

## Spring 2026 Honors Courses



### **Who and (why you) should take Honors courses:**

- Honors is open to students in ALL MAJORS
- Fulfills Gen Ed requirements & electives
- Students who have done well in English 101 or English 102
- Liberal Arts majors get their ILE requirement too
- Transfer students into HCC from a four-year college-level course.
- Have done AP in high school, tested into it, taken Honors courses in high school or other colleges, or been referred by a faculty.
- Have transferred into HCC from private, selective colleges OR have applied to them and were not able to go for a variety of reasons----they should also be referred to PATHWAYS
- Writing and reading intensive, creative thinking, and problem-solving skills building for preparation for all college transfer & career paths
- Develop your academic skill set and confidence in a supportive environment
- Learn actively and collaboratively in and out of class—action-based learning.

### **Honors Course Offerings for Spring 2026**

1. ENG 102.13 (CRN 10828) Theme: Cli-Fi: Science, Speculation, Storytelling  
TR 11 am-12:15pm on campus, Professor Elizabeth Trobaugh

**This Honors section is open to all students. It provides the opportunity to begin honors work and fulfill graduation requirements for the Commonwealth Honors Program.**

This course focuses on the science of climate change and the new genre of science fiction that has emerged in response. Using Cli-Fi (climate change fiction), this course explores the impact of climate change on the environment, organisms, civilization, and people. Using nonfiction sources and fiction, we will practice close reading, critical thinking, literary analysis, academic writing, research, and the writing process. This course will introduce students to the basics of climate change science as we examine climate change impacts -- environmental degradation, biodiversity and habitat loss, sea-level rise, erosion, extreme weather, drought, and breakdowns in infrastructure and civilization. We will explore the unique power of fiction (and the arts) to help people grapple with climate change. **Prerequisites: English 101 (C- or better)**

2. HON 204.60 (CRN 10829) Ideas that Change the World  
Online Asynchronous, Professor Mary Orisich

Ideas that Change the World is a discussion-based Honors Seminar where students examine groundbreaking ideas that have shaped our world. Our primary texts are influential works that raise issues of enduring importance, from justice and colonization to equal rights and the environment. The course concludes with a look at the continuing influence of media on these and other issues. Throughout the course we also explore our own potential for innovation, leadership, and transformative creativity. As

an interdisciplinary seminar, this course illuminates ideas that cross the boundaries of several disciplines, including the sciences and the humanities. Just as the world is interdisciplinary, so are the solutions to its most disconcerting problems. Some fundamental questions of our inquiry are: Why do some ideas become influential? What social conditions tend to foster creative thinking? Under what circumstances can creativity transform societies? Across disciplines, what do innovators have in common?

**Prerequisites:** 3.4 GPA, completed ENG 102 with B+ or higher

3. HON 206.01 (CRN 10334) Theme: Fast Fashion: Unraveling the Threads of Global Inequality  
TR 9:30am-12:15 pm, on campus, Professors Klara Karol and Jessica Hill

This course will offer an in-depth examination of the fast fashion industry as a microcosm of broader global issues, exploring its intersections with gender, environmental degradation, globalism, capitalism, consumerism, labor rights, modern-day slavery, colonialism, institutional and political power structures. Students will engage in critical examination of ethics and sustainability of the idealized class, modern way of living. This course will equip students with critical tools to challenge the injustices embedded in the fast fashion industry and inspire them to envision equitable and sustainable alternatives for the future. Ideal for those passionate about social justice, environmental advocacy, and ethical consumption, the course will foster informed global citizenship and transformative action. It will foster knowledge of diversity, encourage critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving, equipping students to become informed advocates for change. **Prerequisites:** 20 credits, ENG 101 and 3.4 GPA; permission of instructor.

4. SPA 210.02 (CRN 10831) Caribbean Feminism (This course is taught in English)  
TR 9:30-10:45am, on campus, Professor Raul Gutierrez

**This Honors section is open to all students. It provides the opportunity to begin honors work and fulfill graduation requirements for the Commonwealth Honors Program**

This honors course will analyze the history, culture, and literature of feminisms in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. The students will explore the feminist Diasporic perspective in a multitude of Caribbean women's voices from the Spanish-speaking islands. For Caribbean women feminist writers who tell their own stories, the engagement with BIPOC feminism adds to a culture of survival and resistance. What does it mean for Caribbean women to describe their conditions from their own cultural and historical contexts? How does that strengthen the foundation of a global BIPOC feminist community? Course materials will include primary documents, secondary sources, poetry, autobiographies, and historical fiction in English. However, students who can read Spanish will have the option of engaging with texts in that language. **Prerequisites:** Eligibility for ENG 101 or permission of instructor

### **Honors Program Contacts:**

The faculty of these courses welcome conversations, and students can connect with them directly by emailing them, as well as contacting Jessica Hill, Honors Coordinator, [jhill@hcc.edu](mailto:jhill@hcc.edu)

Camille Close (Pathways) can register students for Honors courses if you need help or the override. Please email her at [cclose@hcc.edu](mailto:cclose@hcc.edu) the student's full name and ID#. Make sure it does not conflict with other classes.

For any questions or concerns, contact Irma Medina, Director of Integrative Learning in DON 270/[imedina@hcc.edu](mailto:imedina@hcc.edu) [www.hcc.edu/il](http://www.hcc.edu/il)

Check out Honors Students' Testimonies: [https://youtu.be/VSchPkf5lgM?si=JYHsA4qpu\\_cgFC1S](https://youtu.be/VSchPkf5lgM?si=JYHsA4qpu_cgFC1S)