

Honors Discovery (HONR 1102)
Fall 2025

Meeting Time: M,T,W,R (4:35pm-5:40pm)
Location: Asynchronous (In-Person Sessions TBD)

Course Coordinator

Justin Silvestri, Associate Director

Honors Discovery Committee Members

Albert Chanthaboury, Director

Olivia Harris, Program Manager

Suzanne Horowitz, Research Analyst

Lisa Morde, Associate Director

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Honors Discovery (HONR 1102) introduces the knowledge and skills required for making an effective and socially-conscious impact in the communities that students inhabit. This course leverages goal-setting, interdisciplinarity, and concepts of local and global citizenship to examine how sustainable impact can be made. It also describes important university resources essential for an Honors education.

Students will have the opportunity to explore and plan for how they can make such an impact through the creation of an Honors StoryMap.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Students will have examine their personal goals, values, and lived experiences to better understand how they inform the ways in which they can make an impact in the world.
2. Students will analyze how two or more disciplines can come together and collaborate toward making effective change in complex issues.
3. Students will identify a social or environment issue (impact area) that is aligned with their values. They will also demonstrate an understanding of the inherent complexities related to addressing that impact area through the creation of a digital StoryMap.
4. Students will gain familiarity with best practices for research and scholarly engagement, including proper attribution, identifying academic and non-academic sources, and evaluating these sources' reliability.

5. Students will explore opportunities for continued learning, such as gaining knowledge, skills, experiences that can support growth in intercultural competence and improve their ability to communicate across cultures and make a meaningful impact within diverse local and international communities.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All assigned readings, pre-class activities, and instructions/rubrics for course assignments can be found on the course's **Canvas** page.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

- Students will receive a letter grade for the course.
- Attendance at all in-person sessions is mandatory.
- Students are expected to contribute to the course experience through all class discussions and exercises.
- In the event of an illness or emergency, students are expected to notify their instructor of their absence. Accommodations will be made on a per-case basis.
- Students are expected to submit all assignments by their designated due date. Accommodations for assignments submitted late will be adopted on a per-case basis.

Final grades will be awarded as follows:

Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	95 – 100	C+	77 - 79.9
A-	90 – 94.9	C	73 – 76.9
B+	87 – 89.9	C-	70 – 72.9
B	83 – 86.9	F	Below 70
B-	80 – 82.9		

Successful completion of course awards the *Honors Discovery Badge*, which is a pre-requisite for the *Honors Impact Badge*.

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Honors StoryMap Assignment:** 60 Points
- **Discussion & Reflection Posts:** 20 Points
- **Honors Resource Fair Presentation:** 10 Points
- **Source Annotation Assignment:** 5 Points

- **“Making Cents” Quiz: 5 Points**

The quality of any course experience is contingent on the substance of your overall participation and contribution to class discussion. Throughout the semester, you will have the opportunity to make such contributions through in-class discussions.

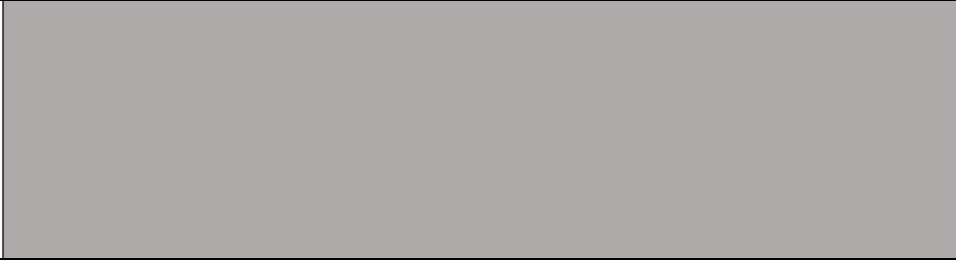
Your Reflection Journal is also an important tool for your Honors Discovery experience. Thoughtful engagement with writing prompts will strengthen your final project.

