Honors College Seminars Frequently Asked Questions

What types of seminars are you looking for?
Honors seminars offer faculty the opportunity to develop and teach creative courses that address subject matter in ways not offered in the standard curriculum. For example, these courses may be more interdisciplinary in focus, may use innovative teaching techniques, might involve students in extra experiences outside the classroom, etc. Seminars should be planned for academically talented students with diverse interests. Please visit the following link to view examples of honors seminars course models recommended by the National Collegiate Honors Council: http://nchchonors.org/members-area/sample-honors-course-syllabi-2/

Can an honors seminar be team taught?
Courses can be taught individually or team taught. If you wish to team teach, both instructors should collaborate in planning the course and both will need permission from their respective unit heads to participate. The Honors College provides buyouts for faculty to teach seminars but cannot provide full buyouts for each instructor during a team taught course. Academic Affairs sets the funding model each year.

Should my seminar carry foundations credit?
Honors seminars can be offered under a variety of different course numbers. Some of these carry foundations credits in the areas of fine arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences; others do not carry foundations credits. In addition, natural science courses have the option of requiring a laboratory. Students are often more likely to take a course if it also carries foundations credit.

Does my seminar need to be writing intensive?
Yes. All honors seminars are designated as writing intensive.

Does my seminar need to have the service learning designation?
Some faculty members wish to incorporate service learning into the seminar. This is optional. If you decide you want to obtain service learning credit, then the proposal must be submitted to the Service Learning Committee and should address their requirements for course proposals http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentaffairs/volunteer/faculty-course_designation.cfm

I submitted a seminar last year and it was accepted, can I submit another one in this cycle?
In order to provide all of ECU's talented faculty members with the opportunity to teach Honors College seminars and to expand the diversity of those course offerings, faculty members who were selected to teach an Honors seminar in spring 2016 are not eligible to apply during the spring 2017 proposal process; however, in addition to being able to apply again the following year, they may be asked by the Honors College leadership team to teach if there are cases when seminars are needed in underrepresented disciplines/areas.

How are proposals accepted?
The Honors College Faculty Advisory Seminar Subcommittee will work to evaluate proposals and select seminars to be offered in the spring. Their recommendations will be given to the Dean of the Honors College. Preference will be given to fully developed, academically rigorous course proposals that incorporate innovative approaches to teaching and evaluating students.

Do I need to get a support letter from my department chair or my dean?
Please obtain written support from your Department Chair or immediate supervisor. Proposals cannot be considered without supporting letters. Allow sufficient time to obtain a support letter.