

HONORS FORUM

Ina E. Gordy
HONORS
COLLEGE

Contact Info:
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office hours: M-Th, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
and by appointment

What is this course about?

HO 101 Honors Forum promotes community among honors students and encourages their intellectual curiosity in a challenging academic environment.

Our events this fall will explore

- the honors college experience, featuring an honors student panel
- the value of study abroad/away opportunities as travel becomes possible again
- what living with a mental illness is really like, with both setbacks and accomplishments, and how to overcome myths about mental illness
- food insecurity, the right to food, and the current status of Millennium Development Goals for ending hunger
- ways the criminal justice system can be improved, in conversation with a groundbreaking District Attorney and retired judge and in conjunction with our Common Read of Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*
- honors seniors' research proposals and completed projects at our fall Honors Research Symposium

More complete details on each event are found on pages 3-4 of the syllabus and on our Canvas home page.

What are my goals for this course?

Your goals for Honors Forum are to

- engage with and discuss diverse points of view on timely topics
 - think critically about the course material, develop relevant questions, and pursue answers
 - develop interdisciplinary ways of thinking
 - build academic community and intellectual rapport with other students and with presenters
 - learn about the academic research process through the model provided by your upper-level honors peers as they present senior-level research projects
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How will I meet these goals?

To meet these goals, you will

- attend events as scheduled
 - participate in class discussions
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What do I need to know about attending and participating?

The sole requirements for passing HO 101 are attendance and active engagement at the scheduled presentations. Therefore, HO 101 carries a *strict attendance policy*. This policy is not meant to be punitive in any way; it is simply the means of successfully carrying out the class. The following details give you all you need to know about attending and participating in Honors Forum. Please read closely!

Follow these tips for success:

- **Begin your semester** with the commitment to attend *all* the events.
- Remember that HO 101 is a **scheduled class for credit**, so do not agree to other personal, social, or academic events during the scheduled event times. Check all your schedules the first week of classes to determine conflicts and work out alternatives.
- **Don't casually miss** as you may need your absences later should you experience another conflict.
- **Please do not simply save your absences** and then miss a Research Symposium night at the end of the semester! Your fellow honors students very much need your presence and attention on those nights.
- **If you need to miss** because of your required participation in a university event or for another reason (other than sickness) outlined in our missed class policy (see section 7.5 of the university bulletin), please follow the procedure outlined in the policy to notify Dr. Whitehead as early as possible. Given how few times this class meets and the fact that attendance is the only requirement of the course, please do everything you can to stay within the allowed absences counting those that are excused.

How can I
best be
successful?

The Honors College will assess attendance in the following ways:

- To receive credit for attendance at each event, **you must use your assigned seat**. (These are being assigned as part of our health and safety plan.)
- You will sign in and sign out at every event. Any student who fails to sign in before the beginning of an event or sign out at the end for any reason (late arrival or early departure, scheduling conflict, etc.) will receive one-half (.5) absence, while failure to do both for any reason whatsoever will result in a full (1) absence, with one exception: because Research Symposium nights are so important, each Symposium night counts as one and a half (1.5) absences.
- **Students who have zero to two absences** will receive a pass for the course. Students who have **more than two absences** will fail the course.
- **A student who uses a cell phone, talks, or studies during a presentation or is otherwise inattentive or disruptive** is subject to receive a half or full absence at the discretion of the Honors Director with input from Honors student staff.
- **A student who leaves an event in the middle and is gone for an extended period** is subject to receive a half or full absence at the discretion of the Honors Director with input from Honors student staff.

How will my
attendance
be
assessed?

Schedule: Honors Forum, Fall 2021

August 19

6 p.m.

Nissan
Auditorium
(Parkinson Hall)



The Honors Experience

A panel of honors students, Honors College student staff, and the Honors Director will discuss the transition to college for frosh; core elements of the honors experience; study abroad, fellowship, and research opportunities for students at all levels; and tips for making the most of your classes and your relationships with faculty and our honors community.

Study Abroad and Away: MUW's Passport to the World

August 26

6 p.m.

Nissan

As we look ahead to a loosening of travel restrictions, we discuss The W's commitment to providing students with opportunities to live and learn in a different culture. Professor Erinn Holloway, Study Abroad Coordinator, and students who have lived and studied abroad or elsewhere in the U.S. on one of The W's sponsored programs will discuss all the benefits and logistics of study abroad and away.



September 9

6 p.m.

Nissan



Film: *Orchestrating Change*

cosponsored by The MUW Counseling Center
and in support of National Suicide Prevention Week

Orchestrating Change tells the story of Me2/Orchestra, created by and for people living with mental illness and working to erase stigmatization through the creation of beautiful music, community, and understanding. The film addresses many of the myths about mental illness by showing what living with a mental illness is really like—with both setbacks and accomplishments—and challenges audiences to reconsider their preconceived notions. For those living with a diagnosis, it is empowering. Discussion of the film will be led by staff of The MUW Counseling Center.

Kritika Gupta

Food Justice

cosponsored by The W Leadership Program

September 23

6 p.m.

Nissan

Kritika Gupta is a TEDx Speaker, Ph.D. student, and Graduate Assistant in the Department of Nutrition and Hospitality Management at the University of Mississippi. In her home country India, she won numerous academic and public service awards and was a regular guest speaker on All India Radio. She is a passionate advocate for food justice and will discuss food insecurity, the right to food, and the current status of the Millennium Development Goals for ending hunger and achieving food security. The Honors College and The W Leadership Program will also conduct a food drive in conjunction with this event.



