

# UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

## THE HUMANITIES CENTER

### Humanities Center Student Fellowship and Scholarship

Dear Student of High Achievement,

I would like to tell you about a special opportunity available to you through the Humanities Center at the University of Hartford.

The Humanities Center is accepting applications for Student Fellows for next year's honors seminar. Students with a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the 2025-2026 academic year are eligible to participate in the Humanities Center as Student Fellows.

As a Fellow, you attend a year-long honors seminar on the yearly theme. **Amy Weiss, Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies and History, will lead the Humanities Center Seminar for this next year. She has selected the theme of "AI in Action: The Future of Humans" for the seminar.** Here you will get to know some of the brightest students at the University of Hartford. You will also attend lectures by both university faculty who are doing research on this theme and visiting speakers. Here is a description of the idea behind the seminar:

Artificial intelligence, simply defined as the use of machines that perceive their environment and then harness "intelligence" to adapt to societal needs, has a broad impact across several fields of study. They include, but are not limited to economics, philosophy, education, computer science, psychology, and medicine. Examples of how we encounter AI on a daily basis include using facial recognition to unlock your phone, messaging a company's chatbot to answer a particular question about a recent purchase, relying on Google maps or Waze to reroute your travel itinerary before you even know about traffic, and receiving curated viewing suggestions on Netflix based on the streaming service's targeted algorithm. Although AI is often considered to be a twenty-first century innovation, it has existed as a discreet field since the 1950s. Even before this time, humans have contemplated the many uses of technology to improve their lives. In this class, we will examine the historical, social, and industry-based developments of AI, in order to better understand the ethical and economic implications of this technology—and make informed decisions about the future of humans.

In the Fall semester, students will attend a discussion-based seminar-style class that will also involve presentations, weekly assignments, and a research project proposal. Topics of discussion will include: industrialization and gender; reality v. deep fakes; AI in academia, the law and medicine; and AI in career trajectories. Students will also identify an area in their everyday lives that could be improved using AI and propose specific ways to employ AI to solve this issue. They will discuss any ethical, economic and societal

impacts from this AI innovation, think about how it can transform human lives, and consider potential or unexpected challenges it might create. In the Spring semester, students will attend a lecture series with experts in AI-related fields and complete their research projects.

Students who are selected for this seminar are awarded a fellowship and will receive a stipend of at least \$500 and take the seminar for a total of six credits, three in the fall term and three in the spring term.\* The courses are listed as HON 389 in the fall 2025 schedule and HON 390 in the spring 2026 schedule. **The class meets both semesters on Monday evenings, 5-7:20 pm, and student fellows must take both semesters.**

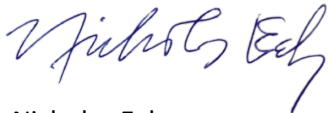
**To apply, send a document as an attachment via email by Friday, March 28,** to Dr. Amy Weiss (amweiss@hartford.edu) and to me (Dr. Nicholas Ealy, Humanities Center Director at ealy@hartford.edu) that includes the following information:

- your name
- an explanation of why you want to participate in the Seminar (1 page maximum)
- your major and minor (if you have one)
- your grade point average
- your UHart e-mail address
- your student ID number

*Your attachment should have your name as the name of the file – last name and first name (example: EalyNicholas.docx or EalyNicholas.pdf).*

**You will be notified of acceptance by Friday, April 4, along with instructions for registration.** If you have any questions about the application process, please contact me at ealy@hartford.edu. In the meantime, I recommend you register for four classes for fall 2025, as this would be a fifth class for you.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Ealy  
Director, Humanities Center

\* Students who already receive a full tuition discount are not eligible for the stipend.