



# J-TERM HAPPENINGS



## J-TERM 2021 HONORS COURSES

### HON 330 Courage to Change

This course investigated how the historical model of the Niebuhrs (Reinhold, H. Richard, Hulda and Ursula Niebuhr) informs our contemporary self-construction and engagement with social change. The course examined ways their lives speak to us as inheritors of the Niebuhr legacy at Elmhurst University, and the ways our lives speak in response to the ongoing call to social justice.

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NEW

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Read below for a student reflection.

Dr. O'Rourke's "Courage to Change" course is an engaging month-long discussion about Reinhold Niebuhr's intuitive but well-articulated reflections on the individual-collective dynamic. Niebuhr's theory of responsibility is especially relevant in the current social climate, calling upon the individual to act in the face of inherent finiteness but offering hope for a better tomorrow. Reflecting on Niebuhr's insights on society places one in a better position for processing what is going on and responding appropriately. HON 330 is an eye-opening experience, broadening one's understanding of the interaction of a range of societal components. -**Wiktoria Szymanowicz**

## HON 329 Intro to Academic Research

The course provides a broad introduction to methods of primary research, surveying and comparing qualitative, quantitative, and mixed approaches, and exploring their concomitant philosophical assumptions. Students in the course conduct and present research, in groups, on various topics

Read below for student reflections!

Out of my entire college experience, I had yet to have the freedom to be solely driven by my curiosity in a course, up until I took Honors "Intro to Academic Research." While students are given the opportunity to select their own topic, research method, and design, they are guided throughout the process to eventually create their own research proposal. After being allowed to select research that was relevant to my major and being supported by my professor, I plan to take what I researched in this class onto graduate school. Whether you are a first year, transfer, or senior, HON-329 is a great way to be exposed to the research process early on in your academic career to give yourself a competitive edge as a student and to prepare for postgraduate education. Overall, I couldn't have been more pleased with the outcome of this course. -Vanessa Sevilla

During this past J-Term, I took a course titled "Intro to Academic Research." This class was extremely beneficial to my life as a student since I am considering pursuing graduate school after my time at Elmhurst, which would require me to conduct some form of research. I was able to take this course from my hometown of Los Angeles, even though this meant my classes started at seven in the morning! What I enjoyed about this class is the fact that I was still able to get to know my classmates and feel connected to my professor and the course material even though instruction was completely virtual. This class has given me plenty of useful new information about the methods and procedures related to the academic research process that I will be prepared to utilize in the future. -Benjamin Myhr

## HON 322 Women and Fiction

An Honors J-Term classic! Read below for student reflections.

"Women and Fiction," taught by Dr. Chambers, is a thought-provoking course in which we analyzed the ways some women write and are written about. We discussed how women are molded by society, which results in stories with themes such as female suppression, loss of identity, and lack of agency. We also discussed how female-to-female relationships, help women navigate these struggles.

Dr. Chamber is very thoughtful in the movies, books, and short stories that she asks us to engage with. We consume diverse stories of different cultures, topics, and time periods. It really is a fascinating course that has pushed me to think about the ways I and others operate (I find myself analyzing while bingeing Netflix, which makes it more productive, right?). The course is mainly discussion-based, but the assignments given are appropriate for a J-Term. I would highly recommend it! -Lauren Berryhill

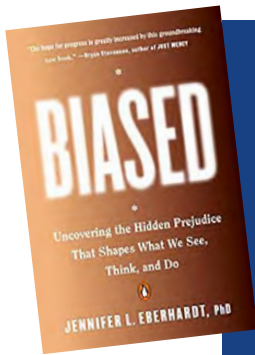
SAVE THE  
DATE

The MLK Jr.  
Intercultural Lecture



Wednesday, February 17th, at 4PM  
Ms. Sherry Williams  
President, Bronzeville Historical Society

"Painful Past or Present Politics: An examination of  
my own life in a racially polarized Chicago"



# HONORS DIRECTED READINGS

*HON 350 Fall 2020*



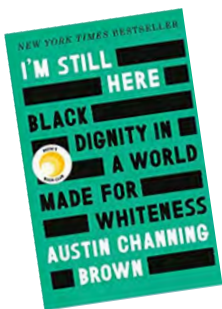
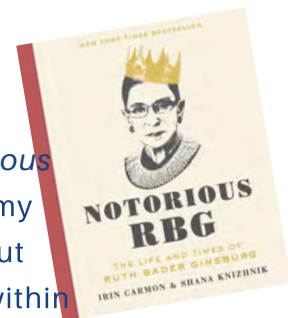
## STUDENT REFLECTIONS

*I'm Still Here* was one of the most eye-opening books I have read. It not only helped me to understand more of what people go through on a daily basis, but also showed me where I could improve in my daily life. Some of the stories she wrote made me think about how much injustice there still is in the world. Even though society has come a long way, that doesn't mean there isn't a long way to go. I think this is definitely a book that people should read, especially considering the events of this year.

**-Hannah Foster**

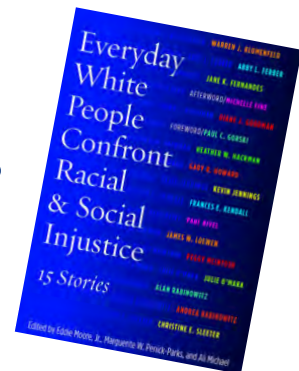
After reading the book, *Notorious RBG*, and discussing it with my peers, it made me think about discrimination and inequality within the United States, how much we have improved thus far as a society, and how much we still have to improve in terms of equality. I am optimistic that RBG's legacy will live on in younger generations, such as my own, and that the fight for equality for all will continue.

