Course Description

HON 321 is an introduction to the scholarly and creative life of the university. Students taking the course will hear from intellectual and cultural leaders and experience a variety of events from lectures and concerts to plays and exhibit openings.

The course is a one-hour general elective open to all students at The University of Southern Mississippi and may be taken up to eight times on a pass/fail basis. Each semester, students must attend ten approved events including required events hosted or sponsored by the Honors College. In many cases, you will also have to write a brief essay about the event.

General Course Requirements & Grading

Students in Honors 321 are required to attend 10 events: an orientation, five required events, three elective events, and an open forum.

Required Events

Students must attend five required events. Three of the required events are sponsored by the University Forum at the Honors College and two are co-sponsored by the Honors College. All five required events are held on Tuesday evenings and attendance is taken so it is not necessary to write an essay for these events.

To get credit for attending an event (including elective events, orientation, and Open Forum), you must stay for the entire event and may not leave early. At the start of a required event, you will receive an attendance card. It must be submitted at the end of the event. If we do not receive an attendance card, you will be marked absent and will have to make up the event. No attendance cards will be given to students who are more than 5 minutes late. If any student is suspected of violating academic honesty by acting against these procedures, he or she will receive a failing grade for the entire course.

Required events are typically scheduled during “class time” (an evening class generally meets from 6:30pm to 9:15pm), but exact times may vary so we suggest you clear your schedule on Forum nights.
Open Forum

Open Forum is a discussion session where we talk about events we have attended on campus, share stories, and discuss ideas. Food and drink will be provided. Open Forum is a chance to interact with your instructor and your fellow students.

Each student is required to attend Open Forum once during the semester (although you are welcome to attend both Open Forums). The date you have been assigned for Open Forum will be announced at orientation and is listed in the back of the syllabus.

Elective Events

Students must also attend three elective events and write a brief reaction essay for each. Approved elective events are listed on the Forum calendar at http://www.usm.edu/honors/hon-321-university-forum and in Blackboard. One of the three elective events must be designated in the calendar as an “Arts” event, one must be labeled a “Humanities and Social Sciences” event, and the third must be categorized as a “Science” event. New events are added to the calendar on a regular basis, so students should check the Honors College website regularly.

If you would like to recommend we add an event to the calendar, you can contact Elizabeth Hunt by phone or email to make a suggestion or use the online form at http://www.usm.edu/honors/hon-321-university-forum.

Only events posted to the calendar count for credit.

After attending each of the three elective events, students must submit a 250- to 300-word reaction (excluding the header) essay.

- All essays are graded pass or fail. **Your essay must make it clear to the reader that you were at the event and must critically engage the event.** Tell us what you learned from participating in the event and offer a reasoned critique. Why was the performance good? Why was the speaker wrong? If your essay does not demonstrate significant engagement with the speaker or performance, you will not receive credit and will have to attend another event.

- **Essays must be at least 250- to 300-words long,** should be typed using standard margins and a 12-point font, and include with your name, the submission date, the date and title of the event attended, and the assignment category in the header. The header should not be included in the word count.

- Essays should be of high quality, professional, and generally free of typographic, grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors. Essays of poor quality will not receive credit and you will have to attend an extra event to complete the course. Students seeking assistance with regard to writing skills should meet with the Forum Director or visit the Writing Center. The Writing Center is located at Cook Library. For more information, visit http://www.usm.edu/writing-center.

- To receive credit for an elective event, reaction essays must be submitted to Blackboard **within two days of an event.** Use Word format (.doc or .docx) or, in the case of other word processing applications, submit your document as an .rtf file. To ensure we credit your assignment correctly, please save your documents according to this format: lastname-date-assignment category.docx. Assignment categories are Art, Humanities, Science, Makeup1, Makeup2, etc. Ex: Johnson-Nov17-Humanities.docx. Ex: Carter-Oct5-Makeup2.

- All elective events must be completed by **May 6th and all submissions must be made to Blackboard by May 8th at 11:30pm.** However, electives should be completed throughout the semester. You must
complete at least one elective during the first month and at least two after two months. We will not accept more than one assignment in the final week of class so you must complete your electives early. The goal of Forum is not to write essays, but to sample campus culture and you will have fewer opportunities to attend events that you find interesting if you wait until the last month of the semester.

Make-up Events

There are limited opportunities to make up a missed required event or to replace a failing grade on a reaction paper. Please read the following carefully.

