

## Previous HON 4500 Course Descriptions

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*HON 4500: Enduring Questions*

*Three credit hours*

### ***How will technology change society?***

*Honors Enduring Questions (HON 4500)*

**Prentiss Dantzler, Urban Studies**

The power of social science is its ability to question how individual experiences relate to broader issues in society. In this quest, people often create an imaginary about the ways in which society could be different – more equitable, more democratic, and more cooperative. Our constant grappling with inequality forces us to be quite optimistic about the future. However, in the same ways we may be hopeful of a more grandiose future, it is equally possible that the hereafter may be more emblematic of a dystopian form. While classic works of literature like 1984, Animal Farm and Fahrenheit 451 have depicted powerful distortions of society, more recent shows like Black Mirror have also caused us to question what lies down the road. This course will focus on dystopian and futuristic portrayals of society using Netflix's Black Mirror. In this course, we will explore how characters in dystopias have been molded by society, and how their actions and thoughts are driven by their experiences in predetermined (and often inflexible) social structures. We will pay particular interest to the interactions between characters, and how those interactions might reflect norms and values of that particular society. Through a combination of visual screenings and complementary readings, we will use what you know as critical thinkers to analyze surreal environments, contemporary linkages and cynical viewpoints. Despite its ubiquity, social science can help us understand the mechanisms by which we all have come to be across time and space.

### ***Can We Eradicate Human Disease?***

*Honors Enduring Questions (HON 4500)*

**Chip Zimmerman, Respiratory Therapy**

This course will study the history and evolution of human disease in an effort to answer the enduring question of whether or not disease as a whole can ever truly be eradicated. In lieu of a traditional text, the course will utilize a free podcast titled "This Podcast Will Kill You," that is produced by two doctorally-prepared epidemiologists and covers a wide array of disease topics. Genetic, contagious, mental, waterborne, diet-related, and sexually transmitted diseases will be covered in an effort to foster discussion on the differences in treatment and whether eradication is possible.

### ***Ethics of Nature***

*Honors Enduring Questions (HON 4500)*

**Dr. Peter Lindsay, Social & Behavioral Sciences**

This course examines what nature is, what our relationship is with it, and how we as humans interact – and should interact – with it. The course's principle objective is to give students a sense of how our relationship to the natural environment has changed over time, and how we think it should change as we move forward in time. At the end of this course, students will be able to identify and critically appraise the main arguments of scholarly works; apply the ideas learned to diverse contexts; use the ideas learned as a basis for their own thoughts and views; have a better understanding their relationship to the natural environment; be able engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with others (especially those with whom you do not agree); and be able to formulate in writing arguments about these issues.

## ***The Right to Health: Inalienable or Not? You Decide!***

*Honors Enduring Questions (HON 4500)*

**Dr. Kim Ramsey-White, Social & Behavioral Sciences**

This course is designed to allow students to explore the enduring question of “Is Health a Human Right?” This interdisciplinary course will leverage the expertise, resources and experiences proximate to the GSU campus and surrounding areas that will engage students in meaningful inquiry about the complexities associated with understanding what health is and its association with human rights. Extending the traditional classroom experience into the civic, medical and social spaces in the Atlanta area via field trips, invited speakers, focused readings and cross-discipline discussion, will result in a relevant and engaging, course where students and faculty will develop and sharpen critical thinking while also allowing them to evaluate the value of being an informed and independent thinker. The course requires active participation, deep thinking, careful writing and respectful discussion by all involved. Students should know that participation in activities outside of the scheduled course time will be required.

## ***Through a Different Lens: Examining the Enduring Questions of Bioethics from Diverse Perspectives***

*Honors Enduring Questions (HON 4500)*

**Courtney Anderson, JD, Bioethics**

Bioethics deals with some of the most controversial and challenging issues in medicine and research: Who lives? Who dies? When does life begin? Who should get access to care? What research should we conduct and who can participate in it? Traditional bioethical principles focus on respect for persons, medical beneficence, and justice, but some populations are still unable to benefit from medical progress and do not have access to medical care. What does justice look like to these populations, and how can equity be realized for them? This course will explore common topics in bioethics but will concentrate on the experiences of diverse populations, deliberately incorporating the experiences of underrepresented minorities and the work of minority bioethics scholars to address the enduring questions of bioethics.