

CMU Honors Program Course Description Guide

Summer 2026

Priority Registration for the 2026-2027 academic year begins on February 16, 2026

Honors Courses

Courses Credits UP	Course Title	Section Number	Days & Times	Registration Requirements/ Honors Protocol	Instructor
HON 309SA (3 cr) IV-B	Honors Global Citizenship: Migration, Nationality and Peace in Cyprus	22478469	5/12/2026 - 5/26/2026	Apply via Study Abroad Honors Cultural Diversity	Mark Potts
HON 309SA (3 cr) IV-B	Honors Global Citizenship: History and Culture in Japan	22484583	05/13/2026-05/26/2026	Apply via Study Abroad Honors Cultural Diversity	Maiko Bronson
HON 309SA (3 cr) IV-B	Honors Global Citizenship: Exploring the Arts, Design and Architecture of Italy	22484582	05/15/2026-05/24/2026	Apply via Study Abroad Honors Cultural Diversity	Jeanneane Wood-Nartker
HON 321AZ (3 cr)	Sculpture, Collage and the Natural Environment	22484763	05/10/2026-05/16/2026		Lavanna Shurtliff
HON 321CZ (3 cr)	Community Service on Beaver Island	22483498	05/10/2026-05/16/2026		Mark Francek
HON 321DZ (3 cr)	Beaver Island Criminal Investigation: The Murder of King James Jesse Strang	22484770	05/10/2026-05/16/2026		Jim Hill
HON 399 (1-6 cr)	Independent Study	22475884	05/18/2026 - 08/6/2026	Independent study form	Patty Williamson
HON 499 (3-6 cr)	Senior Project	22475885	05/18/2026 -08/6/2026	Capstone proposal approval required	Patty Williamson
HON 499WI (3-6 cr)	Senior Project	22478028	05/18/2026 - 08/6/2026	Capstone proposal approval required	Patty Williamson

***Course Fee:** Students with a Study Away Award may use those funds towards their course fee. Course fees cover expenses such as travel, lodging, meals, and class supplies for the week. Students who do not have a Study Away Award may inquire to the Honors Program regarding additional funding opportunities. Students are also responsible for 3 credit hours of tuition.

HON 309 – Critical Global Citizenship: Migration, Nationality and Peace in Cyprus

Dr. Mark Potts

Dates: May 12-26

How do young people navigate financial uncertainty, institutional mistrust, and limited economic opportunity across different parts of the world? This immersive Honors study abroad places students in a collaborative global simulation, where they co-create entrepreneurial solutions to real youth financial challenges drawn from diverse regions — including post-conflict societies, transitional economies, and fragmented systems. Students rotate through roles to design culturally responsive, ethically grounded responses to complex problems. Along the way, they build skills in inter-cultural communication, design thinking, and reflective practice. This course equips students to not just understand global challenges — but to design with others across differences, ethically and creatively, toward shared resilience. No business background required — just curiosity, empathy, and a willingness to think across cultures.

HON 309 – History and Culture in Japan

Dr. Maiko Bronson

Dates: May 13-26

In this program students will immerse themselves in Japanese language and culture. Students will have firsthand experience seeing how Japanese people live and as well as the opportunity to interact with people living in Japan. Students will visit places that are culturally and historically significant such as shrines and temples in Nara and Kyoto, the Peace Museum and Peace Park in Hiroshima, and Shibuya and Akihabara in Tokyo. Students will also experience the local consumer and food culture. These experiences will help students gain a deeper understanding of different customs and perspectives. Being in a country where they are unfamiliar, students have to step outside of their comfort zone, and such experience helps students develop independence, problem-solving skills, and adaptability.

HON 309 – Exploring the Arts, Design, and Architecture of Italy

Dr. Jeanneane Wood-Nartker

Dates: May 15-24

This faculty-led study abroad experience will captivate your heart by the history of the great Italian cities of Rome, Florence, Venice and the Island of Murano. After completing this course, you will understand the impact of social, economic, religious, and political events on the historical influences of decoration, architecture, and building practices. You will acquire knowledge of artisan trades through a hands-on gold-gilding workshop and identify the impact of local architects and designers on regional art and architecture.

HON 321AZ – Sculpture, Collage, and the Natural Environment

Dr. Lavanna Shurtliff

Dates: May 10-16

Connect with your creativity through the immersion and exploration of our natural world. We will assemble sculptures and collages with natural and found objects to help students gain a better understanding of our delicate relationship to our environment. Learning about contemporary environmental artists, such as Andy Goldsworthy, Olafur Eleasson, Cristo, Robert Smithson, and Vik Muniz, students will heighten their awareness of the artistic potential of pebbles, shells, bones, insect casing, and other found materials, as opposed to using traditional media.

HON 321CZ – Community Service on Beaver Island

Dr. Mark Francek

Dates: May 10-16

Want to effect meaningful change on a Lake Michigan Island of pristine natural beauty? Working with local stakeholders, you will take on projects to improve daily life on Beaver Island, located about twenty-five miles off the coast of northern Michigan. Projects include beach and forest trail cleanup, invasive species removal, yard and home maintenance for disabled elderly, organizing community library resources, setting up displays for the historical museum, or enriching the curricula of the Island's only K-12 school.

HON 321DZ – Beaver Island Criminal Investigation: The Murder of King James Jesse Strang

Dr. James Hill

Dates: May 10-16

The lingering questions about the assassination of America's only crowned king remain unanswered despite this passage of nearly 170 years. Evidence that there was a mastermind behind the assassination ranging from the President of the United States to Strang's own Mormon followers have been only superficially explored. This course will introduce a variety of research techniques in order to further explore this mystery, using a quasi-judicial venue to re-try the two known assassins who were never punished for this premeditated murder, and in the process lift the veil of secrecy as to the role of other key conspirators whom history has allowed to hide from justice.