

Nadia Moutria

Graduation Date: Spring, 2026



Lits of Honors Courses:

- American History to 1877
- General Sociology
- Survey of World Literature to 1650
- American National Government
- World Civilizations from 1500
- History of the American People since 1877

Section 1: In what ways did the Program help you “demonstrate engagement,” “cultivate curiosity,” and “explore perspectives” (community, curiosity, and diversity)?

The big three of the Honors Program, community, curiosity, and diversity that I found to be most upheld was in World Literature and American National Government. These classes were specifically structured to be discussion based, to engage with a wide variety of ideologies and understandings of the world. In World Lit, taught by Professor Chesne, we read about five books that acted as cultural artifacts from different spaces across Europe and



Asia. When we read through the book, *Monkey King*, translated by Julia Lovell, we were also tasked with undergoing our own, personal, philosophical journey’s inspired by the Monkey and his fellow Buddhist disciples. That whole process was such an exciting opportunity to actually engage with the material and apply it in my daily life. When we read through *Metamorphosis* by Ovid, we were tasked with sketching out characters or scenes from the chapters to capture what was happening. The engagement with art, philosophy, and religion allowed me to challenge myself. I was able to wrestle and interact with perceptions of the world that I was never privy to before. It sounds cliché, but I genuinely mean it; that class allowed me to grow in ways that I was not expecting. It equipped me with tools to understand cultures that were not my own and build relationships with classmates while we were on our journeys. My National Government class, taught by Dr. Evans, has been especially interesting, specifically with the current political landscape. There are diverse ideologies and understandings of how the world should work in that class. Despite this, constructive conversations are happening and as a group we are learning the functions of government. Another avenue for exploring perspectives has been through the opportunity of the Great Plains Honors Council Conference! Being able to see the variety of poster and oral presentations has been exciting as well as connecting with honor students throughout the country. Community was also highlighted during this specific trip. Trips to Bucees, listening to podcasts about bugs, and just having fun conversations made that trip so sweet.

Throughout the school year, the openness of Honors professors really strengthened relationships. I would find myself often swinging by their office hours for both class guidance but also general academic or professional. Professor Chesne and Professor Bateman were both subject to my random office visits. With Professor Chesne we would talk about different cultures and how



religion is so diverse across the world. We would often discuss texts like Monkey King or the Mahabharata. Professor Bateman would often give incredibly helpful guidance for navigating the rest of my undergrad and graduate studies plan. Dr. Huggard was another amazing support and resource throughout my time at NWACC. Because of his encouragement I joined the Honors program and have steered me to some amazing opportunities that I would not have seen before. The support and encouragement from all the professors were so heartwarming and really made a positive difference in my time at NWACC. Honors Student Association events are another avenue for the campus community. Events like J-Street Clean-up or our game nights were so much fun. Engaging with a wide range of ideas through all of this has been so incredibly enriching. I look at the world

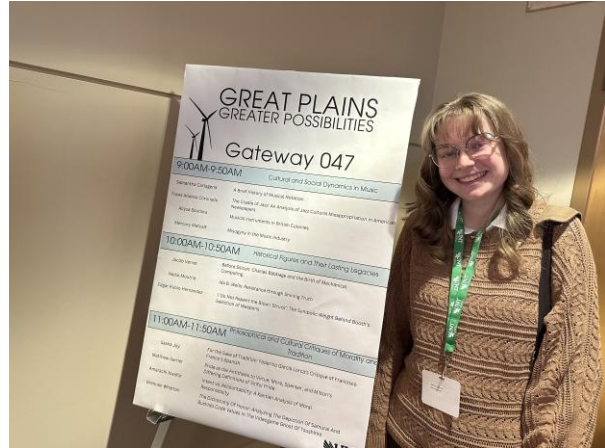
differently now. Without the Honors program, my educational journey would be missing out on opportunities to meet new people and wrestle with new ideas.



Above is from the Great Plains Honors Council Conference in Kansas City 2026! I'm with awesome classmates and students from Kansas and Missouri.

Section 2: How did this program prepare you for a university or for a workplace?

The program has helped me in two key areas. The first is to be able to handle comprehensive work. In my American History class with Dr. Huggard, I had the opportunity to write an eleven-page paper on the history of the Indian Removal Act. That was one of my first “big” projects of my academic career and showed me what I am capable of. In my World Literature class, one of our projects was to examine the spiritual journey displayed in *Conference of the Birds* and create a “guidebook” to follow along the experience. This particular project wasn’t extensive in length, but the content was an interesting challenge to tackle. This has strengthened my ability to bend my mind and wrestle with differing ideologies. The second aspect is learning how to curate professional relationships with both students and professors. The Honors Student Association has given the opportunity to host events and strengthen the campus community. My time as secretary was such a joy as I got to know students and built collaborative relationships with those who were also invested in campus involvement. My relationships with my professors have all been wonderful. I’ve been able to learn the ropes for navigating academic relationships and have been guided on what to expect in the coming years of my education. These connections made have created a network to rely on for both social and professional needs.



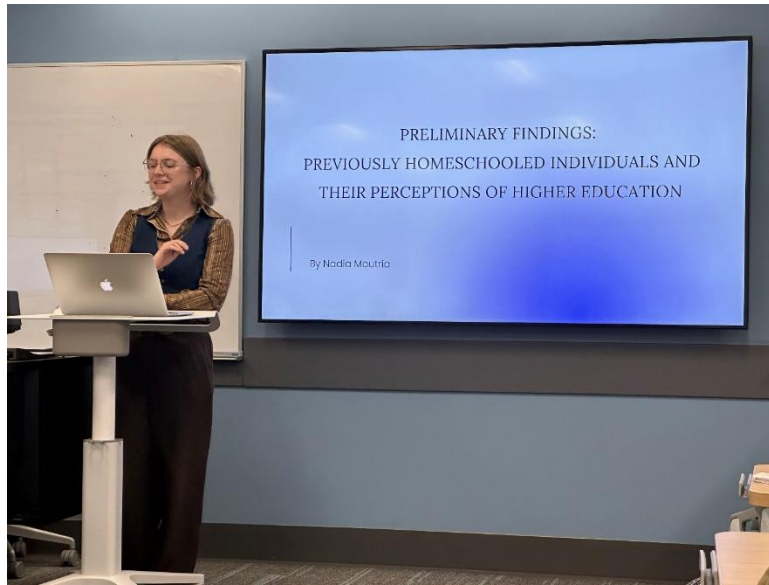
Section 3: What is one experience you had while a member that you’d like to share?

I can’t just choose one! One of my favorite Honors memories must be from the Great Plains Honors Council Conference in 2025. It was the first night after the poster board presentations. There was an ice-cream social and karaoke event happening. Brittany Jones, Vice President of HSA, and I absolutely rocked out with Pink Pony Club by Chappel Roan. To my misfortune Professor Chesne did film part of it, but it was such a funny moment from that trip. Another was Friendsgiving that HSA in the fall of 2025. It was so sweet getting together with everyone and trying all the food. Community is such a core part of the Honors Program, and I am so thankful for my time here. If I had to go back in time, I would most definitely do this all again.



Section 4: Advice for students.

Get to know your professors and classmates! It makes classes so much more fun, and exciting opportunities tend to start showing up in your path.



Above and below are my presentations at GPHCC 2026. Such fun!

