IWU, Beard Gallery from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Globe Theatre, Student Center, 6:15 p.m.

Students selecting this option will attend the opening of this show from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Beard, followed by the Art Department's discussion/interpretation of this show at 6:15 p.m. in the Globe Theatre.

Maximum Students: 15

Credits: 2

13. Tim Lowly – Without Moving – Art Show

Monday, November 2, 2009, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

IWU, Beard 150

Students selecting this option will attend the session with the artist Tim Lowly at 4:00 pm in Beard 150, followed by viewing his show in the Beard gallery.

Maximum Students: 15

Credits: 2

Musical Arts

14. Dr. Phoenix Park-Kim Piano Recital

Friday, October 9, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

IWU, PPAC, Baker Recital Hall

Maximum Students: None

Credits: 1

15. Sons of Harmony Barbershop Concert

Saturday, November 14, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

IWU, PPAC, Main Auditorium

Maximum Students: None

Credits: 1

16. University Singers

Sunday, November 22, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

College Wesleyan Church

Maximum Students: None

Credits: 1

17. Bell Choir Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 6, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Taylor, Rediger Auditorium

Maximum Students: 12

Credits: 1

**Driver Needed

18. Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, December 10, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

IWU, PPAC, Baker Recital Hall

Maximum Students: None

Credits: 1

Literature

19. Shakespeare in the 21st Century

Saturday, October 17, 2009, 12:00 p.m.

Notre Dame, Snite Museum's Annenberg Auditorium

Maximum Students: 12

Credits: 2

**Driver Needed

20. Desiring the Kingdom with discussion

TBA

Maximum Students: None

Students who select this option by emailing honors.forum@indwes.edu will be assigned to an Athens & Jerusalem discussion group and notified of this group's meeting time and location by email.

Credits: 1

21. Love Has a Face: Mascara, a Machete, and One Woman's Miraculous Journey with Jesus in Sudan with two-page reflection paper

Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

Maximum Students: None

Students selecting this option will need to complete a two-page reflection paper on their thoughts about the book, to be turned on Blackboard by December 2 at 4:00 p.m.

Credit: 1

Final Reflection Paper

Due date: Friday, December 11, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Papers must be turned in on Blackboard.

Length: 6-8 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 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 course.

- 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.
- 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?