Based on the Oxford style of teaching, “Honors Tutorials” pair a small group of honors students (typically two to five) with a distinguished MU faculty member to discuss a topic, author, book/s, or issue very intensely over the course of a semester. Meetings take place in the faculty member’s office (or other, non-classroom setting).

If you would like to participate in one of these tutorials, please complete the application found at: https://honors.missouri.edu/courses/course-catalog/

Tutorial Applications are due Friday, March 15th.

A description of each tutorial below is listed below.

**Housing Segregation**
Rigel C. Oliveri, Law  
Arranged  
1 credit

Despite the progress made in many aspects of race relations in the past 50 years, housing segregation remains one area that seems intractable. In most of the United States rates of residential racial segregation are as high or almost as high as they were in 1968, at the time the Fair Housing Act was passed. In this class, we will discuss the reasons for, and consequences of, such segregation. We will examine the issue from many angles, including the intersection of race and class; second-order effects of segregation on policing communities of color, access to education, and the democratic process; affordable housing policy; predatory lending and the foreclosure crisis; and community development, neighborhood revitalization, and gentrification.

**The American Way of Death:**  
**A Sociological Perspective on the Death Industry**  
Doug Valentine, Sociology  
Arranged  
1 credit

Death is a part of life. We all grieve, mourn, memorialize, and eventually, die ourselves. Despite the essential nature of death, how it is understood and addressed depends upon social and historical contexts. This course maps shifting attitudes toward death, the body, and mourning through U.S. history, as well as the business of death in the contemporary United States. Topics include the funeral industry, cremation, and the green burial movement.
Liminality Code: Decoding the “in-between” mysteries of life through the exploration of universal transitional states.
Tim Carson, Honors College
Arranged
1 credit

From the most personal to the largest social groups, the model of liminality provides a way to make sense of the most baffling passages of life. Students will participate through a combination of weekly readings, discussions, and creating their own project related to liminality.

Mandalas – focus, calm, create, repeat
Deb Huelsbergen, Visual Studies
Mondays 10:00-10:50am
1 credit

The word mandala is a Sanskrit term that means circle. Mandalas have a long history of being used to help with meditation and contemplation and are objects of devotion in many cultures. While the mandala is steeped in history and tradition, in this tutorial we will discover and create our own modern mandalas.

This course is a hands on experience where we will learn the calming powers of drawing repetitive lines and patterns. We will start simply and gain more confidence as the weeks progress creating at least one mandala a week for the whole semester. Starting with a concept, we will then use pencil, paper, paint, pens and possibly pretzels to create beautiful mandalas. No drawing background is required only an open mind and a willingness to create.

Appreciation of Chinese Culture
Juan Wang, Honors College
Arranged
1 credit

This tutorial will draw from the instructor's personal experience and use a variety of authentic documents to introduce a number of important themes about Chinese culture and society, to enlarge students' cultural horizon and prepare them for future Study Abroad, internship, service, professional development and collaboration in China. In addition, this tutorial offers the opportunity for students to improve their reading, speaking, and writing skills in Chinese, while attending to students specific needs, majors, and levels of Chinese. The tutorial fosters critical thinking by examining representations of cultural phenomena from different perspectives, emphasizing on diversity as a means of deconstructing cultural stereotypes. It offers the opportunity of working with the professor on a one-to-one basis on an in-depth study of a chosen topic.
The Business of Media: Audience, Innovation and Solutions
Damon Kiesow, Journalism
Arranged
1 credit

This will be an intensive case-study-focused discussion of the business and operation of modern media organizations. We will cover the theory and practice of audience research and innovation in media organizations, with special focus on Product and Project Management, Design Thinking, User Experience Research and Business Modeling.

Witches and Healers: Magic in the Ancient World
Stephanie Kimmey, Ancient Mediterranean Studies & The Writing Center
Arranged
1 credit

Abracadabra! Where does this word come from? How long has the idea of magic been around? This course will explore the art of influencing the natural course of events by magical means as practiced in the ancient world at large. The course will cover the beliefs in supernatural forces, the rites aimed at controlling these forces, and the social roles of ritual experts in the various cultures of the ancient world. As we define the relationship between magic, witchcraft, and religion, we will also study the objects created during the practice of magic, such as spells, curse tablets, amulets, and voodoo dolls.

Nuclear Weapons, Wartime Drafts, and Cyber Warfare: The Past, Present and Future of the Military Industrial Complex
John Kitch, Kinder Institute
Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm
1 credit

This tutorial will examine how the United States has transformed from a fledgling democracy with little financial resources and no standing military into the owner of the most sophisticated, expensive, and deadly military force in the history of the world. The course will survey key events, arguments, and figures that impacted the evolution of the American military experience. Students will be engaging historical, philosophical, and ethical questions about topics such as nuclear weapons, wartime drafts, and cyber warfare.

