The University Honors Program, in cooperation with the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, seeks creative cross-disciplinary proposals for team-taught Honors Think Tanks. These courses take an experiential, interdisciplinary approach to USU’s General Education “Citizen Scholar” Depth requirements, allowing students to explore a shared topic from different disciplinary perspectives. Each 25-student Think Tank is team-taught by two outstanding professors from different disciplines; proposals should come jointly from pairs of faculty who envision teaching together. Each Think Tank cross-lists two of the following three course numbers: HONR 3010 (DSC: Life and Physical Sciences), HONR 3020 (DHA: Humanities and Creative Arts), and HONR 3030 (DSS: Social Sciences). Each course number in the pair also typically carries a CI (Communications Intensive) or QI (Quantitative Intensive) designation. Students register for one course number, and professors evaluate the discipline-specific work in their sections of the course; some work may also be co-evaluated. Professors share responsibility for the whole course and team-teach the topic to all students through their respective disciplinary lenses. Because of the “Citizen Scholar” designation, these courses engage Honors students in their local or global communities; community-engaged-learning (CEL) course designations are welcome and encouraged. Honors seeks courses that capture the imaginations of bright students eager to take educational risks in a controlled environment. Please remember that these courses should not simply add assignments or difficulty to existing depth courses; instead, they offer Honors students a collaborative classroom experience with ample opportunity for discovery and experiential learning. Selected courses will launch in Fall 2022 or Spring 2023 and run again in AY 2023-24.

Faculty applications are due Friday, October 8, 2021, and must include:

- A signed, scanned one-page application form with basic contact information, faculty departments, and approval of both department heads for faculty to teach for Honors, should the proposal be accepted;
- Two one-page pedagogical resumes (one for each faculty member) with clear evidence of outstanding teaching;
- A 3-5 page description of the proposed team-taught Honors Think Tank course that clearly and specifically addresses each of the following points:
  - The role of each faculty member and the vision for collaboration in the classroom
  - How each section trains “Citizen Scholars” and meets USU’s General Education Depth criteria
  - How shared and separate course assignments and activities create opportunity for students to gain deep understanding of one area and interdisciplinary collaboration across the two areas
  - How the course intentionally teaches skills in each area of the University Honors Program’s key learning outcomes: critical thinking, independent research, interdisciplinary learning, and civic engagement
- A draft syllabus outlining 15 weeks (no dates necessary at this stage) of proposed readings, assignments, and activities (please limit syllabus to no five pages; boilerplate policy not necessary at this stage).

Application review will be complete by early November and will consist of the following:

- Review by Honors Faculty Advisory Board and Student Advisory Board (representation from each college on both boards), in consultation with the Honors Program Executive Director
- Discussion, as necessary, with relevant department heads and deans

Faculty selected from the initial application pool to teach for the University Honors Program will then:

- In consultation with the Honors Program Executive Director, revise the syllabus, complete rubrics identifying how the course meets both General Education and Honors learning outcomes, and submit final versions of all materials by January 10, 2022;
- Revise as required to secure Honors and General Education final approval by May 1, 2022;
- Earn a $500 course-development stipend per instructor upon final course approval (by May 1, 2022);
• Agree to team-teach the course with faculty partner, once in AY 2022-23 and again in AY 2023-24; each time the course is taught, Honors will pay $4500 to each faculty member’s department ($9000 total per course taught) for course buyout or faculty compensation, depending on departmental needs and at the Department Head’s discretion;
• Earn the title “Distinguished Professor (Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Professional Practice Professor, etc.) of Honors Education” while teaching the course;
• Teach a discussion-oriented course of 25 Honors students, with the option of assistance from an Honors Undergraduate Teaching Fellow specially selected for the course.

All faculty applicants will be notified with a decision by November 15, 2021. For submission questions, please contact Dr. Kristine Miller, Honors Program Executive Director, at kristine.miller@usu.edu or 797-3637. Applications should be submitted to the Honors Program at honors@usu.edu.