Seven classes in the Spring schedule and one class during Interim are designated as "honors" classes. These are highly recommended for students of strong academic ability who welcome an intellectual challenge, especially those who may aspire to graduate from Calvin College with honors. These classes are open only to students who have been admitted to the Honors Program or have the approval of the instructor. Honors classes differ from regular classes in various ways, especially in devoting less time to elementary skills and information while stressing personal initiative and greater depth of learning. Apart from their intellectual value, the benefits of honors courses include smaller than average classes, greater freedom of exploration, opportunity to work with other honors students and some of Calvin's best teachers and credit toward graduation with honors.

Pre-registration option: If you wish to reserve a place in one of these classes, we will accept pre-registrations for any honors course by e-mail through 12:00PM on October 28. Send requests with your name, student number, major and requested course to Manda Mosoiu at mjm75@calvin.edu. We will confirm your pre-registration as soon as possible. After the 28th you will only be able to register for honors courses that are still open.

**INTERIM 2016 HONORS DCM CLASS**

**IDIS 150 09H Honors DCM: Dramatic Families.** This DCM section will explore “Dramatic Families: Dreams, Dysfunctions, and Occasional Solutions in Shakespeare and Modern Drama.” We will study a number of plays featuring families suffering from maladies such as death, abandonment, and betrayal; these same families have members who each have their own dreams, desires, and aspirations. We will ask such questions as: How do these families differ from what might be considered God’s design for families? What has brought about these problematic situations? How do characters’ dreams seek to rise above the dysfunction? How are they the cause of it? How is redemptive hope present (or absent) in the different families? How is all of this relevant to our own lives? How can the study of such material glorify God, draw us closer to Him and others as we become increasingly conformed to His image, and help advance His Kingdom? We will study *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, *A Doll House* by Henrik Ibsen, *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, and *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. *D. Urban.* 8:30am to noon.

**SPRING 2016 -- STAND-ALONE HONORS COURSES**

**HONORS BIOLOGY: “Honors Colloquium in Cellular and Genetic Systems (Biology 161H, 12:30-1:20 on Tuesday with Prof. David Koetje; 1 credit hour.)** Students who register for Honors Biology take this weekly one-hour discussion session in addition to a regular lecture and lab section of Biology 161. The weekly honors meeting is devoted to a study of various articles from *Scientific American* and the primary literature which are chosen to stimulate greater discussion and deeper understanding of topics addressed in the lectures of the course. The honors session is conducted in seminar style, which allows ample opportunity for discussion and personal initiative. To receive an honors grade in Biology 161, a student must participate in the extra weekly honors session and earn a grade of B (3.0) or better in the lecture and lab portions of the course. Participation in the honors section will provide a valuable base for further work in the natural sciences, especially for those who wish to graduate with honors from Calvin College.

**HONORS ENGLISH “Survey of British Literature II” (English 213 AH, 10:30-11:20am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with Prof. David Urban; 3 credit hours.)** Much of this particular section deals with themes of "Satanic Rebellion and Pursuits of Happiness in British Literature." The course begins by studying Shakespeare's *King Lear* (with its dysfunctional families, rebellious adult children, and eventually repentant fathers), and then moves to the greatest epic poem of the English language, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, whose Satan is often considered the most magnificent character in all of British literature. (C. S. Lewis's commentary will help guide our tour of *Paradise Lost.* In addition, we will cover Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, whose monster is a Romantic rewriting of Milton's Satan. This course also addresses pursuits of happiness in British literature, including those of Adam and Eve in *Paradise Lost*, the characters of Samuel Johnson's *Rasselas*, and the Bennett family in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Other authors covered include Blake, Wordsworth, and Byron. *This course fulfills the core requirement in literature.*
HONORS HISTORY: "History of the West and the World II" (History 152 FH 12:30 – 1:20 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with Prof. William Van Vugt; 4 credit hours.) History 152 Honors is for students who are committed to doing extra reading and writing on the History of the West and the World from 1500 to the present. Class lectures and discussions will focus on the major themes and periods of this history, but the overarching theme of this course, and much of the assigned reading, is on the “meeting” of the West with the rest of the world. In addition to examinations and other smaller essays, students will write a significant (20-page) paper on a specific theme of their choice, based on secondary sources. Enrollment is limited to 20 and is restricted to students who qualify for honors enrollment. This course fulfills the core requirement in the History of the West and the World.

HONORS PHILOSOPHY: “Fundamental Questions in Philosophy” (Philosophy 153 HH, 12:05 – 1:20 on Tuesday and Thursday with Prof. Matt Halteman; 3 credit hours). This course is designed to introduce students to some fundamental questions in philosophy by the reading of significant texts within the Western tradition. While reading Plato, Aquinas and others, students will be given the opportunity to examine some of the basic questions in philosophy, to compare and contrast the answers philosophers have given to those questions and to reflect on the compatibility of various positions with a Reformed worldview. Our focus throughout will be on the ways that stories, narratives and myths function in all of the philosophers we will read, and on how the stories that we tell ourselves fit (or fail to fit) with the claims we make about truth, the nature of reality and our visions of human life. The course is writing intensive, with regular informal writing as well as formal argumentative papers. Enrollment in honors Philosophy 153 is limited to 20 students. This course fulfills the core requirement in Philosophical Foundations.

HONORS PHYSICS: To obtain honors credit in any physics or astronomy course, a student can make a contract with the course instructor regarding a special project. Alternatively, a student in an Introductory level physics course up through Physics 235 or in a 100–200 level astronomy course may earn honors in that course by concurrently taking the seminar course, Physics 195, and completing its requirements. A student must earn a grade of “B” or better in a course to receive honors designation for that course. Simply register for an appropriate Physics course and Physics 195 A, Tuesday from 3:45 - 4:50.

HONORS PSYCHOLOGY: “Introductory Psychology” (Psychology 151 EH, 8:35-9:50 on Tuesday and Thursday with Prof. Claudia Beversluis; 3 credit hours). The honors section of Introductory Psychology is similar to the regular sections in content and overall course requirements. However, the honors section provides greater opportunities for class discussion of critical issues, independent writing projects and supplementary readings on topics of special interest. The course focuses on relationships among our general understandings of the meanings of human personhood, especially understandings shaped by Christian faith; methods of investigation and practice in psychology; and major areas of psychological theory and research (e.g. brain processes, learning and memory, motivation, memory, thought and language, development, psychopathology, social psychology and psychotherapy). Enrollment in honors Psychology 151 is limited to 20 students. This course satisfies the core requirement in Persons in Community.

HONORS RELIGION: Qualified students may earn honors credit in Religion 121 (Biblical Literature and Theology), Religion 131 (Christian Theology) and intermediate and advanced courses by completing the requirements of an "honors track" in those courses. The honors track for Rel 121 and Rel 131 consists of: 1) a research/thesis paper (in place of the regular major writing assignment in the course); 2) a four-page review of a book relevant to the subject matter of the course; 3) meetings with the professor several times during the semester to plan and discuss the honors work; and 4) an overall grade of B+ or higher in the course. In intermediate and advanced courses the "honors track" includes a special research/thesis paper (in place of the regular course paper), supplementary reading, meeting with the professor and a B+ overall in the course. The specific requirements will be worked out in consultation with the professor. Interested students should inform a professor early in the semester of their intention to complete an honors track in the course; no special registration is needed. More information is available at: http://www.calvin.edu/academic/religion/academics/honors.html.