Views of the News: Media Criticism
Amy Simons, Journalism
Thursdays 1:00-1:50pm
1 credit

Each week, KBIA brings you a roundtable discussion about the media. Host Amy Simons and regular panelists Mike McKean and Earnest Perry from the Missouri School of Journalism provide analysis, commentary and criticism. How are their topics chosen? What types of things might have been on their minds that didn't make it on air or online? Continue the conversation with Associate Professor Amy Simons in a weekly debate of the ethical decisions facing journalists. At the end of the semester, you and your
classmates will produce your own episode of Views of the News in the Reynolds Journalism Institute’s Futures Lab studio.

**Give me Liberty or Give Me Arbitration**  
Robert Bailey, Law  
Time/Day Arranged  
1 credit

This honors tutorial will focus on ten to twelve United States Supreme Court decisions. Starting in the 1960s with the Steelworkers Trilogy, the United States Supreme Court has issued numerous decisions relating to arbitration, which have significant impact on consumers and employees. Students will explore and discuss the decisions with a goal of ferreting out the undergirding public policy implications of these decisions.

**Definitions of Fun**  
Chris Dobbs, Ancient Mediterranean Studies & The Learning Center  
Arranged  
1 credit

“Fun” is a deceptively simple word. Everyone seems to know what it is, but providing a universally acceptable definition is impossible. This course explores how definitions of non-work time and activities (fun, leisure, play, game, sport, etc.) shape our views of the world. This course is as much introspective as it is informational: students will confront their own ideas and biases through the study of competing worldviews.

**From Dred Scott to Mike Brown:**  
**Racial Capitalism, Urban Inequality, and Black Struggle in St. Louis**  
Keona Ervin, History  
Mondays & Wednesdays 5:00-5:50pm, first 8 weeks  
1 credit

The wave of Black-led, powerfully community protests that emerged in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014 was not an anomalous development in the history of St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Instead, the protests that catalyzed the national Movement for Black Lives were connected to a deep tradition of Black struggle in the city. Drawing attention to the creative and attention-grabbing grassroots organizing of the moment and also to the levels of deep racial-economic subjugation that defined Black life in the city, local rapper and organizer Tef-Poe called St. Louis the “Mississippi of today’s civil rights movement.” Tef-Poe would also famously state that the Ferguson movement was “not your grandaddy’s civil rights movement.” This course takes up Tef-Poe’s provocations by examining the history of racial capitalism, urban inequality, and Black struggle in St. Louis from the Dred Scott decision of 1857 to the police shooting of Michael Brown in 2014. We will compare and contrast the embryonic Movement for Black Lives and past forms of Black activism in the city to understand the ways in which present-day struggles both modeled and broke away from organizing traditions of the past. We will seek to understand the ways in which St. Louis was a microcosm of the nation’s racial quagmire, an epicenter of contestation over race, racial violence, racial segregation, racialized poverty, state violence, and antiracist struggle. Including a visit to St. Louis for
conversations with students, activists, artists, and scholars, this course requires participants to create digital projects that examine a relevant topic.

**Strategic Leadership and Moral Responsibility**  
Luke Perez, Kinder Institute  
Mondays 10:00-10:50am  
1 credit

The prevalence of war and conflict in human social interactions confounds philosophers, poets, and politicians---for it at once shocks and unsettled our moral sensibilities *and* excites the intellect as puzzle to be solved. In both instances, the central concern is leadership and decision-making. Strategists argue that they merely accept the world as it is, not as it ought to be. Ethicists remind us that politics is a moral activity and can never be fully decoupled from those considerations. And yet, to assert that strategy and morality are incommensurate with one another ignores the fact that some of the best strategists explicitly discussed the moral dimensions of leadership and decision-making, and the tradition of political ethics has much to say on how strategy can help leaders make better, more moral, decision.

In this honors tutorial we consider both in tandem. We consider strategy as a moral problem and ethics as a strategic problem. Readings will focus on key thinkers of ethics and military strategy while playing close attention to how each shapes human decision-making and what each has to say about the moral responsibility of decisions. Because this is a tutorial, we will aim to read for depth rather than breadth. Many of the assigned readings will be conceptual dense. Therefore, the weekly discussions and writing assignments will focus on helping students master the conceptual challenges posed by the tension between strategy and ethics.

**Woman’s Best Friend: Feminism & Animal Advocacy**  
Candace Korasick, Sociology  
Fridays 2:00-2:50pm  
1 credit

There is a strong body of literature on the relationship between women and non-human animals. This includes, but is not limited to women’s greater involvement in the animal rights movement, their greater tendency to be vegetarians, their roles as caretakers of animals as well as of children, and their emotional attachments to non-human animals. Moreover, many of these works build on a theme of connecting the subjugation of women to that of non-human animals in patriarchal societies. This course explores those writings, and students will assess how applicable they are to the day-to-day lives of specific women who work with non-human animals.

