Historians and biographers writing in the ancient world were attempting to stir up emotions in their audiences, as well as instruct and provide examples to follow and to avoid. No clinical objectivity for them! This makes their works both interesting and problematic. Thucydides’ famous book The Peloponnesian War is a vivid account of the devastating conflict between Athens and Sparta. The Roman historian Suetonius in his Lives of the Caesars narrates racy details that have become the stuff of novels and screenplays today. Plutarch’s Greek and Roman Parallel Lives provided the source for Shakespeare’s roman plays. Tacitus gives a masterful portrait of the emperor Nero and his reign. These are a few examples of selected readings. We will also read a contemporary novel set in ancient Rome and one option for a course paper will be to write a piece of historical fiction.

THOUGH America is one of the world’s wealthiest nations, fifteen percent of Americans live in poverty. Poverty, as a social phenomenon, is complex in its causes and consequences; it’s difficult to untangle the web of social, economic, health, and housing factors that affect someone’s status as impoverished. This class will act as a primer on the subject of poverty, with poverty in the United States as its particular focus. We will investigate those factors that can cause individuals or families to become impoverished, and we will also look at the factors that prevent people from escaping poverty. Finally, we will discuss reform efforts and evaluate the future of poverty in America.

Are you ready to become a Full Member of the Honors Program? Are you wondering what the SHP really entails? The course gives SHP writers a chance to polish submissions by discussing and revising in peer groups. This eight-week class is open to all students on the edge of a portfolio.
**Fall 2013 Honors Program Courses**

**HON 293 (12404): POISONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**
TuTh 2:00 - 3:15, 3 credits (ES: MST), Sally Pyle
Paracelsus, a Renaissance physician who is considered the father of Toxicology, said “Poison is in everything, and nothing is without poison. The dosage makes it either a poison or a remedy.” Did you even consider that everything we’re exposed to could be a potential poison? It all depends on the dose! In this class we’ll study the toxicity of the ‘chemicals’ we use and the trash we throw out. While we’re doing that we’ll explore our ecosystems and determine the long-term effects of Poisons in our Environment. You don’t have to be a chemist or toxicologist to take this course, just be curious.

**HON 392 (7683): PYSM: JEFFREY SACHS**
Th 3:30 - 4:45 from B26-101B/13, 1 credit (ES: SS), Kristin (Kay) Powell
The Earth Institute at Columbia University describes its Director Jeffrey Sachs as “a world-renowned professor of economics, leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor, bestselling author, and syndicated columnist [appearing in more than 80 countries].” We will learn about his work on global economic development using excerpts from his best-selling books, including his most recent, The Price of Civilization, as well as interviews, columns, and even his Twitter feed. His work with the Millennium Development Goals and his work at The Earth Institute, focusing on the world’s poor, have earned him honors such as being named twice to Time magazine’s “100 Most Influential People in the World” (2004 & 2005), as well as an advisor to the World Bank, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, and New York Times Magazine naming him as “probably the most important economist in the world.” He’s not without his critics as well. No previous knowledge of economics, leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor, bestselling author, and syndicated columnist is expected; his readings are accessible to an interdisciplinary audience. Jeffrey Sachs is definitely someone “you should meet.”

**HON 391 (15385): PYSM: DOROTHY DAY**
Th 3:30 - 4:45 10/21/2013 - 12/20/2013, 1 credit (ES: HUM), Patrick O’Neill, Robert Dosch
Often referred to as “The Mother Teresa of the United States.” Dorothy Day was instrumental to the creation of The Catholic Worker Movement, which is grounded in a firm belief in the God-given dignity of every human person. Her efforts have local ties: Moorhead, MN has a Dorothy Day House of Hospitality (http://www.dmday.org/). Join us as we explore the life and writings of this humanitarian and theologian.

**HON 392 (7671): THE PANOPTICON**
TuTh 11:00 - 12:15 3 credits (ES: SS), Brian Schill
Ever get the feeling you’re being watched? You are. Whether the voyeur in question is the government, “God,” or Google, whether the technology used be satellite, cell phone, drone, or, more abstractly, ideology, we are all scrutinized all the time. Everywhere. And we condition our behavior as a result. This course will explore the “All-seeing” nature of our 21st century disciplinary society through several lenses: politics, industry, and economics. We will also look at philosophy, theology (primarily Judeo-Christianity), and art—both fiction and film (1984, Eagle Eye, etc.). How did such a society develop and how do (should) we respond? Does it feed the narcissist in us? Is it true that the only people who should worry about being watched are “those with something to hide”? All these questions and more will be explored in this interdisciplinary course.

**HON 395 (7668): PROSPECTUS DEVELOPMENT**
Mo 12:00 - 12:50 1 credit, Brian Schill
Are you a junior considering writing an Honors thesis in the next year? While the notion of an extended senior project may seem overwhelming initially, the first step to a successful thesis is developing a sound prospectus, which is what this course is designed to help you do. In brief, Hon 395 will help you gather your thoughts on thesis processes; suggest strategies for writing your prospectus (mapping crucial background information, developing a methodology, and clarifying the focus of your thesis, and so on); and engage you in some preliminary research. This course is recommended for students who plan on writing a thesis next year.

**HON 391 (7678): BYSR: CLASSIC CRIME NOVELS I**
MW 2:00 - 2:50, 1 credit (ES: HUM), Burt Thorp
Raskolnikov, a desperate and destitute former student, wanders through the slums of St. Petersburg and commits a random murder without remorse or regret. He then embarks on a dangerous and suspenseful game of cat and mouse with a suspicious police investigator in Dostoevsky’s classic novel Crime and Punishment—a psychological thriller and a philosophical tale of sin, guilt, and redemption.

**HON 392 (7673): LIFE-LONG LEADERSHIP**
W 4:00 - 5:50 1 credits (ES: SS) Mike Goldstone
“Life-Long Leadership” is an interdisciplinary course designed to enable students to explore, engage, and exploit the proposition that leadership is a robust concept applicable to any future role(s) they will inhabit in their dynamic lifetimes. Application moving forward is the emphasis of this course, which utilizes topical issues of the day and avoids dull analyses of dead authority figures. Upon completion of the course, each student will be equipped to incorporate leadership principles and practices into their day-to-day lives over the twists and turns of their professional and civic careers. Geared to the self-directed Honors student, the course will accept select essay/interview-based non-honors undergraduate students on a limited space basis.