Course Schedule

Week/Date	Readings & Assignments
Week 1 September 3-5 Who Are We?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read: <i>The Honors Impact Badge</i> ● View: Aoun Commencement Speech (2023) ● Complete: Self-Directed Learner Badge Quiz, <i>due Sept. 5</i> ● Complete: <i>Introduce Yourself (Discussion Post), due Sept. 5</i>
Week 2 September 8-12 What’s My Story?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● View: <i>Tell Powerful Stories Through Interactive Maps (John, 2023)</i> ● Read: Honors StoryMap Assignment & Resources Page ● Watch: KnightLab StoryMap Tutorial (Optional) ● Meet: <i>Peer Group Meeting #1 & Feedback Session</i> ● Complete: StoryMap Introduction Slide & Reflection, <i>due Sept. 12</i>
Week 3 September 15-18 What’s My Impact Area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊘ View: <i>The Challenge Mindset: Helping Youth Find Purpose & Impact (Michel, 2020)</i> ⊘ Complete: SparkPath Assessment ⊘ Complete: <i>Impact Area Selection - Peer Feedback, due Sept. 19</i> ⊘ Complete: <i>Impact Area Selection - Instructor Feedback, due Sept. 19</i>

<p>Week 4 Sept. 22-25</p> <p>Who Is Affected By My Impact Area??</p> <p>IN-PERSON SESSION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € Read: <i>What is Asset-Based Community Development? (Collaborative for Neighborhood Transformation, 2025)</i> € View: <i>“What if the story we tell about poverty isn’t true” (Birdsong, 2015)</i> € View: <i>“Sustainable community development: from what's wrong to what's strong” (Russel, 2016)</i> € Complete: <i>Honors StoryMap Section #1, due Sept. 26</i>
<p>Week 5 Sept. 29 – Oct. 2</p> <p>How Can I Be A Critical Consumer of Information About My Impact Area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: <i>Evaluating Non-Scholarly Sources (Esmiller, 2020)</i> • • View: <i>How To Evaluate Articles & Journals (NU, 2024)</i> • View: <i>How do you know what's true? (Orfano, 2021)</i> • Complete: <i>Source Annotation for Section #2, due Oct. 3</i>
<p>Week 6 October 6-9</p> <p>Honors Resource Fair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete: <i>Honors Resource Fair Presentation, due Oct. 10</i>
<p>Week 7 October 13-16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: <i>Interdisciplinarity: How to catalyse collaboration (Brown et al., 2015, 315-317)</i> • View: <i>Surviving the 21st Century With Interdisciplinary Teams (Johnson, 2022)</i>

<p>How Do Experts Work Together To Make An Impact?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete: <i>Interdisciplinary Scenario – Group Assignment, due Oct. 17</i>
<p>Week 8 October 20-23</p> <p>How Do I Develop A Network to Make An Impact?</p> <p>IN-PERSON SESSION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View: <i>7 Networking Tips Every College Student Should Know - How To Network Efficiently (Milanov, 2021)</i> • Read: The Following NUCareer Websites • <i>Develop A Network</i> • <i>Professional Introductions</i> • <i>Informational Interviewing</i> • <i>LinkedIn</i> • Complete: <i>Honors StoryMap Section #2 – Oct. 24</i>
<p>Week 9 October 27-30</p> <p>How Do Global Citizens Make An Impact?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ∄ Read: <i>Why Culture Matters, Understanding the GlobeSmart Cultural Dimensions, and GlobeSmart Dimensions & Inclusive Actions (GlobeSmart)</i> ∄ View: <i>The Dangers Of A Single Story (Adichie, 2010)</i> ∄ Complete: <i>GlobeSmart Profile & Two Culture Assessments</i> ∄ Complete: <i>GlobeSmart & Making An Impact Across Cultures (Reflection Paper), due Nov. 7</i>
<p>Week 10 November 3-7</p> <p>Honors Distinction & The Global Experience Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: <i>What Is Honors Distinction?</i> • Read: <i>Making Cents: Planning and Budgeting for Global Experiences</i> • Explore: Global Experience Office (GEO) Website • Complete: <i>Making Cents Quiz, due Nov. 14</i>