**Myths of American Political Culture**  
John Suval, Kinder Institute  
Fridays 10:00-10:50am  
1 credit

This course will unpack a series of foundational myths that continue to animate and unsettle the body politic, including "a city upon a hill"; the declaration that "all men are
created equal”; Manifest Destiny; Frederick Jackson Turner’s Frontier Thesis; and the Lost Cause/Civil War narrative. We will trace the origins and surprising staying power of each of these myths and consider what counter-narratives have emerged to contest their dominant position in American political culture. In addition to a rich array of written texts and videos of iconic speeches, course materials will include popular culture productions such as songs and films.

**Translational Neuroscience**
Zezong Gu, Medical School
Mondays 4-6pm
2 credits
Translational neuroscience is an exciting field of study which applies multi-disciplinary biomedical approaches for neuroscience relevant research. Such information is often translated and/or developed into clinical applications and novel therapies for abnormal conditions or disorders of the nervous system. This Honor Tutorial on Translational Neuroscience is for a small group of Honors students directed by Dr. Zezong Gu at the MU School of Medicine. Topics include hot areas of research in neuroscience, like neuro-immunotherapy, stroke and traumatic brain injury, neuro-inflammation, and cutting-edged technologies for transformative neuroscience research, such as super-resolution imaging, Brain-bow, and CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing, along with applications of machine learning/artificial intelligence.

**Gene Editing: What, How and Why?**
Shari Freyermuth, Biochemistry
Arranged
1 credit

CRISPR is in the news a lot these days - “Birth of first gene-edited babies.” What is gene editing? How is it done and what successes have happened so far? What are some future uses? In this course, we will cover various methods of gene editing such as ZFNs, TALENs and CRISPR-Cas 9. We will look at the applications of these procedures and will discuss the scientific value as well as the ethical issues involved. This would be a good opportunity for non-science students who are interested in learning about this technology and its current uses.

**Voting in America: Is There a Better Way?**
Kathyrne Harper, Honors College
Arranged
1 credit

Recently, accusations have been made from the left and the right that America’s elections are “rigged” and should be reformed. Are these claims substantiated and, if so, how should America’s voting process be changed? Elections are held in the US to decide leaders at the local, state, and federal levels. Election laws regulate who can vote, how those votes are counted, and what outside forces are allowed in influencing the vote. This course is designed to engage students not in a discussion of the value of democracy, but in how democracy is practiced and whether the results reflect the voice of the people.
Food: Justice and Celebration in the Ethics of What We Eat
Sarah Beth Kitch, Truman School of Public Affairs
Tuesdays, 11-11:50am
1 credit

Persons experience food as a basic requirement for staying alive as well as the center of celebrations that shape personal and communal identity. Through this tutorial, we encounter the intersection of food, ethics, and politics in concerns such as just access to food, ethical food production, storytelling in democracy, or reflections on the role of food in discovering what it means to be human. Our goal in this course is to understand themes of justice and meaning as we reflect on the ethical dimensions of what we eat. Contributors to this conversation develop their work in many forms, including narrative, treatise, speech, essay, poetry, film, and song.

Odysseys in Translation
Noah Heringman (English)
John McDonald, Annie Mori, and David Schenker (Ancient Mediterranean Studies)
Arranged
1 Credit

What is a translation? Is it an interpretation, a lesser copy, or a work in its own right? What makes one translation better than another? What difference does the gender or the background of the translator make? And should a translator strive to preserve the original, or to reimagine it? We will consider these and related issues as we read four variations on Homer’s Odyssey, beginning with Emily Wilson’s new edition, the first English translation published by a woman. A highlight exclusively for students enrolled in this one-hour tutorial will be a seminar with Professor Wilson when she visits the MU campus this fall.

BBQ: Culture, Cuts, and Consumption (Gn_Hon 2012H)
J.D. Bowers, Honors College
Jim Spain, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies
Thursdays, 4-5:50pm
1 credit

Barbecue explores the culture, context, culinary, and commercial aspects of our most ubiquitous food. We will explore how the meat industry plays a role in BBQ, the environmental implications (of both meat and wood usage), the chemistry of smoke and heat, culture (from your backyard to the national competitions, and even BBQ abroad), the restaurant business, and looks into how and why BBQ has become such a phenomenon. We will spend some time with a local author who has written a novel focused on barbecue that is currently being turned into a TV series. And then we will spend time visiting local BBQ “joints”, speaking with owners and pit-masters, customers and devotees, about their business models, their culinary decisions, and their traditions. Yes, we will taste, but we will also learn, and use what we have learned, to understand the world of BBQ and its intersections in our daily and national lives.