**HNRS 420 Interdisciplinary Senior Seminar**

The College Honors Interdisciplinary Senior Capstone Seminar offers an opportunity for students to recognize how they can use knowledge within their own disciplines of mastery to contribute insights to engage in broad interdisciplinary approaches to contemporary issues. Students will also gain appreciation of the contributions made by disciplines outside their own. Courses offered will include an opportunity for students to develop graduate and professional communication and collaborative skills. Seminars will include team projects, together with seminar and individual research work. Courses will include deep experiential components designed to assist students in assessing the effectiveness of their proposed approaches.

Permission of Instructor required.
Prerequisite: College Honors Program Admission

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**HNRS 420 is open to all College Honors Students**

*If you plan to graduate in January, May or August 2013 take this course!*

**HNRS 420 Honors Senior Seminar**
**Economic Ideas, Issues and Ideologies**
M 6pm-9:15pm, ASB 522
*For Permit to Register: Dr. Jason Hecht, jhecht@ramapo.edu*

The HNRS course is the Senior Capstone distinctive to the College Honors Program. It is designed to provide an academic context for students from various disciplines to understand their expertise in a particular discipline might contribute to broad, interdisciplinary approaches to contemporary issues. For Spring 2011, the focus will be economics, an area of study that current events demonstrate is a timely one.

The objective of this course is to introduce and foster an appreciation of the economic ideas, issues, and ideologies that have influenced the development of capitalism over the last 250 odd years. The course readings are intended to provide: (1) an introduction to the lives and ideas of the great economic thinkers about capitalism, (2) an understanding of current economic and financial issues and debates that are informed by those ideas, and, (3) historical context and data for interpreting economic ideas and issues.

In this course, students will read specific selections from primary sources, e.g., Smith's "Wealth of Nations"; Ricardo's "Principles of Taxation," JS Mill’s "Principles of Political Economy"; Marx's "Capital," etc., then use “Economic Issues Today: Alternative Approaches” to generate a debate and discussion about the underlying economic ideas behind specific current policies whose underpinnings lie within three broadly defined ideologies - conservative, liberal, and radical. Students will problem solve as they think through their own understanding of specific economic issues as well the opposing arguments.
This course will introduce students to the fundamental economic ideas that shape our understanding and analysis of current economic issues. The course will also explore the historical development of economic ideas - from Adam Smith to John Maynard Keynes - and their influence upon modern American political ideologies. This course assumes no prior knowledge of economics, finance, or business. However, every citizen should possess an understanding of the fundamental economic ideas that inform current debates about political, social, and even cultural issues; liberal arts and life-long learning will be incomplete without such knowledge.

Dr. Jason Hecht, Professor of Finance is the co-author of *Economic Issues Today* which pioneered the integration of economic analysis, history, and ideology in order to understand current micro and macroeconomic issues. He teaches courses in Commercial Bank Management, Corporate Finance, Econometrics, Financial and Economic Forecasting, Risk Management and Insurance as well as Securities and Investments. Dr. Hecht's research and teaching interests span both the fields of economics and finance; prior to joining the faculty at Ramapo College in 1998, he worked as a financial economist in the insurance industry.