Schedule: Honors Forum, Fall 2021 (continued)

in conjunction with the Common Reading Initiative

Scott Colom, District Attorney, 16th District Court of Mississippi

Dorothy Colom, retired Judge, 14th Chancery District of Mississippi

A Conversation on Reform in the Criminal Justice System

In 2011, Scott Colom was appointed the youngest and first African American justice court judge in Lowndes



County history and in 2015 he was elected district attorney for Circuit Court District Sixteen, becoming the first African American DA for the district and the first African American elected DA in a majority white



district. His mother Dorothy Colom served as judge for Mississippi's 14th Chancery District for 24 years, the first African American to serve in that role. Their conversations is in conjunction with our Common Read of Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*, which chronicles his coming of age as he defends death row prisoners in Alabama. The Coloms will draw on their own experiences to connect to Stevenson's story and suggest some smart ways the criminal justice system can be improved.

October 7

6 p.m.

Location TBD

Welty Writers' Symposium, Keynote Address

W. Ralph Eubanks, author of *A Place Like Mississippi*

In *A Place Like Mississippi*, Eubanks honors and explores the landscape of Mississippi—and the state's history—to reveal the many ways this landscape has informed the work of some of America's most treasured authors. Eubanks is the author of two other books: *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey Into Mississippi's Dark Past* and *The House at the End of the Road: The Story of Three Generations of an Interracial Family in the American South*. From 1995 to 2013 he was director of publishing for the Library of Congress, and he has contributed articles to many publications, among them the *Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *WIRED*, *The New Yorker*, and National Public Radio. Currently he is a visiting professor of English and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi.



October 21

7:30 p.m.

Location TBD

November 11

6 p.m.

Nissan

Gordy Honors College Undergraduate Research Symposium I

Honors seniors present honors research proposals and completed projects.

November 18

6 p.m.

Nissan

Gordy Honors College Undergraduate Research Symposium II

Honors seniors present honors research proposals and completed projects.

Important University Policies

**Covid-19
Classroom
Wellness**

In accordance with the guidelines and directives of the Mississippi Department of Health, students attending class must practice physical distancing and wear a mask at all times. Refusal of a student to wear a mask in the classroom or follow any other safety guidelines will result in disciplinary action up to and including educational sanctions and/or removal from campus in accordance with the student conduct process.

Students must not attend class or enter public spaces on campus if they are experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19. Before attending class or entering public spaces, students experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 must contact a health care provider to be tested for COVID-19. This service is provided free of charge by the Campus Health Center. Non-attendance does not relieve the student of the responsibility of completing all course requirements.

**Potential for
Course
Delivery
Transition**

As the nature of the current public health emergency continues to evolve, this course could need to change delivery methods at a moment's notice and for an indefinite period of time. Students should be prepared to learn in an online or remote environment if it were to become necessary. Access to an adequate computer and a reliable Internet connection would be essential to your success in this environment.

**Academic
Integrity**

All Mississippi University for Women students are expected to engage honestly and responsibly in their academic work and to refrain from any dishonest academic behavior. Violations of Academic Integrity include cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, or other actions that violate commonly accepted intellectual and ethical standards within academic and scientific communities. Violations of Academic Integrity can lead to severe penalties, from a zero grade for a test or assignment to expulsion from the University. Academic Integrity applies to work in progress as well as completed work. If you are uncertain about the proper procedure to follow when citing a source, working in a team with other students, or any other coursework situation please ask your instructor, a librarian, or a resource like the Writing Center for help. To learn more about the university's standards of Academic Integrity, including what happens if your instructor believes that you have engaged in dishonest academic behavior and your rights to appeal such a charge, please consult section 7.2 of the Undergraduate Bulletin.

**Americans
with
Disabilities
Act**

The University is committed to providing equitable access to learning for all students. The Student Success Center is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities (e.g. physical, sensory, chronic health, learning, attentional, mental health) and arranges for reasonable accommodations to be implemented. It is the responsibility of students requesting accommodations to make an appointment with the Student Support Specialist to review specific needs, participate in the development of an Accommodation Plan by providing appropriate documentation, and discuss with the instructor how the Accommodation Plan will be applied in the course. Accommodations are not retroactive and a new Accommodation Plan must be reviewed, signed, and presented to instructors each semester. The Student Support Specialist is located in Reneau Hall, Room 101(B), and may be contacted by phone at 662.329.7138 or email at ada@muw.edu.

Title IX

Mississippi University for Women recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. The University is committed to creating an educational and learning environment free from harassment and discrimination based on sex, including sexual violence (assault, domestic violence, dating violence and gender-based stalking). To learn more about the University's policy on sexual misconduct, how to make a report, or confidential resources, go to www.muw.edu/titleix. The Title IX Coordinator is located on the third floor of Welty Hall, Room 305, and may be contacted by phone at 662-329-7104 or email at titleix@muw.edu.

University Policies continued

Early Alert Program

The Early Alert Program is a proactive system of communication and collaboration between faculty, Student Success Center staff, and students. The program promotes academic success by identifying students experiencing difficulty with courses, encouraging students to attend classes and actively participate, providing resources as a support system to assist students holistically, and developing a mindset that leads to further academic success.

Students whose midterm GPA falls below a 2.0 will have a hold place on their Banner account. The Early Alert hold serves as an opportunity for students to seek advice from their Student Success Navigator. Students are required to meet with their Student Success Navigator to work on an academic plan for student success. Once these meetings are held, the student's Early Alert hold will be released by the Student Success Center.

Important Academic Calendar Dates

August 20	Last day to add classes, change from audit to credit, or change from grade to pass-fail
September 16	Last day to drop a course without receiving a grade of WP/WF or change from credit to audit
October 27	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the university
