Honors 321
University Forum
Fall 2015

Course Description

HON 321 is an introduction to the scholarly and creative life. Students taking the course will hear from intellectual and cultural leaders and experience a variety of events: lectures, concerts, 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 eight events approved by the Honors College 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

Credit for Honors Forum is based on the following:

- Attendance at 8 events.
- Three of these events will be designated University Forum events. These are required and attendance will be taken at the event. Students are also required to attend Honors College sponsored events. This semester, there is one event—a theater production of Nickel and Dimed—that is required. All required events are held on Tuesday evenings during “class time” and attendance is taken so it is not necessary to write an essay for these events.
- Students must also attend an additional four events and write a brief reaction essay for each. All approved events are listed on the Forum calendar at http://www.usm.edu/hc. At least one of the four elective events must be designated an “Arts” event, one must be related to the “Humanities and Social Sciences,” and a third must be in the “Sciences.” Events are added to the calendar on a regular basis, so students should check the Honors College website each day for new elective options. Please feel free to contact Elizabeth Hunt by phone or email to suggest possible elective events or use the online form at https://forms.usm.edu/honors/view.php?id=63942. Only events posted to the calendar will count for credit.
- After attending one of the four elective events, students must submit a reaction essay (250 word minimum) within two days.
- Whether the event is required or elective, you must attend in full and may not leave early. At the start of required events, 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 to a
required event. 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.

- If you miss a required event scheduled on a Tuesday evening (when the class officially meets), you must make it up by attending two additional elective events (from any category) and submitting a reaction essay (250 words) for each within two days of the event.

Note: To receive a grade of “pass” and one hour of credit, the student must attend 8 approved events (or more, if make-up events are required). Failure to attend at least 8 events, to balance your electives in the three categories, or to submit written assignments as required will result in a failing grade.

**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.

**Reaction Essays**

- To receive credit for elective events, 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. 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.
- Essays must be typed using standard margins and 12-point font, with your name, the submission date, and the date and title of the event attended as well as the assignment category (see above). Your essay must make it clear to the reader that you were in fact at the event and gained some knowledge from it. Tell us what you learned from participating in the event and critique the event. Why was this performance good? Why was the speaker wrong?
- All essays are graded pass or fail. 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. Further, we expect your essays to 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. Decisions about whether to give credit rest with the Graduate Assistant and the Forum Director. Students seeking assistance with regard to writing skills should meet with the Forum Director or visit the university Writing Center, where help is available. The Writing Center is located at Cook Library. For more information, visit http://www.usm.edu/writing-center.
• All elective events must be completed by **December 4th and all submissions must be in Blackboard by December 6th at 5PM.**

**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. *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 grader’s discretion. We may also report the offense to the Dean of Students, which could lead to probation, suspension, and/or expulsion from the University. Please consult the USM Student Handbook and also the Cook Library’s plagiarism tutorial (http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php) for further information on Academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

**Turning in an essay for an event you did not attend is considered academic dishonesty and will constitute grounds for failure in the course.** However, if you feel that a paper has 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. Disabilities 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 Required Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location and Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>Course Orientation</td>
<td>WSH A (Stout Hall A) 6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>University Forum: Rick Bragg</td>
<td>Bennett Auditorium 6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>University Forum: Diandra Leslie-Pelecky</td>
<td>Bennett Auditorium 6:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3*</td>
<td>Theater: <em>Nickel and Dimed</em></td>
<td>Hartwig Theater 7:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>University Forum: Roberta Kaplan</td>
<td>Thad Cochran Ballrooms 1 &amp; 2 6:30PM</td>
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*Due to a limited number of seats in Hartwig Theater, we will provide free tickets to volunteers willing to see *Nickel and Dimed* on an alternative night.