- You are expected to attend required events (including orientation) scheduled on Tuesday evenings when the class officially meets. If you miss a required event, you may make it up by attending two additional elective events (from any category) and submitting a reaction essay (250-300 words) for each within two days of the event. You can only miss one required event and make it up. Missing more than one required event (either the orientation or one of the other required events) will result in a failing grade for the course.
- If you receive a failing grade on a reaction essay, you may make it up by attending one additional elective event (from any category) and submitting a reaction essay (250-300 words) within two days of the event. You can only replace a failing reaction paper grade once during the semester.

To receive a grade of “pass” and one hour of credit for Honors 321, you must attend 10 events (including the orientation and Open Forum) and make up any missed events or failing grades. Failure to attend 10 events, to balance your electives in the three categories, or to submit written assignments as required will result in a failing grade. If meeting these requirements will not be possible, you should contact the Forum Director.

Conduct during Honors Forum Events

University Forum lecturers and the many other artists and scholars invited to Southern Miss are honored guests. As students and faculty, we should not only warmly welcome them to our university but also give them our respect and active attention. Students are encouraged to research the lecturers and performers before attending events (via Google or the library databases), are expected to take notes during events, and are urged to ask questions during question and answer sessions. Students should not bring reading material or food to events, should silence cell phones, and should use laptops and tablets only for note taking. Students should not create a disruption by talking during lectures or performances. If a student at one of these events is seen by an Honors College representative as engaging in behavior that suggests they are not fully engaged in the lecture or performance, he or she will not receive credit for attending. If a student’s conduct is disruptive and without merit, they will be asked to leave and will not receive credit for the course. Honors Forum events are classrooms and all of the rules for classroom behavior apply.

Plagiarism/Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty (including unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, cheating, and failing to cite sources) is a violation of the Student Conduct policy at The University of Southern Mississippi. Turning in an essay for an
event you did not attend is considered academic dishonesty and will constitute grounds for failure in the course. It is each student’s responsibility to understand what constitutes scholastic dishonesty; ignorance or forgetfulness is not an acceptable excuse for failure to comply with these policies.

The penalty for cheating/plagiarism is a zero on the assignment or an F in the course, at the instructor’s discretion. We may also report the offense to the Office of the Provost, which could lead to probation, suspension, and/or expulsion from the University. Please consult the USM Student Handbook and Cook Library’s plagiarism tutorial (http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php) for further information on academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

If you feel you have been denied credit when credit was earned, please contact the Forum Director.

ADA Accommodations

If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabili ties covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Address: The University of Southern Mississippi, Office for Disability Accommodations, 118 College Drive # 8586, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001; Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232; Fax: (601) 266-6035; Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu.

Forum Feedback

If you would like to leave feedback about a required University Forum event, please access https://forms.usm.edu/honors/view.php?id=62458 and complete the online form. We appreciate hearing from you!
## Calendar of Mandatory Events and Essential Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location and Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>Course Orientation&lt;br&gt;Required</td>
<td>WSH A (Stout Hall A)&lt;br&gt;6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td><strong>Ritz Chamber Players (Connoisseur Chamber Music)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Required</td>
<td>Bennett Auditorium&lt;br&gt;6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 16</td>
<td><strong>University Forum: Jerry Mitchell</strong>&lt;br&gt;Required</td>
<td>Bennett Auditorium&lt;br&gt;6:30PM</td>
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<td>February 23</td>
<td><strong>Open Forum</strong>&lt;br&gt;If your last name begins with a letter between A and K, you must attend this Open Forum. All students must also submit at least one elective by this date.</td>
<td>WSH A (Stout Hall A)&lt;br&gt;6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td><strong>University Forum: Lilly Ledbetter</strong>&lt;br&gt;Required</td>
<td>Bennett Auditorium&lt;br&gt;6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td><strong>Tim Wise</strong>&lt;br&gt;Required</td>
<td>Bennett Auditorium&lt;br&gt;6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td><strong>Open Forum</strong>&lt;br&gt;If your last name begins with a letter between L and Z, you must attend this Open Forum. All students must also submit at least one elective by this date.</td>
<td>WSH A (Stout Hall A)&lt;br&gt;6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td><strong>University Forum Barbara Ehrenreich</strong>&lt;br&gt;Required</td>
<td>Bennett Auditorium&lt;br&gt;6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8th</td>
<td><strong>All Grades Must Be Submitted</strong></td>
<td>Blackboard&lt;br&gt;11:30pm</td>
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