**-Katlyn Mulford**



This book is a very refreshing read, especially given the circumstances that have recently unfolded in areas all over the world that address the notions of racial disparities. Unlike other pieces of writing that highlight the perspective of the "targeted" group, this focuses on the heavy burden carried by credible White authors for the stories that they portray when looking to understand this predicament. These essays portray the hardships on both ends when working towards unraveling the harsh truth. Self-reflection is something heavily emphasized throughout the book. By exposing their knowledge through their experiences, the authors are allowing the readers to truly reflect on what it means to oppose racial prejudice and what that entails for future generations in the long fight against social injustice.

**-Yusra Omer**



Honors Program Peer Leaders present "Talk Back Series." A series of discussion-based events focusing on various topics.

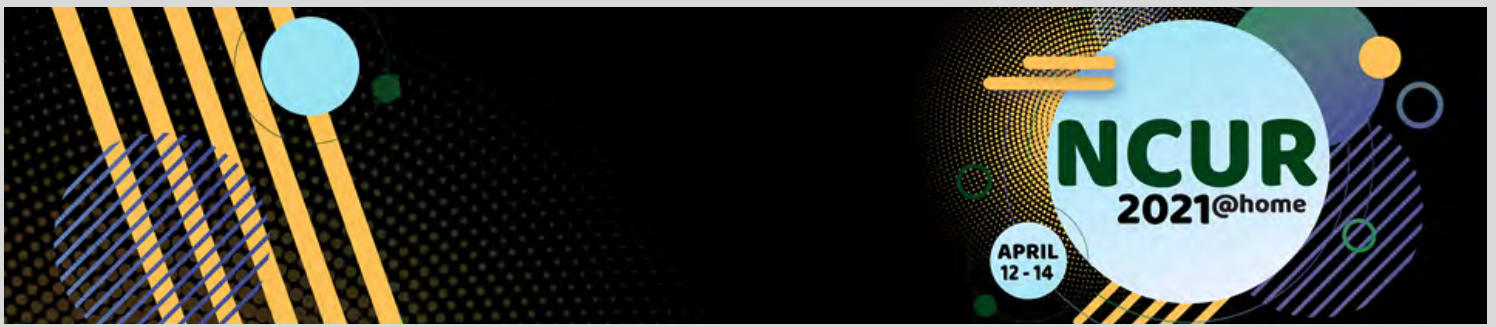
Here are the upcoming ones!

**February TBA: Women and Underrepresented Groups in Tech @ 7PM via ZOOM**

**March 23rd: Fighting Back Judgment @ 7PM via Zoom**

SAVE THE DATE





## Fifteen Honors Program Students Accepted to the National Council of Undergraduate Research Conference for 2021!

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### ***What is NCUR?***

NCUR is a conference that is specifically for undergraduate students to present their research.

Research can be presented in various forms such as a poster, an oral presentation, a panel, and more. Being accepted to present at a national research conference is a huge accomplishment! Congratulations to these stellar students.

**Afaaf Amatullah**  
**Heather Anderson**  
**Nicole Kim**  
**Kaitlin Krivak**  
**Carlos Romero**  
**Melissa Morrissey**  
**Joshua Nichols**  
**Marina Orrico**  
**Vanessa Sevilla**  
**Adelisa Omerovic**  
**Paulina Sobieralski**  
**Carla Santacruz**  
**Yuliya Zanevych**  
**Jason Gill**  
**Ioannis Mastoras**

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### **Projects topics include:**

- **The Issue of Invisibility: Gaps in Data for Native Americans and the COVID-19 Crisis**
- **Performance Training: Preventing Playing-Related Injuries in Amateur Instrumentalists**
- **On the Colour of Fountain Pen Inks**
- **California Girls: Prostitution and Proper Sexuality in San Francisco, 1850-1900**
- **The Effects of P53 Levels in Different Genders, Ages, and Races of Patients That Consume Cigarettes**
- **Gender Differences in OnlyFans Content Creators' Subscription Pricing Strategies**
- **Generating Conic-Like Sections**

# HONORS PROGRAM UPDATES



One of our members, Heather Anderson, published her research in *The NCHC Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity!* A great accomplishment to be a published author as an undergraduate. [Click here to read her work!](#)



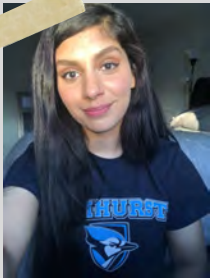
We have formed an **Elmhurst University Honors Program Alumni Council** with the inaugural group beginning plans this month!

## MEET YOUR NEW ECHO BOARD

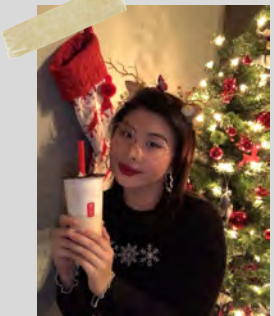
**Sara Acosta**  
Service Chair



**Shea Eubanks**  
Co-Programming Chair



**Sibi Akhoon**  
Honors Lounge Manager/  
Social Media Coordinator



**Teresa Duong**  
Co-Programming Chair

**Allison Skiple**  
Retreat/Peer Leader Chair



### What is ECHO?!

ECHO is the social-arm of the Honors Program. Led by a group of student officers, ECHO plans social, cultural, and service events for Honors Program members and the campus. [Interested in being involved in ECHO?](#)