

MAYMESTER 2026

May 18 – June 4

Do not register for the Maymester course unless you can attend, in-person, all day, EACH day

Maymester 2026 (May 18 – June 4)

UNHL 3130: The Impact of Systems: Minoritized Identities and Health Outcomes (3 credits)

Instructor: Jennifer Camacho Taylor (SHED)

Meeting Pattern: M,T,W 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

This course will provide insight into the intersection of systemic structures and the experiences of those with minoritized identities by exploring health outcomes (mental and physical). An exploration of birth to elderly aging will be presented.

UHL COURSE INFORMATION FALL 2026

Courses for First-Year UHL Students

All first-year students must enroll for both UNHL 1100 and UNHL 2755. UHL students who do not have credit for ENGL 1020 **must enroll for ENGL 1020**. If you have credit for ENGL 1020, you do not need to enroll.

UNHL 1100 001: The Life of the Mind (3 credits) *Required for ALL Incoming Freshmen*

Instructors: Robert Metcalf (Philosophy), Sarah Hagelin (English)

Meeting Pattern: Fridays 11:00 am – 1:50 pm

UNHL 2755 001: UHL Seminar (1 credit) *Required for ALL Incoming Students*

Instructor: Sarah Fields (Communication)

Meeting Pattern: Fridays 9:15 – 10:30 am

Courses for 2nd and 3rd Years, and All Transfer/Upper Division UHL Students

UNHL 3170 001: Anti-Transgender Legislation, Critical Race Theory, and the Future of U.S. Democracy (3 credits)

Instructor: Mia Fischer (Communication)

Meeting Pattern: Tuesday 9:00 – 11:50 am

Since 2020 transgender people in the United States have been experiencing unprecedented political efforts to restrict their rights and participation in public life. In 2022 alone, over 150 bills have been introduced across the country with the aim of restricting trans people's – especially trans youth's – ability to play sports, use bathrooms, and/or receive gender-affirming health care, as well as laws restricting discussion of gender and sexual identity in schools. At the same time, we are witnessing attacks on critical race theory, reproductive, voting, and immigration rights, as well as on the very institutions of U.S. democracy as evidenced by the January 6 Capitol riots. In this discussion-based course, we will investigate simple, yet pressing questions: Why has there been such an increase in anti-trans legislation in the past few years? What relationship might this new surge in anti-trans legislation have to attacks on the rights of other marginalized populations? How has this legislation been framed, responded to, and challenged? To examine these questions, we will engage with a range of interdisciplinary scholarship from critical media, cultural, queer, transgender, ethnic, and surveillance studies. Students will develop their own voice on these issues by creating a final public-facing multi-media project, for example, in the form of a podcast, zine, or video.

UNHL 3504: Representation and Transformation in Young Adult Fiction and Pop Culture (3 credits)

Instructor: Traci Jones (YA Author)

Meeting Pattern: Monday 2:00 - 4:50 pm

Popular culture is transformative, and the stories you read and see when young can profoundly impact a reader's view of the world around them. At its best, Young Adult (YA) books and media challenge, enlighten and inform the reader while simultaneously entertaining and engaging them. At its worst, YA literature and media reinforce stereotypes or ignore some groups entirely. This course will explore the transformation in how books and pop culture for young adults have been written and produced over the last 60 years. We will examine changing representations of characters, particularly around race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexuality. With an eye toward history and historical events, we will discuss how the problems these characters face have come to more realistically reflect the lived experiences of the readers, viewers, and consumers, and how changes in society have driven this transformation in YA books and media.

UNHL 3818 001: Artificial Intelligence & You (3 credits)

Instructor: John Tinnell (English)

Meeting Pattern: Monday, Wednesday 3:30 – 4:45 pm

This is a strange time to be a college student. While you are studying to develop expertise around your chosen major, so-called *intelligent machines* are also being trained to do knowledge work in your field. AI technologies are quickly gaining a capacity to analyze data, recognize patterns, issue recommendations, make decisions, and take actions—and many organizations are now entrusting these systems to perform cognitive tasks alongside professionals in various domains. Such advancements often inspire worries about the fate of humanity. In this course, however, we will regard the rise of AI as an occasion to reassess (and celebrate) the unique qualities that distinguish human experiences from computational models. Guided by four books and four films, as well as current articles driving the AI debate, we will reflect deeply together on four big questions: (1) What exactly is “artificial intelligence” and where is it headed? (2) How does AI compare and contrast with different modes of human intelligence? (3) What are the inherent risks and potential dangers that AI technologies entail?, and (4) How might you best pursue your passions in a highly automated, AI-laden society?

UNHL 3827 001: American Music, American Culture: Folk, Roots, and the Blues (3 credits)

Instructor: Sean McGowan (College of Arts and Media)

Meeting Pattern: Monday, Wednesday 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

This class will explore the various influences on American culture, music, and identity, through analysis of several important musical figures and historic movements. These movements were largely created and disseminated by immigrants in the 19th c., many of whom brought traditional songs and stories of historic icons, legends, love, and loss. These songs and musical styles developed throughout regional America, influenced by - and subsequently influencing - local and even indigenous traditions of religion, community, and self-expression. This course will specifically examine the styles and developments of the Appalachia region (its Scots-Irish traditions & influence on bluegrass and old-time), modern American folk and protest music in New York City’s Greenwich Village, and the Mississippi Delta Blues and the Great Migration of African-Americans north to Memphis and Chicago.

UNHL 4999 001: Social Meanings of Reproduction (3 credits) (SOCY 4110 cross listed) **Juniors and Seniors only**

Instructor: Jennifer Reich (Sociology & Honors Director)

Meeting Pattern: Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:45 pm

Reproduction is not simply a biological process but is laden with symbolic, political, philosophical, and ideological meanings. Drawing on biology, history, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies and law, This course will examine the contested meanings of reproduction, including how people plan for and experience reproduction, how social meanings influence biological understandings of reproduction, social understandings of who should and should not reproduce (and under what circumstances) and how public policy and law mediate and reinforce these conflicts of meaning and ideology.

Senior Seminars

Both courses are required for graduation and may be taken in any order or concurrently after completion of four UNHL electives.

UNHL 4991 001: Senior Seminar I (3 credits)

Instructor: Rodney Herring (English)

Meeting Pattern: Thursday 11:00 am – 1:50 pm

UNHL 4992 001: Senior Seminar II (1 credit)

Instructor: Adam Lippert (Sociology)

Meeting Pattern: Tuesday 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Living Learning Community

HSPC 1111 001: From Cells to Selves – What Makes Us Human? (3 credits) **LLC Students Only**

Instructor: Jeffrey Golub (Philosophy)

Meeting Pattern: Tuesday Thursday 2:00 – 3:15 pm