

Welcome to *Civilizations: Past, Present, and Future*, the four-semester sequence that is the core of the Honors College curriculum. One of our faculty members described these courses perfectly as “thinking hard about things that matter.” We hope you enjoy the texts, the classes, and the people you encounter along this journey.

General Information

Preceptors and Office Hours: Each preceptor will distribute contact information and office hours to the students in her/his preceptorial.

Meeting Times:

- Preceptorials meet twice weekly (with a few exceptions that meet once a week) at assigned times. Meeting rooms for face-to-face sections are listed on MaineStreet.
- For the Fall 2020 Semester, the general lectures will take place remotely. Most lectures will be asynchronous and made available to students for viewing each Sunday at 5 PM EST via Brightspace. The only exceptions will be two LIVE, remote lectures for HON111 taking place via Zoom webinar on Tuesday Sept. 1 and Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 3:30 to 5 PM. Lecture plans for the Spring 2021 semester are still to be determined.

Course Coordinators: Each course has two coordinators: a staff coordinator and a faculty coordinator. The staff coordinator should be your first contact for questions about course logistics. For the 2020-2021 academic year, the coordinators are:

- HON 111 & 112
 - Staff Coordinator: Cara Doiron (cara.doiron@maine.edu, 581-3285)
 - Faculty Coordinator: Mimi Killinger (margaret.killinger@maine.edu, 581-3342, 101 Colvin Hall)
- HON 211 & 212
 - Staff Coordinator: Kim Crowley (kimberly.crowley@maine.edu, 581-3201)
 - Faculty Coordinator: Chris Mares (cmares@maine.edu)

The Sequence

Description: The four courses constituting *Civilizations: Past, Present, and Future* follow a chronological trajectory from earliest recorded times through the present, examining philosophy, history, literature, the arts, and natural, physical, and social sciences. In particular, by incorporating primary sources, small group discussions, and multiple perspectives, these courses explore the way in which civilizations and cultures have been developed and have interacted with others.

Objectives: As the core of the Honors College curriculum, these courses have four principal objectives. These objectives are interconnected and interdependent:

- Providing a starting point to explore the development of civilizations, cultures, and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives
- Critically engaging students in academic discourse through the study of primary texts and the encouragement of active involvement with fellow students, the faculty, and the texts
- Developing communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis
- Providing students with a fundamental grounding in the liberal arts as expressed in the University's General Education requirements

Student Outcomes: Students who successfully complete the four-semester sequence will be able to:

- Recognize and explain how humans have been defined by cultural traditions and how such traditions form the basis of Western civilization
- Analyze how social contexts and human institutions influence and are influenced by human behaviors
- Articulate how social, cultural, and biological factors affect human behavior, both individually and in society
- Explain how and why people from different cultural or international backgrounds or perspectives might view primary sources (including ideas, events, and behaviors) in quite different ways
- Articulate the relationship between human populations and the natural environment and how cultural beliefs and scientific discoveries shape perceptions about the natural environment
- Demonstrate an awareness of the influence of historical and cultural contexts on artistic decisions
- Identify and analyze the ethical issues, questions, and ambiguities arising in a work of literature, historical narrative, or social scientific account.

Grading and Required Work: Grades in each of these courses will reflect your work in class, on assignments outside of class, and on the common final assessment. Your preceptor will provide specific details concerning assigned work for your particular preceptorial and the weight of each of the following:

- Formal writing assignments [papers relating to the course materials and including revision based on feedback from the preceptor]
- Classroom involvement
- Final evaluation [see below]
- Individual preceptorial assignments [including reaction papers, class facilitation, and other specific requirements as determined by your preceptor]

Your preceptor will set policy on the acceptance and consequences of late papers.

Final Evaluations: Each of these courses will have a final evaluation. Honors 111 and Honors 112 will have a take-home final essay exam.

Honors 211 will have an individual oral final examination administered by your preceptor. These will be scheduled in advance, and will be held during the last week of classes or Final Exam Week. At least a week before the exam, you will be told the types of questions you should expect on the exam. Honors 212 will have a summative, take-home, written assignment.

