English Composition I Honors
ENG 101-02, TR, 9:00am-10:15am, Prof. Rhonda Gray
Pre-requisites: Placement test, recommendation by an Advisor or Faculty member, or earned a “B” or higher in ENG 091 or ENG 099

“Rap Music Unwrapped: A Feminist Critique of the Patriarchy”
The impact of rap videos in shaping the identity of black women and men may have contributed to very narrow perceptions of African Americans exercised by members within and outside the ethnic group. One of the most troubling aspects of hip hop culture is its exploitation of black women that fuels sexism and misogyny. We will use bell hooks’ feminist critique of rap music to explore how the art form may have re created a contemporary plantation society mirroring the values of the dominant culture. The course satisfies learning outcomes for ENG 101 at the Honors level.

English Composition II Honors
ENG 102-02, MW, 9:00am-10:15am, Prof. Mark Kjellman
Pre-requisite: Earned a “B” or higher in ENG 101

“Escape and Confrontation in the Blues”
In this writing-intensive seminar, we will study the themes of escape and confrontation by analyzing recent writing, music, and cinema directly influenced by the blues tradition. We will use Kevin Young’s cultural theory of “storying” to help us explore “underground railroads of meaning” that run from the blues through hip hop. Readings feature Toni Morrison’s Song of Solomon, poetry from the Dark Room Collective, Jim Jarmusch and Forest Whitaker’s Ghost Dog, and the lyrics and mixes of the Wu-Tang Clan. The course satisfies learning outcomes for ENG 102 at the Honors level.

Honors Colloquium
HUM 290-01, TR, 12:00pm-1:15pm, Prof. Seth Jameson
Pre-requisite: Earned a “B” or higher in ENG 102

“Nomads, Wanderers, and Exiles: World Literature and Film Across Cultures”
This course will study works of film and literature that incorporate the character of the nomad, wanderer and exile as the subjects of world literature and symbols of transnational identity. Such characters will be understood as starting points to examine the complexity of identity in a more globalized world. Students will explore the ways in which these works challenge stable, national forms of identity, point out the gaps in national citizenship, and see home in new imaginary ways that incorporate worldliness and multiplicity. Works will include novels and films from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America. The course satisfies a Humanities elective. It is a required course for students to graduate with Honors Program Distinction.

Honors Component: Earn Honors Credit for most 100/200 level courses
Pre-requisite: Earned a “B” or higher in pre-requisite course
Develop a project that grows out of coursework but should be above and beyond the requirements of an academic course. The range of possibilities is wide: lab research, creative production or artwork, archival or literary research, social science study, or service learning, to name a few. You will receive Honors designation for the course if you earn a “B” or higher for the course and successfully complete the Honors project. Honors Component applications are accepted at the beginning of each semester.

For more information, contact Prof. Rhonda Gray, Honors Program Coordinator, at rgray@rcc.mass.edu or visit http://www.rcc.mass.edu/academics/honors-program