

A - New Course Proposal V. 7.2022 : Entry # 3569**DEAN Decision**

Approved

Date

09/15/2025

Is this course intracollegiate or intercollegiate?

Intercollegiate

ACADEMIC PROGRAM Decision

Approved

Date

09/12/2025

Type the name of your committee

Honors Scholars Committee

SCHOOL EPC Decision

Approved

Date

10/23/2025

APIRC Decision

Approved

Date

10/31/2025

APIRC Comments

While APIRC approves this proposal, we acknowledge that approval of such proposals are no longer necessary, since a recently approved proposal means that all HNR 24XX sections will henceforth simply be designated as HNR 2400.

Begin Form**Today's Date**

09/12/2025

Your Name:

Pamela Lundin

Your Email:

A - New Course Proposal V. 7.2022 : Entry # 3569plundin@highpoint.edu**Are you a Department Chair?**

No

Department Chair Name

M. Todd Knippenberg

Email address of your Department Chairmknippen@highpoint.edu**By checking below, I certify that my department chair has seen and approved the new course that I am proposing.**

Yes

Please select the appropriate school overseeing this proposal:

Natural Sciences

When should this proposal take effect?

Fall 2026

Information for the Registrar**Choose the department designator from the list below.**

HNR

Proposed Course Number?

2411

Is this course cross listed?

No

Does this course replace a current course?

No

What is the title of the new course?

Evolution of Science through the Nobel Prizes

Write the catalog description of your proposed course:

In this scientific reasoning course, the scientific Nobel Prizes will be used as a lens through which students investigate how science as we know and practice it today came to be and how the practice of science will continue to evolve as more groundbreaking technologies are discovered. Students will engage with both primary source material that served as the basis for awarding the prizes and with tertiary source material that contextualizes these awards today. The limitations, oversights, and missteps over the course of the history of these prizes will be examined and discussed. As an essential component of the course,

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students will perform experiments inspired by key Nobel Prizes that will augment their appreciation for the creativity and precision that was used in the course of these groundbreaking discoveries.

How many credit hours will this course be?

4

How will the course be graded?

Letter grade

Please select the course repeat option for this course:

Not repeatable for credit

What is the offering cycle for this course?

Yearly

Does your course have any prerequisites?

No

Is this new course being proposed because of a new or revised major or minor proposal?

No

Any other comments for the Registrar at this time?

No

Gen Ed and Academic Programs**Is this course part of Gen Ed?**

- No

Does this course count towards a major or a minor?

No, it does not count toward any particular major or minor

Is this course part of an academic program?

- Honors Scholars Program
- Study Abroad

Have you received approval from the appropriate academic program committee to move forward with this proposal?

Yes

Does this course include any community engagement?

No

A - New Course Proposal V. 7.2022 : Entry # 3569**Does this course participate in the GoGlobal Program?**

Yes

Information for Curriculum Review**Rationale and evidence for new course's consistency with departmental mission:**

The Nobel Foundation annually awards three Nobel Prizes in scientific disciplines: medicine and physiology, physics, and chemistry. The quality of being awarded one of these prizes has become a shorthand of sorts for emphasizing the importance of a scientific discovery to the development of our technologically-based society. It is also an imperfect system. Examples abound of prizes being awarded to the wrong people, being awarded to false discoveries, and the prizes themselves being wielded as fuel for government propaganda, to name a few of the issues. Therefore, an examination of the Nobel prizes offers the opportunity to explore science as a human endeavor, which is the goal of the scientific reasoning courses.

Ideally, the Honors Scholar Program would offer three HNR 2400 Scientific Reasoning courses each semester and one course over the summer. Unfortunately, due to faculty turnover and other teaching demands on the faculty with the background to teach these courses, we cannot consistently staff and offer seven Scientific Reasoning courses over the full year. One advantage of this course for our curriculum is that many faculty members in the School of Natural Sciences would be qualified to teach it, and potentially faculty from other schools (Engineering, Health Sciences, Pharmacy) would be qualified to teach it as well.

List all student learning outcomes for this course.

1. Learn about scientific discoveries and technologies that have been awarded Nobel Prizes in Medicine, Physics, and Chemistry.
2. Engage with primary and secondary literature that eventually led to the awarding of a Nobel Prize as a tool to understand the scientific method, how the scientific method is applied across different scientific disciplines, and understand inherent limitations of the scientific method.
3. Use past, present, and future contexts to examine the impact of scientific results and findings on society, locally and globally.
4. Set-up and collect data from scientific experiments that mimic landmark Nobel-awarded scientific discoveries on a level appropriate for novice scientists and assimilate the collected data into figures that convey the findings.
5. Evaluate how individuals, institutions, and nations use Nobel Prizes as a tool to gain influence for themselves or deny influence for others as a means to achieve political, monetary and social outcomes.

Honors Scholars Learning Outcomes

- **TRADITIONS:** Investigate, interpret and synthesize information from a variety of disciplines to answer questions of enduring and contemporary importance by engaging the intellectual traditions and research methods that shape studies in the mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and the arts. (Written Reflections, Laboratory Investigations, Discussions and Presentations)
- **ETHICS:** Describe and reflect upon their roles as global citizens to recognize and analyze ethical issues within real-world challenges and make sound judgments when engaging in learning, research, creative works, co-curricular experiences, interpersonal relationships, civic activities, and professional duties. (Written Reflections, Discussions and Presentations)
- **COMMUNICATION:** Communicate effectively, often publicly – in writing, speech, and visual media – employing careful analyses of rhetorical purposes, audiences, messages, and modes of delivery. (Written Reflections, Discussions and Presentations)

List any units or content areas that will be required for all sections of this course.

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It is impossible to cover all scientific Nobel Prizes that have ever been awarded in one course. However, each section of the course should strive to highlight important prizes that have been awarded since the first awards were granted in 1901. Each section of the course, should also cover prizes from all three scientific award categories, though it is expected that individual instructors may draw more heavily on their discipline(s) of expertise.

List any assignments, tests, or other assessments that will be required for all sections of this course.

Each section of the course should include laboratory activities, including appropriate assessments, as part of the course. These activities should count for 20-40% of the overall grade, though the exact number is at the discretion of the instructor.

List any readings or other materials that will be required for all sections of this course.

N/A

List any course policies that will be required for all sections of this course.

N/A

If you would like to specify how requirements for contact hours must be met for all sections of this course, please indicate below. (e.g., if any experiential learning activities will replace seat time)

This course will include a laboratory component, and given its design as a study abroad course, there are also tours of places relevant to the practice of science. These activities are included in the seat time of the class.

Is there anything else the reviewing parties should know about this new course proposal that hasn't been addressed?

This is a Scientific Reasoning course for the Honors Scholar curriculum that will be performed abroad. All Scientific Reasoning course include a laboratory component. Because of the logistical challenges of performing laboratory activities abroad, care has been taken to identify activities that give students hands-on experience performing experiments and collecting data, while prioritizing their safety. The "wet lab" experiments utilize items that would be found in a standard kitchen, and many computer-based labs have also been included.

Sample Syllabus

- [Syllabus-HNR-2411-Nobel-Course-for-Prague_Final.docx](#)