Preceptorials: An often-asked question is “What’s a preceptorial?” A *preceptorial* (or *precept* for short), facilitated by a faculty *preceptor*, is a small group discussion inviting students into an active, engaged participation. Preceptorials are an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from each other while drawing on the expertise and experience of the preceptor. We believe this is much more descriptive than the standard use of “section.”

Texts: Each of the individual courses has its own reading list which can be found in the appropriate syllabus and our website: honors.umaine.edu/current-students/academics/civilizations/. Over the course of the four semesters, the sequence includes over forty “texts.” While some of those are groups of visual images that you will access online and others are articles or excerpts that are also online, most of the texts in this course are books. However, they are not textbooks; thus they are available from a number of different places. We do hope that you use the same version (edition, translation) that your preceptors and the rest of the class is using. We have included ISBN numbers on each of the reading lists for the course. **We encourage you to keep your books throughout college**, as they will help with your Honors 212 final exam and with your reading list as a thesis student.

Here are some possible ways to purchase your books:

- University of Maine Bookstore (www.bookstore.umaine.edu)
The bookstore will package all your books for the semester. You will pay retail prices for new books, but used books can be substantially cheaper. Refunds are available until the end of the second week of classes. No shipping, yes sales tax.
- Amazon (www.amazon.com) or Barnes & Noble (www.bn.com)
These online giants sell new and used books. New books are often sold at considerable discounts from retail. Used books are sold by used bookstores through these sites. Both offer free shipping on new book orders over \$25. For used books, you will be paying per-book shipping costs regardless of how many books you order from an individual vendor. Return/refund practices vary.
- AbeBooks.com (www.abebooks.com)
AbeBooks is a confederation of used book sellers. It is now owned by Amazon, but operates independently. If you buy several books from a single vendor, shipping is likely to be less. Be careful though, in some cases the shipping here is more than through Amazon. Most used books are shipped via media mail which can take quite some time.

Course Policies

Classroom Environment: The classroom is a learning environment. That does not mean political perspectives, value debates, or conflicts over cultural differences are not allowed. On the contrary, you are encouraged to raise such issues in class. Real engagement requires respect. Everyone has a right to learn, which means that you must respect each others' differences. Deprecating fellow classmates or others will not be tolerated, and prejudiced or hateful speech will be confronted.

Inclusive Language: Language is a powerful tool. It conveys ideas and influences behavior. During the four semesters of *Civilizations* we will observe this often. This power allows language to communicate bias and exclude individuals, even though that may not be the intention of the author. While there are no formal rules for student expression in these courses or at UMaine, we strongly encourage you to be sensitive and careful about the language you use in both writing and speaking. In addition, we recommend that you read the University's commitment to inclusive language: umaine.edu/wic/both/language.htm.

Academic Honesty Statement: Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University. Please see the University of Maine System's Academic Integrity Policy listed in the Board Policy Manual as Policy 314: maine.edu/board-of-trustees/policy-manual/section-314/.

Students Accessibility Services Statement: If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS and have a current accommodation letter should discuss with their preceptor privately as soon as possible.

Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause): In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities (due to COVID-19 or other long-term disruptions), the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

Observance of Religious Holidays/Events: The University of Maine recognizes that when students are observing significant religious holidays, some may be unable to attend classes or labs, study, take tests, or work on other assignments. If they provide adequate notice (at least one week and longer if at all possible), these students are allowed to make up course requirements as long as this effort does not create an unreasonable burden upon the instructor, department or University. At the discretion of the instructor, such coursework could be due before or after the examination or assignment. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to a student's grade for the examination, study, or course requirement on the day of religious observance. The student shall not be marked absent from the class due to observing a significant religious holiday. In the

case of an internship or clinical, students should refer to the applicable policy in place by the employer or site.

Sexual Discrimination Reporting: The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to Title IX Student Services or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

- For confidential resources on campus: Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.
- For confidential resources off campus: Rape Response Services: 1-800-871-7741 or Partners for Peace: 1-800-863-9909.
- Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help.
 - For support services on campus: Title IX Student Services: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at umaine.edu/titleix/.

A few final suggestions:

Explore different preceptors each semester. It's good to see how different faculty members approach our material. Insight into their teaching styles and philosophies can be found at honors.umaine.edu/home/people/honors-preceptors/.

Also, **consider not selling your texts from the *Civilizations* sequence;** they will be useful when you write your final paper in Honors 212, and you might find yourself attached to them for a longer time.