<p>Week 11 November 10-13</p> <p>Discovering What Happens Next</p> <p>IN-PERSON SESSION</p> <p>(NOV. 11 sessions will meet on Nov. 18 due to holiday)</p>	<p>€ Prepare: <i>Responses for Reflection Prompts for In-Person Session</i></p> <p>€ Complete: <i>Honors StoryMap Section #3, due Nov. 24</i></p>
<p>Week 12 November 17-20</p>	<p>Attend: <i>Individual Consultation with Academic Advisors or Course Instructors during Office Hours (Highly Recommended)</i></p>
<p>Week 13 December 2-5</p> <p>Thanksgiving Break</p>	
<p>Week 14 December 11 - 14</p>	<p>Complete: <i>Final Honors StoryMap & Reflection Essay, due Dec. 5</i></p>

STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS

Northeastern University and [Disability Access Service](#) (DAS) are committed to providing services that enable students who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act As Amended (ADAAA) to participate fully in the activities of the University. To receive accommodations through the DAS, students must provide appropriate documentation that demonstrates a current and sustained limiting disability. DAS is located in 20 Dodge Hall and can provide further information on available services.

GENERATIVE AI & COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Northeastern University seeks to leverage Artificial Intelligence's transformative potential for the advancement of knowledge. That being said, this course and its assignments focus on the exploration of your individual interests and discovery of your voice as a student, professional, and human being. The Honors StoryMap and Honors Journal are meant to be written by you to advance your learning and self-reflection. You will gain the most from your course experience if you embrace this human-centered process.

Consequently, Honors *strongly encourages* that you refrain from using Generative AI as part of any research, drafting, or editing process for this course. Please note that submitting AI-generated content under the pretense of your own work is a violation of Northeastern University's Academic Integrity Process and will be reported as such.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

A commitment to the principles of academic integrity is essential to the mission of Northeastern University. The promotion of independent and original scholarship ensures that students derive the most from their educational experiences. Academic dishonesty violates the most fundamental values of a community and undermines the achievements of the entire University.

As a member of the academic community, students must become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, examinations of whatever kind, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Students are responsible for learning the conventions of documentation and acknowledgment of sources in their fields.

Northeastern University expects students to complete all examinations, tests, papers, creative projects, and assignments of any kind according to the highest ethical standards, as set forth either explicitly or implicitly in this Code or by the direction of instructors. Please become familiar with the entire policy on academic integrity and the Code of Student Conduct which is available online at <http://www.northeastern.edu/osccr/code-of-student-conduct/>.

Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects individuals from sex or gender-based discrimination, including discrimination based on gender-identity, in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.

Northeastern University and its faculty are committed to creating a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced a Prohibited Offense including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking, please know that help and support are available. Northeastern strongly encourages all members of the community to take action, seek support, and report incidents of Prohibited Offenses to the Title IX Coordinator within **The Office for University Equity and Compliance** (OUEC) through the Online Discrimination Complaint Form found at <https://www.northeastern.edu/ouec/file-a-complaint/>.

Please be aware that faculty members are Mandatory University Reporters who are required to disclose information about alleged discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking to the OUEC. If the OUEC receives a report, a member of their office will reach out to offer information about your rights, support resources and pathways towards a resolution as a member of the campus community. Community members are not required to respond to this outreach.

If you, or another community member you know wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact **University Health and Counseling Services** staff (<http://www.northeastern.edu/uahcs/>), the **Center for Spiritual Dialogue and Service clergy members** (<http://www.northeastern.edu/spirituallife/>) or the Sexual Violence Resource Center (open@northeastern.edu). By law, these confidential resources are not required to report allegations of discrimination to the University without your signed release.

Please visit www.northeastern.edu/ouec for a complete list of reporting options and support resources both on- and off-campus and contact the OUEC (ouec@northeastern.edu) at any time.