

# COMMONWEALTH HONORS COLLEGE

HONORS 391A - [Honors Discovery Seminars](#) – 1 credit

Course Title:
Course Section:
Class meeting days and times:
Class Location:
Instructor Name:
Office:
Office Hours:
Email:
Phone:
Instructor's Course Web Address:

## GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

In 391A Honors Discovery Seminars, students participate in a topical seminar-style course designed by the instructor. Every section is open to students of any major. Advanced knowledge of the topic is not necessary.

Instructor's Course Description:
Required Texts or Readings:
Instructor's Course Requirements:
Assignments and Grading:  ____ % of your grade for HONORS 391A will be determined by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A research-based and documented paper, project, or other work as defined by the instructor.</li></ul> ____ % of your grade will be based on <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An oral presentation, demonstration or performance of the creative project, or some other artifact as defined by the instructor</li></ul> ____ % of your grade will be determined by your preparedness and participation in course discussions and activities including <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• speaking up in full-group discussions;</li><li>• taking the lead in small-group activities;</li><li>• providing helpful follow-up questions to presenters;</li><li>• eliciting comments from other classmates; and</li><li>• contributing to the learning of your fellow students.</li></ul>

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## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Absentee Policy and Extenuating circumstances (illness, death in the family, etc.) for which students must miss a class meeting:

While attendance is crucial to participation in the Honors Discovery Seminar and therefore a significant factor in calculating your final grade in this course, extenuating circumstances may require you to miss a class meeting. Whether an absence is “excused” or counted in calculating participation grades is largely at the discretion of the instructor. Any student absent—whether the absence is “excused” or not—should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss assignments missed, class discussion, etc.

Student athletes, members of the band, and on occasion, students who are members of other groups will be allowed to miss class for games and other special events and make up work will be assigned. (See [University attendance policies and religious holidays.](#))

## EXAM CONFLICTS

University policy on exams scheduled at the same time a student’s Honors Seminar class meets According to Faculty Senate Document 06-042, certain one-day-a-week courses, including HONORS 391A, have priority over evening exams on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Evening exams (7-9 p.m.) have priority over *all* courses on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings.

Exams scheduled for 6 p.m. or earlier do *not* have priority over HONORS 391A. If you have an exam scheduled during this class, you must be given the chance to make it up by the professor of the other course. If you miss a class because of an exam that has priority over this class (*extremely rare*), you will be given the chance to make up any work you have missed.

## PLAGIARISM POLICY

Documenting the Writing, Speaking, and Thinking of Others

In all your writing, and in oral presentations too, it is essential that you acknowledge the ideas of others upon whom your own thinking depends, including ideas obtained from such non-written sources as lectures, interviews, class discussions, and even casual conversations with colleagues and friends. Give credit for ideas that are not your own as well as for passages of text that you summarize, paraphrase, or quote.

If material possessions are the property of our community at large, thoughts and ideas—expressed in speech or writing—constitute the “intellectual property” of our academic

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community. To take another's words or ideas and present them as your own is to commit plagiarism, an act of academic theft, and the punishments can be severe (cf. *University of Massachusetts Amherst Academic Regulations*, "Academic Honesty").

## ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

Since the integrity of the academic enterprise of any institution of higher education requires honesty in scholarship and research, academic honesty is required of all students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the University. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty. Appropriate sanctions may be imposed on any student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Instructors should take reasonable steps to address academic misconduct. Any person who has reason to believe that a student has committed academic dishonesty should bring such information to the attention of the appropriate course instructor as soon as possible. Instances of academic dishonesty not related to a specific course should be brought to the attention of the appropriate department Head or Chair. Since students are expected to be familiar with this policy and the commonly accepted standards of academic integrity, ignorance of such standards is not normally sufficient evidence of lack of intent. ([http://www.umass.edu/dean\\_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/](http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/))

## ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services (DS), you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify me within the first two weeks of the semester so that we may make appropriate arrangements. For further information, please visit Disability Services. (<https://www.umass.edu/disability/>)

## TITLE IX STATEMENT

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 that prohibits gender-based discrimination in educational settings that receive federal funds, the University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students, free from all forms of discrimination, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and retaliation. This includes interactions in person or online through digital platforms and social media. Title IX also protects against discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, miscarriage, abortion, or related conditions, including recovery. There are resources here on campus to support you. A summary of the available Title IX resources (confidential and non-confidential) can be found at the following link: <https://www.umass.edu/titleix/resources>. You do not need to make a formal report to access them. If you need immediate support, you are not alone. Free and confidential support is available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week / 365 days a year at the SASA Hotline 413-545-0800.

For purposes of Title IX reporting, I am considered a "responsible employee" at UMass

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(<https://www.umass.edu/titleix/about>). That means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and retaliation, I must share that information with the Title IX Coordinator. Making a report to the Title IX Coordinator is my legal obligation, meets the University's goal of providing members of our community with supportive resources they might need, and enables the University to obtain a more accurate picture of the extent of sexual violence in our community. It will be completely up to you to determine if and how you want to work with the Title IX Coordinator's office. You will not be in trouble for reporting to me that you have experienced any of these situations, and the law prohibits retaliation against anyone who participates in a Title IX process.

*For the purposes of this class, if you choose to discuss your own personal experiences of sexual violence as part of a written assignment or a discussion, we do not consider that a report covered by Title IX."*

## CLASS MEETINGS & WORK SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due/Assignments Due/In-class Activities
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			