Alternatively, consider helping us find a good home for them in the hands of future Honors students by dropping them in the **Honors book donation box** in Colvin Hall.

University of Maine COVID-19 Syllabus Statement

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. The virus is transmitted person-to-person through respiratory droplets that are expelled when breathing, talking, eating, coughing, or sneezing. Additionally, the virus is stable on surfaces and can be transmitted when someone touches a contaminated surface and transfers the virus to their nose or mouth. When someone becomes infected with COVID-19 they may either have no symptoms or symptoms that range from mild to severe and can even be fatal. During this global pandemic, it is imperative that all students, faculty, and staff abide by the safety protocols and guidelines set forth by the University to ensure the safety of our campus. All students are encouraged to make the Black Bear Cares Pact to protect the health of themselves, the health of others, and the College of Our Hearts Always.

Black Bears Care Pact: umaine.edu/return/black-bears-care/

Symptom checking: The symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild to severe, and even people with mild symptoms may transmit the virus to others. Students are encouraged to use the symptom checking app each day before attending class or moving about campus and follow the recommendation prompted within the app. Students should monitor for the following symptoms daily: fever (temperature >100.4F/38.0C) or chills, new cough, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat, diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting, or the onset of new, otherwise unexplained symptoms such as headache, muscle or body aches, fatigue, or congestion/runny nose.

Physical distancing: Students need to make every effort to maintain physical distancing (6 feet or more) indoors and outdoors including within classrooms. The University classrooms and physical spaces have been arranged to maximize physical distancing. Follow the traffic patterns outlined in each building and outdoor space to avoid crowding. If students are in an academic setting (i.e. clinical or lab class) that requires them to reduce physical distancing, they should follow the instructor's guidelines.

Face coverings: Students must wear appropriate face coverings in the classroom. Face coverings must be worn in indoor and outdoor spaces on campus unless people are alone in a room with a door closed or when they are properly physically distanced and do not expect someone to approach them. When face coverings are removed people are placing themselves and those surrounding them at increased risk for COVID-19.

Eating and drinking in classrooms: Students may not eat or drink in the classrooms and are encouraged to take their food or drink into areas designated for these purposes where they can maintain 6 feet physical distance from others.

Hand hygiene: Proper hand hygiene is an effective measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Students should wash their hands often with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, especially after using the bathroom, before eating or drinking, and before and after going to class or university spaces such as the recreation center, library, or dining halls.

Contingency plans: Classes will be held in various formats to offer flexibility, compassion, and empathy during these unprecedented times. Under certain circumstances, students or instructors

may need to miss classes or in-person classes may be disrupted. Students are expected to notify their instructor if they are unable to attend an in-person or online class but will not be penalized for missing class due to illness or the need to care for a family member affected by COVID-19. If a disruption occurs, your instructor will provide communication and contingency plans.

What to do if you have or suspect you have COVID-19: If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been possibly exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should stay home, not interact with others, and contact your health care provider immediately to be tested for COVID-19. You may not attend in-person classes and should suspend interactions with others until you are tested. Prior to receiving test results you should quarantine in your living area according to the Maine CDC guidelines below. Please follow the guidance of your health care professional regarding testing, quarantine, and isolation during the testing process and potential illness period.

What to do if someone you know has or may have COVID-19: If someone you know or that you have had close contact with (defined by the ME CDC as 15 mins or more within 6 feet or less) has tested positive for COVID-19, you should stay home and quarantine according to the guidance of the ME CDC, contact your health care provider, and continue to monitor for symptoms. You may be required to quarantine and/or be tested for COVID-19 under these circumstances. You may also have been exposed to COVID-19 by someone you do not know, and it is possible that you could be contacted through contact tracing to determine if you were exposed. Everyone should respond to these confidential questions to ensure the safety of themselves and those around them.

Maine CDC guidelines:

[maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/general-information.shtml](https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/general-information.shtml)

If you have questions or would like additional information related to the University of Maine COVID-19-specific policies or procedures please use the following sources:

- **University Webpages:** umaine.edu/return and together.maine.edu
- **COVID-19 Information line:** 207.581.2681
- **Emergency Operations Center Email Contact:** umaine.alerts@maine.edu