This 1-credit honors seminar course is designed for freshmen and sophomores. Enrollment is limited by permission of the instructors. The course meets on Thursdays from 2 to 3:50 p.m. every other week rather than weekly. There are no prerequisites other than an alert mind and broad academic interests.

This course is the lower division start to a sequence of honors courses in “The Discourses of Knowledge.” These courses have several aims. The first is to introduce students to the practice of natural science and the humanities. The second is to specify the kinds of knowledge produced by each branch of knowledge production. The third is to raise questions about the results and values of science and the humanities. In each class session, we will also raise meta-level questions about the status and value of knowledge particular to each discipline as a way to produce and reproduce knowledge. Since the courses are seminars, discussion is our principle aim, allowing students to pose questions and to discuss problems and possibilities that arise in class. Both professors will attend all classes.

In the first half of the course, Dr. Stricker, who is Dean of the Honors College and Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience, will discuss research on the biology of thirst and, more generally, the advancement of scientific knowledge. In the second half of the course, Dr. Bové, who is Distinguished Professor of English and Editor of boundary 2, will discuss the study of literature as the key to humanistic science, focusing on Shakespeare’s play, The Winter’s Tale. The content of these subjects do not overlap at all, but presenting them in the same course encourages consideration of the similarities and differences in scholarship between the disciplines. Such consideration is the principle focus of the course rather than learning the particular discipline and its facts.