HPR 124:
Planet Honors

*see ecampus for section times/location

YOUR INSTRUCTOR:
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**Full syllabus and course materials can be found at brightspace.uri.edu

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the community to which you now belong–– The Honors Program at the University of Rhode Island–– and help set you on the path to becoming a thoughtful and effective future changemaker. You will explore what it means to be an Honors student, learn about the University's history and institutions, and develop an understanding of surrounding communities, environments, and the sustainability challenges that unite us. You will examine a variety of 'Wicked Problems' and be coached in how to apply interdisciplinary perspectives, design–thinking methods and principles of environmental justice to creative and collaborative problem–solving. You will practice these skills with a multidisciplinary team in several projects focusing on local manifestations of complex global problems,.

Course Structure

Prepare
Readings/Videos

Engage
Discussions Posts

Collaborate+Apply
Class Meetings

Come to class ready to participate by completing checklists on Brightspace before each meeting!

Learning Outcomes

- **Understand** URI history, community, and environment, and the goals of the Honors program
- **Articulate** your identity and identify your goals as an Honors student and member of the URI community.
- **Analyze** local manifestations of complex global issues using interdisciplinary, environmental justice–oriented frameworks.
- **Apply** design–thinking methods+design justice principles to sustainability challenges.
- Collaboratively **create** solution–sets to address complex social and environmental issues.
- **Evaluate** ideas, solutions, approaches and engage in positive, constructive peer review/feedback.
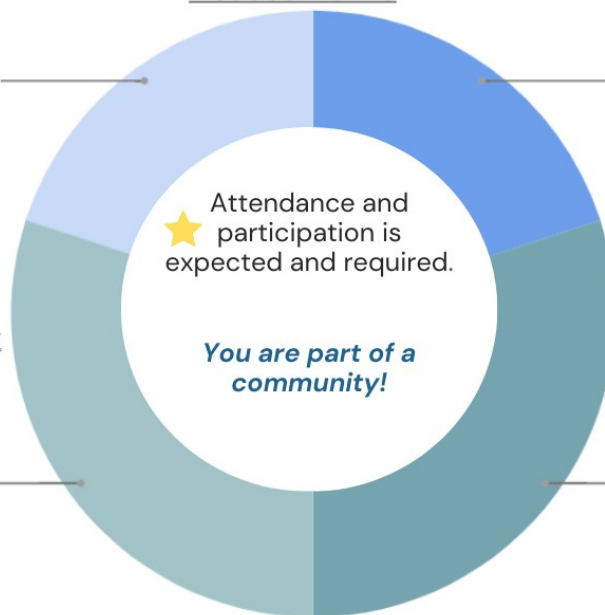
Assessments

Final Project (20%)
For your final project, you will choose one problem explored over the course of the semester, refine your ideas, and draft a strategic action plan for a stakeholder (incorporating peer feedback). You will present your work in a conference session during our final exam period!

Discussion Posts (20%)
Short online responses, based on reading/videos, to help you prepare for class + synthesize what you're learning!

Plan for 6–8 hrs/wk outside of class for reading, writing, etc.

Attendance and participation is expected and required.

You are part of a community!

Group Projects+ Peer Review (30%)
In Units 3-5, you will work in teams to assess, analyze, and propose solutions for local manifestations of a global problem. Each project leads to a group presentation and briefing document, presented to the class for peer review.

Unit Reflections (30%)
Reflective, self-evaluation assignments due at the end of each unit, synthesizing course content and providing evidence of your learning and engagement.

Course Roadmap/Schedule

Unit 1. Community Immersion (Sessions 1-4)	Unit 2. The Toolkit (Sessions 5-8)	Units 3-5. Project Units (Session 9-26)	**Final Project** (Session 27 Workshop +Conference Session Presentation)
Familiarization with: ★ Honors Program ★ Campus and Institutions ★ Surrounding Community	**Development of Tools:** ★ Design thinking ★ Concept/Stakeholder Maps ★ Iterative Examination	**Collaboration and proposals:** ★ Campus (unit 3) ★ North Woods (unit 4) ★ The Bay (unit 5)	