



The Las Positas College Honors Transfer Program

Fall 2019

Benefits

Students in the LPC Honors Transfer Program have special opportunities such as:

- Working one-on-one with instructors on individual research projects
- Earning honors credit for courses completed at LPC
- The chance for special honors recognition on your transcript
- Developing the skills of advanced-level work while in community college

Completing the program with 5 courses of honors credit earns added benefits such as:

- Priority admission at many highly ranked colleges
- Priority scholarship consideration at several colleges
- Graduating with the recognition of an LPC Honors Scholar

Eligibility

Students are eligible for the honors program if they have a 3.5 GPA and 12 units at LPC, or if they are new and have a 3.75 GPA from high school, or if they have the recommendation of an LPC instructor or counselor.

How Do I Join the Honors Program?

At the LPC Honors Transfer Program web site (<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/honors/>) you will find the application to join the program, as well as the honors contract form that you can use to arrange an honors project with your instructor. You can work with your instructor to decide how to design your honors project. All transfer courses are eligible if your instructor is willing to mentor your project. If you complete the honors project and earn an A or B in the course, then you will earn honors credit for that course.

What Goes into an Honors Project?

An honors project can be anything from designing a set of experiments, to completing a research paper, to creating a new work of art. Your instructor and the honors director can help you develop your project proposal.

All honors contracts should be submitted online by Friday, September 6, 2019. **Please see the Honors Director with any questions about applications, contracts, or program benefits.**

Honors Director contact info: Fall 2019

Director: Jeremiah Bodnar

Office: Room 2121

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 -11:00 AM or by appointment.

Email:

jbodnar@laspositascollege.edu

Phone: 925-424-1263

Research Paper

I. Guiding Question/Thesis/Idea

Racial discrimination is a problem that has plagued human cultures for centuries, and the problems created by racial discrimination continue to today. The philosophical movement of **existentialism** proposes that humans are born without any essential nature, and that who we are is solely the product of the choices that we make and the way we live our lives. Thus, it seems likely that existential thinkers could offer us advice for ways of eliminating racial bias in our culture. If people have no essential nature, then it would not make sense to discriminate against others based on some imagined “essence” that they are perceived to have. In my project I plan to explore the possibility of using existentialist philosophy as a guide for overcoming stereotyping and racial discrimination.

II. Method of Research

I will begin my investigation of this topic by studying the recent data on racial attitudes, racial discrimination, and stereotyping. After familiarizing myself with this data, I will read through Jean Paul Sartre’s essay *Existentialism is a Humanism*, and explore the ways in which his existentialist philosophy might offer solutions to the problems associated with contemporary attitudes about race. After composing a summary of my findings, I will compare the ideas presented by Sartre with the ideas of two other existentialist philosophers (yet to be determined) to investigate their comparative value of in offering solutions to this problem. I will complete my project by summarizing my findings and offering my own ideas on the potential value of existentialist solutions to these problems.

III. Outcomes/Product

My final project will consist of a 12-15 page essay covering the topics discussed above. My essay will be in the standard format used for journals in the social sciences.

IV. Project Timeline

- **September 2:** Honors Project Proposal submitted. Literature search on racial attitudes and first reading of Sartre’s essay begins.
- **October 1:** Submit summary of literature review, and analysis of Sartre’s ideas in *Existentialism is a Humanism as applied to racial attitudes*.
- **November 4:** Submit summary of two other existentialist philosophers applied to my topic and contrasted with Sartre’s views.
- **November 20:** Submit rough draft of APA style essay to my professor
- **December 9:** Submit final draft of essay to my professor

I will meet with my instructor at least **once every 3 weeks** to discuss my progress, plans, and results as my research project progresses.