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*The mission of McKendree University is to provide a high-quality educational experience to outstanding students.*

*~Responsible Citizenship ~Engagement ~Academic Excellence ~Lifelong Learning~*

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### **HON 280 Intellectual Climate Seminar (1)**

This seminar is designed to integrate honors students into McKendree's intellectual climate. Students will attend campus events such as speakers, films, and performances at the Hettenhausen Center for the Arts, Campus Conversations presentations, and McKendree University Gallery of Art exhibits. Students will also read and discuss relevant texts regarding the political, cultural, and artistic contexts of each event. The course encourages students to make connections among the arts, humanities, and social sciences and to reflect on how public intellectual life enriches their own academic experience.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

*Students will:*

1. Engage actively with the cultural and intellectual life of the university.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the historical, political, and artistic contexts of campus events.
3. Analyze and discuss interdisciplinary connections among the arts, humanities, and sciences.
4. Reflect on the role of civic and cultural participation in a liberal education.

#### **Course Topics**

1. The role of the public intellectual
2. Interdisciplinary approaches to cultural events
3. The arts as forms of civic engagement
4. Strategies for critical reflection and discussion
5. Writing about performances, exhibitions, and lectures
6. The relationship between campus culture and academic inquiry



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### **HON 300 Honors Practicum (3)**

This course provides an opportunity for honors students to engage in faculty-mentored research or creative activity. Working closely with a full-time McKendree faculty member, students will design and complete a substantive project within the instructor's area of expertise. The practicum encourages the application of disciplinary methods, critical thinking, and independent initiative. Instructor consent required. May be repeated for credit up to three times.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

*Students will:*

1. Develop and apply disciplinary research or creative methods under faculty supervision.
2. Demonstrate initiative, accountability, and effective time management in independent work.
3. Communicate research goals and results through written, oral, or creative formats.
4. Reflect on the scholarly or creative process and its relevance to future academic or professional goals.

#### **Course Topics**

1. Developing a research question or creative concept
2. Conducting a literature review or background study
3. Research design, methodology, and ethical practice
4. Data collection, analysis, or creative production
5. Communicating results through presentation or publications
6. Reflection on scholarly growth and future applications



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### **HON 401 Honors Thesis I (1)**

This course provides honors students the opportunity to design and begin an independent research or creative project within their field of interest. Under the guidance of a full-time McKendree faculty member, students will develop a thesis proposal, conduct background research, and draft the initial sections of their project.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

*Students will:*

1. Formulate a clear and focused research question or creative concept.
2. Conduct a review of relevant scholarship or artistic models.
3. Compose a formal thesis proposal and initial draft demonstrating disciplinary methods.
4. Collaborate effectively with a faculty mentor to refine scope, structure, and methodology.
5. Demonstrate professional responsibility and consistent progress toward project completion.

#### **Course Topics**

1. Research design and proposal writing
2. Methods and ethics in disciplinary or creative research
3. Time management and project planning
4. Drafting and revising thesis sections
5. Peer and mentor feedback strategies



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### **HON 300 Honors Thesis II (2)**

This course provides honors students the opportunity to complete and present an independent research or creative project developed in HON 401. Working under the supervision of a full-time McKendree faculty member, students will revise and expand their earlier drafts into a final thesis or project that meets Honors Program standards for originality, rigor, and presentation. Students will share their completed work with the campus community through an oral presentation, performance, or exhibition.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

*Students will:*

1. Revise and complete a substantial research or creative project demonstrating disciplinary excellence.
2. Integrate faculty feedback to refine argument, structure, and methodology.
3. Communicate findings or creative results through a formal written document or performance.
4. Present the completed project to the campus community in an accessible and professional manner.
5. Reflect on the research or creative process and its implications for continued scholarship or professional practice

#### **Course Topics**

1. Advanced drafting and revision strategies
2. Editing and formatting the final thesis or project
3. Preparing oral, visual, or performative presentations
4. Integrating feedback from faculty and peers
5. Reflection on research growth and outcomes