ACES 399: Honors Seminar
3:00-3:50 PM Wednesdays – 108 Bevier Hall
Tentative Syllabus – Spring 2013

Course Catalog Description
This course is designed to promote exposure to, and subsequent critical reflection about, a variety of topics relevant to ACES James Scholars. It features presentations by faculty members on topics of current interest in the agricultural, consumer and environmental sciences. Students engage in the topics by responding to faculty members' presentations through classroom activities, lab tours, stimulating debates, and lively discussions. The writing of a seminar paper rounds out the course.

Credit
One hour of honors credit is earned by students completing this course with a grade of B- or higher.

Contact Information
Instructor: Dr. Bill Simmons, ACES Honors Dean
Office: 128 Mumford Hall (SE Corner of the Building)
Telephone: (217) 333-3380
Email: fsimmons@illinois.edu
Website: http://academics.aces.illinois.edu/honors/james-scholars/399

Expectations and Goals
Students will be asked to engage in the topics, think about them, and enter into conversation or questioning during and after the faculty presentations. The "follow-up" discussion periods will be as varied in scope as the speakers’ topics. The presenters will help guide us in determining how the second week unfolds. The emphasis of this course will be on “internally motivated learning.” What does this mean? It is a transition from students’ “graded life” to their future, where they will want to think for the pure enjoyment and benefits that learning brings.

Preliminary Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wednesday Sessions</th>
<th>Presenters &amp; Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1: January 16th</td>
<td>Dr. Bill Simmons (ACES) – Introduction</td>
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<td>Week 2: January 23rd</td>
<td>Dr. Nick Paulson (ACE): Financial Planning</td>
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<td>Week 3: January 30th</td>
<td>Dr. David O'Brien (ARTH): Art History</td>
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<td>Week 4: February 6th</td>
<td>Dr. David O'Brien (ARTH): Art History</td>
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<td>Week 5: February 13th</td>
<td>Dr. Dawn Bohn (FSHN): Beverage Science and Technology</td>
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<td>Week 6: February 20th</td>
<td>Faculty Presenter &amp; Topic TBA</td>
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<td>Week 7: February 27th</td>
<td>Faculty Presenter &amp; Topic TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8: March 6th</td>
<td>Faculty Presenter &amp; Topic TBA</td>
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Week 9: March 13th  Faculty Presenter & Topic TBA

**No Class: March 20th**  Spring Break

Week 10: March 27th  Faculty Presenter & Topic TBA

Week 11: April 4th  Dr. David Miller (Tentative): **Topic TBA**

Week 12: April 11th  Dr. David Miller (Tentative): **Topic TBA**

Week 13: April 18th  Dr. Cory Suski (Tentative): **Topic TBA**

Week 14: April 25th  Dr. Cory Suski (Tentative): **Fishing Trip**

Week 15: May 2nd  **James Scholar BBQ!**

**Papers Due: May 9th**  Submit seminar papers by 5:00 PM in 128 Mumford Hall (no final exam).

**Total Contact Hours:** 15

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**Text**

*No textbook is required. Readings will be supplied by the instructor and the faculty presenters. Supplemental materials may be posted to the course’s website.*

**Grading Scale and Policies**

The grading scale is as follows. Please note that a letter grade of at least B- must be earned to obtain honors credit in this course.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>96.7-100.0%</td>
<td>80.0-83.3% B-H</td>
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<tr>
<td>AH</td>
<td>93.4-96.6%</td>
<td>76.7-79.9% C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-H</td>
<td>90.0-93.3%</td>
<td>73.4-76.6% C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+H</td>
<td>86.7-89.9%</td>
<td>70.0-73.3% C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BH</td>
<td>83.4-86.6%</td>
<td>66.7-69.9% D+</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>63.4-66.6% D</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60.0-63.3% D-</td>
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<td>&lt; 59.9% F</td>
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**Course Grade Breakdown:**

- Attendance and Participation: 75%
- Seminar Paper: 25%

**Characteristics of Achievement Levels:**

- "A" students exhibit consistent attendance and participation combined with effective writing in their written assignments. A scholarly approach to the class will be characterized by "engagement" (i.e., looking alert and speaking).
- "B" students exhibit spotty attendance and/or participation.
- "C" students are people who failed to meet the simple requirements.

**Assignments**

Students are required to write a total of six typewritten pages over the course of the semester. This total can be achieved in any way that they see fit, including (but not limited to):

- Six one-page opinion pieces on any of the seven topics that we cover.
- Three two-page papers on topics related to those covered in class.
- One six-page paper on a topic pre-approved by me (let’s discuss it).
• Any combination of the above that results in six pages.

**Early Bird Discount!**
• Students may turn in a four-page paper by **Wednesday, March 28th** for full credit.
• Students may turn in a five-page paper by **Wednesday, April 11th** for full credit.

**Attendance** Students may miss one class period without penalty. All subsequently missed classes will require outside work to obtain full credit. I ask that you inform me in advance if you plan to be absent to observe a religious holiday, to serve jury duty, or to participate in required military service or university/class-sanctioned events. Arrangements to make up for class absences will require documentation:

**Academic Integrity** Please don’t plagiarize.