Honors Seminars are listed under the course number UGS 200H in the Schedule of Courses. The seminars are 3 credit courses that extend through both Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters. Enroll in the 3 credit UGS 200H section for Fall 2012; the Credit/No Credit grade will be extended and reported at the conclusion of Spring 2013. UGS 200H is intended for students not participating in the Professorial Assistant program.

Section 001 - INTRODUCTION TO MATERIALS RESEARCH IN A SERVICE LEARNING FOR LEADERSHIP ENVIRONMENT: Prof. Boehlert, Chemical Engineering & Material Science, Tuesdays, 4:30pm – 5:20pm, 1202 Engineering Bldg.

Seminar will allow students to learn about one of the most widely used tools in multidisciplinary materials-based research, a scanning electron microscope (SEM). Students will focus on SEM analysis of ceramics, composites, biomaterials, metallic alloys, etc. This honors seminar will also allow the students to use the knowledge they gained to teach K-12 students about SEM in a service-learning for leadership environment. The students will also be responsible for performing a materials-based research project using the SEM and presenting their research through a poster display at the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) in April 2013.

Section 002 – SPEECH AND MUSIC: RESEARCHING PARALLELS BETWEEN TWO HUMAN COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS: Prof. Dilley, Communicative Science & Disorder, Thursdays, 4:00pm – 5:20pm, 106 Audiology & Speech Science Bldg.

Have you ever wondered how babies learn to talk? Why do many medical conditions result in disturbances to speech? Why does computer speech sound unnatural? What are the connections between the rhythms and pitches of music and speech? These and other topics will be the focus of this seminar, in which students will engage in research relating to human speech communication. A particular focus will be speech prosody, or the pitch, timing, and rhythmic information used in understanding spoken words. Since these aspects of sound are shared between speech and music, we will spend time investigating connections between these two domains. Students will be able to carry out research on topics related to human speech communication funded by federal research grants and will present the results of this research at the University Undergraduate Research & Arts Forum. Moreover, students will have the option to continue after the seminar as research assistants in the MSU Speech Lab, pending successful seminar performance. Students with interests in human cognition, language, music, and/or gaining experience in scientific research would be most likely to find this seminar of interest.
Section 003 – THE PSYCHOLOGY OF TIME: Prof. McAuley, Psychology, Fridays, 9:10am – 10:00am, 55 Psychology Bldg.

Seminar will explore the scientific literature on the human experience of time – a fascinating interdisciplinary topic that is central to the understanding of brain and mind. Students in the seminar will read and discuss scientific articles on the topic of time perception and work in small teams of 2-3 individuals on the design and execution of behavioral experiments that investigate the neural and cognitive bases of time perception. The results of the student projects will be presented at the 2013 University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum.

Section 004 – STUDY OF SCIENTIFIC MEASUREMENT USING DIGITAL IMAGES AND VIDEO: Profs. Colbry, Dyer, Y. Wang, and L. Wang, Thursdays, 8:30am – 9:50am, 217 Ernst Bessey Hall

Students will explore scientific methodologies that use digital imaging techniques for experimental observations. Students will be introduced to a variety of tools and methodologies that can be used to annotate and extract useful observational data in digital images. In-class experiments will include research from datasets in engineering, biology, zoology and forensics. Students will walk away from this class with a fundamental knowledge of how to use digital images and video for scientific measurement, and develop valuable research skills applicable to many scientific research projects on campus.

Section 005 – WEB USABILITY, MOBILE AND SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING: Prof. Coursaris, Telecommunication Information Studies & Media, Tuesdays, 9:10am – 10:00am, 171 Communication Arts Bldg.

Seminar will cover a broad range of usability topics, from the fundamentals of human-computer interaction to the research methods available for usability evaluation. In addition, it will cover various social media vehicles as means to engage prospective customers. This theoretical foundation will enable students to engage in usability-related research and evaluation, investigating such questions as whether color schemes affect website usability and attractiveness, as well as exploring mobile and social media users’ attitudes toward mobile and social media advertisements using both survey and experimental methods.
Section 006 – THE STATE OF SCIENCE: SOUND SCIENCE IN MICHIGAN:  Prof. Largent, James Madison College, Wednesdays, 9:10am – 10:00am, 319L South Case Hall

Students will choose a science-related policy that they would like to see adopted, changed or discarded and they will introduce it to Michigan State Legislators and their staff or local political authorities through issue briefs and direct engagement. Topics may include any medical, economic, public health, environmental or technological issue students find interesting.

Section 007 – COVERING MICHIGAN POLICY AND GOVERNMENT: Prof. Grossmann, Political Science, Mondays, 4:10pm – 5:30 pm, 217 Ernst Bessey Hall

Seminar engages students in the policymaking process in Michigan. It is organized around guest speakers, simulations, and field trips to see state government in action. Students will produce news articles and research materials for online public dissemination via the Michigan Policy Network at www.michiganpolicy.com. Each student covers a particular state public policy issue area of their choosing, such as energy & environment, health care, or taxes. Participating students will develop communication, reporting, research, writing and technical skills as they become civically involved and informed about state public policy.