Honors 420 Course Offerings  
Spring 2014

HNRS 420-01  
Honors Interdisciplinary Capstone Seminar  
Economic Ideas, Issues, and Ideologies  
Professor Jason Hecht  
M 6:00-9:15pm

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. Each week's readings and discussion will alternate between analyzing and discussing the ideas and theories of a particular economist and then switch to a current economic issue related to those ideas. This course assumes no prior knowledge of economics, finance, or business.

HNRS 420-02  
Honors Interdisciplinary Capstone Seminar  
The Social Shift: Individualism, Collectivism, Identity and Ownership  
Professor Ben Neill  
MR 2:00-3:30pm

This course will explore the way technologies of connectivity and new models of collaboration, democracy and collective action are transforming global society. Positive effects such as the Arab spring and the explosion of amateur creativity as well as more challenging aspects of the new social spaces will be explored. The issue of intellectual property ownership and how it pertains to each student's field will be a primary topic of study.

The course begins with a comparative look at the concept of individualism and self in world cultures historically. Then the parallel between the invention of the printing press and the emergence of the internet in terms of a shift in collective perception of self and a redefinition of many previous ideas is explored. Finally, we focus on contemporary examples in our own disciplines in which issues of intellectual property, collective ownership and sharing have an impact.