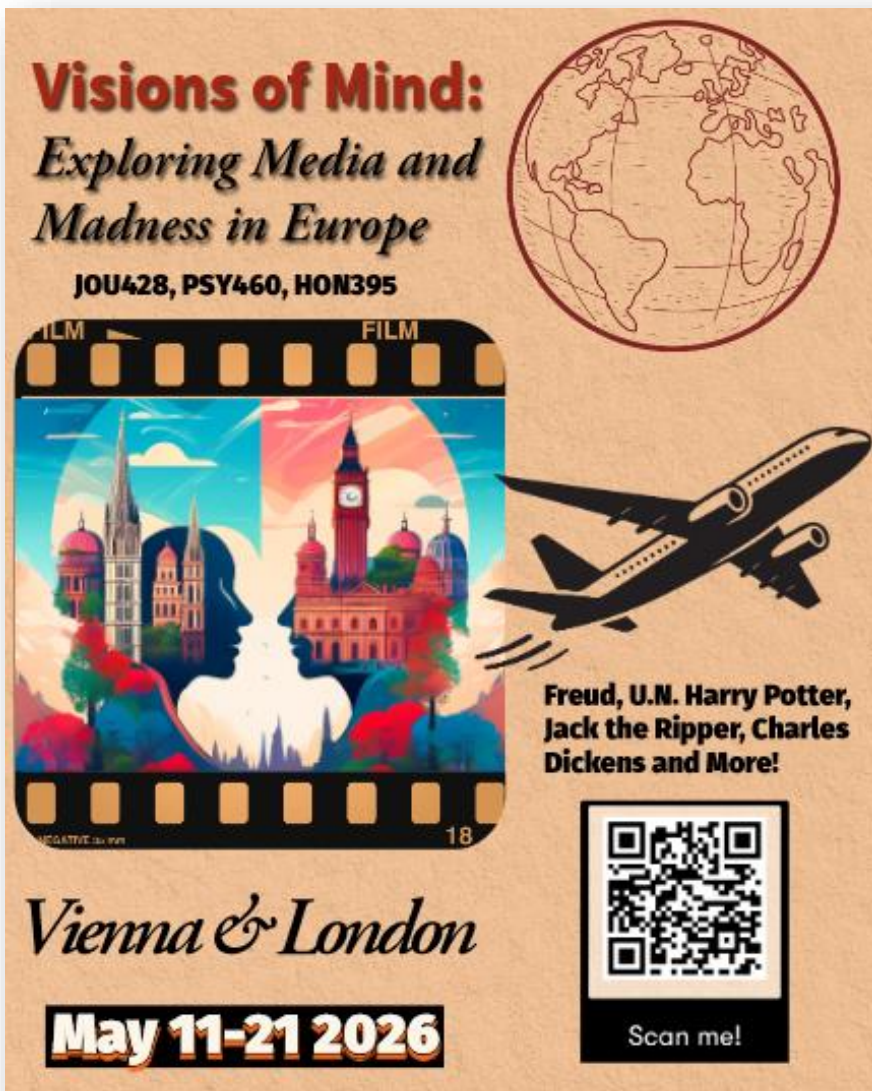


# Honors Program 2025 Newsletter

*Spring Edition*

## Where Are Honors Students Going Next?



**Visions of Mind:**  
*Exploring Media and  
Madness in Europe*  
JOU428, PSY460, HON395

FILM FILM

NEGATIVE 18

*Vienna & London*

**May 11-21 2026**

Freud, U.N. Harry Potter,  
Jack the Ripper, Charles  
Dickens and More!

Scan me!

We want to hear from you! If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, you can email us at [honors@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:honors@missouriwestern.edu), or give us a call at 816-271-4535. We are located in Eder 220. Follow us on social media!

Instagram @mwsuhonors

Facebook @The Honors Program, Missouri Western State University



## About Us

In 1987, Missouri Western State University established the Honors Program with administrative support, budgets, utilization of the most qualified faculty, and development of an interesting, innovative, challenging, and flexible curriculum with smaller class sizes. Dr. Gerald Zweerink became the first Honors Director, establishing the Insignis Scholarship (the Golden Griffon Scholarship), Student Honors Organization, and affiliation with Alpha Chi. Since then, four honors directors Dr. David Bennett (1993-2005), Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin (2005-2012), Dr. Teddi Deka (2012-2021), and Dr. Joel Hyer (2021- present), along with the Honors Committee and support staff, developed innovative curriculum, and provided opportunities for research and travel.

## Honors Committee:

Dr. Stacia Bensyl  
Dr. Angela Haas  
Dr. David McMahan  
Dr. Mark Mills  
Mr. James Mulder  
Ms. Laura Nold

## Honors Office Staff:

Tiffany LeGrand  
Zaya Webb

# Colloquia

The Honors Program offers unique topic courses called Colloquia. Students are required to have 4 credit hours of colloquia as part of the program requirements. The following list is the offered Colloquia courses for the Fall 2025 semester:

**HON 195- 01:** Using Your Brain to Be a Better You: An Exploration of Current Brain-Based Research for Reaching Your Potential

**HON 195-02:** The Call is Coming from Inside the House: horror films as a means to explore social issues in America

**HON 395-01:** Healthy Relationships: Yes, It Does It Matter!

## *Spring 2025 Graduates*

### General Studies Honors

Josh Collier	Lily Kurz
Hanna Moore	Taten Piepergerdes
Callie Punzo	Katelynn Rowland
Gracie Shafer	

### Majors Honors

Trenton Miles	Stephanie Turner
Taten Piepergerdes	



### *Advice from a Graduate:*

*Taten Piepergerdes*

*"Take advantage of all the opportunities that the program offers. There is a special opportunity that they present and it's up to you to be in charge of that." - Taten Piepergerdes*



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