

**Utah State University Honors Program
Call for Honors Think Tank Course Proposals
DUE MARCH 13, 2017**

The University Honors Program, in cooperation with the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, seeks creative cross-disciplinary proposals for team-taught Honors Think Tanks. These courses take a unique interdisciplinary approach to General Education “Citizen Scholar” Depth requirements, allowing students to explore a shared problem from different disciplinary perspectives. Each 25-30 student Think Tank is a face-to-face class, team-taught by two outstanding professors from different disciplines; proposals should come jointly from pairs of faculty who envision teaching together. The three available course numbers are HONR 3010 (DSC: Life and Physical Sciences), HONR 3020 (DHA: Humanities and Creative Arts), and HONR 3030 (DSS: Social Sciences). Each Think Tank pairs two of these three course numbers, and each half of the pair also typically carries a CI (Communications Intensive) or QI (Quantitative Intensive) designation. Honors students register for one of the two cross-listed course numbers, and professors evaluate the discipline-specific work in their halves of the course. Professors share responsibility for the class as a whole and team-teach all students to address the class topic through their different disciplinary lenses. Because of the “Citizen Scholar” designation, these courses engage honors students in their local or global communities; service-learning course designations are welcome. Honors seeks courses that capture the imaginations of bright students eager to take educational risks in a controlled environment. Please remember that these courses should not simply add assignments or difficulty to existing depth courses; instead, they offer honors students a unique collaborative classroom experience with ample opportunity for discovery and experiential learning. Selected courses will launch in spring or fall 2018 and run again in 2019.

Faculty applications are due Monday, March 13, 2017, and must include:

- A signed, scanned one-page [application form](#) with basic contact information, faculty departments, and approval of both department heads for faculty to teach for Honors, should the proposal be accepted;
- Two one-page pedagogical resumes (one for each faculty member) with clear evidence of outstanding teaching;
- A 3-5 page description of the proposed team-taught Honors Think Tank course that clearly articulates:
 - The role of each faculty member and the vision for collaboration in the classroom;
 - How each section trains “[Citizen Scholars](#)” and meets [USU’s General Education Depth criteria](#);
 - How shared and separate course assignments and activities create opportunities for honors students to gain deep understanding of one area and interdisciplinary collaboration across the two areas; and
 - How the course intentionally teaches each of the University Honors Program’s four key educational skills: critical thinking, independent research, interdisciplinary learning, and civic engagement.
- A draft syllabus outlining 15 weeks (no dates necessary at this stage) of proposed textbooks, assignments, and activities (please limit syllabus length to no more than five pages; boilerplate policy is not necessary at this stage).

Application review will be complete by April 10 and will consist of the following:

- Review by Honors Faculty Advisory Board and Student Advisory Board (representation from each college on both boards), in consultation with the Honors Program Director;
- Discussion, as necessary, with relevant department heads and deans.

Faculty selected from the initial application pool to teach for the University Honors Program will then:

- Submit to Honors a General Education course approval request and updated syllabus by May 15, 2017;
- Revise as required to secure Honors and General Education final approval by October 1, 2017;
- Earn a \$500 course-development stipend per instructor upon final course approval (no later than October 2017);
- Agree to team-teach the course with faculty partner, once in 2018 and again in 2019; each time the course is taught, Honors will pay \$4500 to each faculty member’s department (\$9000 total per class taught) for course buyout or faculty compensation, depending on departmental needs and at the Department Head’s discretion;
- Earn the title “Distinguished Professor (Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Professional Practice Professor, etc.) of Honors Education” while teaching the course;
- Teach a seminar-style course of no more than 30 honors students, with the option of assistance from an Honors Undergraduate Teaching Fellow specially selected for the course.

All faculty applicants will be notified with a decision by April 17, 2017. For submission questions, please contact Dr. Kristine Miller, Honors Program Director, at kristine.miller@usu.edu or 797-3637. Applications should be submitted to the Honors Program office or sent to honors@usu.edu.