small classes. interesting teachers. challenging topics. ...take an Honors class this SPRING

(or better yet...join the Honors Program!)



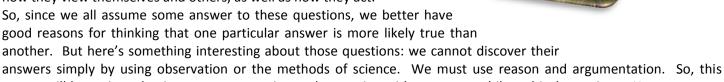
Judy Tobler: American National Government (PLSC 2003H)

One of my favorite things to do is to travel to new places. I have a real passion for learning about new cultures and experiencing new adventures. American Government is also a passion for me and I try to combine traveling and American Government when teaching. In American National government class, we travel through the maze of our government, learning many new things and seeing events with new insight. The class is also great because it relates so much to the "real world' outside of the college. Political events and news stories became part of the

class and current happenings became sources of class discussions. All of a sudden, you'll begin to realize how much you know. You'll hear someone talking about the government or politics and you'll say, "I know about that! We had it in class.

Don Merrell: Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 2003H)

Let's think of philosophy as the critical thinking about important ideas or beliefs that are usually taken for granted – e.g., Does God exist? Do we have free will or are we determined by the past and the laws of nature? What is the purpose or meaning of life? Think about those. They are important because the way one answers them should greatly affect how they view themselves and others, as well as how they act.



answers simply by using observation or the methods of science. We must use reason and argumentation. So, this course will be an introduction to argumentation and reasoning with respect to philosophical questions. Here are some other philosophical questions we could examine: Could computers be genuinely intelligent? What about animals? Why should I care about being moral? Could my life be just one long dream? What makes me the same person now that I was 18 years ago? Does right and wrong depend on religion? Why is an upside down urinal (Duchamp's "Fountain") considered a work of art? Etc...



Megan Looney: English Composition II (ENGL 1023H)

One of my desires for students is that they are interesting individuals—people who are passionate about something and are able to communicate that passion clearly and eloquently to others. My Honors Composition II class is designed to help students sharpen their communication skills and learn to better relay their passions and ideas to others. This spring, my class will focus on writing, using the book *Sin and Syntax: How to Craft Wickedly Effective Prose* as our writing textbook. As far as <u>what</u> we will be writing about—we'll be exploring the idea of utopia for much of the semester. We'll examine utopian literature and trace its changes throughout history, using the book *The Utopia Reader*. We'll also explore some contemporary utopias and dystopias in literature and film. Throughout these explorations, students will have the chance to form their own opinion of what utopia should be and then craft a project sharing that utopia with others, adding to the evolution of utopian literature.

April Brown: World Civilizations Since 1500 (HIST 1043H)

The concept of a World Civilization class is somewhat daunting, I admit. We'll look at over 500 years of...well, everything! World Civ II is not just about the French Revolution and world wars. We will tackle specific themes in world history, like race, religion, and power. We will study trending topics like Atlantic World history—the interaction of the peoples from Europe, Africa, and the Western Hemisphere—which includes the impact of the Columbian Exchange on indigenous peoples, the slave trade, and power relationships, like gender roles and religion. Heard of the novel The Heart of Darkness? We will delve into the brutality associated with the European colonization of Africa, he Religion Congo, and compare it with modern day efforts at empire building. Finally, we

especially in the Belgian Congo, and compare it with modern day efforts at empire building. Finally, we will focus on current conflicts in the Middle East through an examination of twentieth century geo-politics, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the Arab Spring. In Honors World Civ, you'll discuss and debate relevant issues and have the opportunity to utilize what you have learned through leading a service project.

Sabrina Chesne: Survey of World Literature from 1650 (ENGL 2223H)

In Honors World Literature from 1650, we read five novels that seem to have nothing in common. However, by the end of the semester, you realize that romance, satire, existentialism, magical realism, and a graphic bildungsroman about Iraq have everything in common. We read Burney's *Evelina* (why did she have to publish this popular epistolary novel anonymously?), a bunch of Voltaire (did you know he was the first science fiction writer?), Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* (is murder a crime for everyone who commits it?), García Márquez' *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (what happens if you are born with a tail?), and Satrape's graphic novel *Persepolis* (are graphic novels literature?). It's a great semester where I get to spend time discussing (not lecturing) about some novels that are not only my



favorites, but texts that appear over and over again in our modern lives.

Jeff Jackson: Exploring the Humanities (HUMN 1003H)

Honors Humanities is an exciting class. Our theme is how Southerners are portrayed in literature and the arts. We will discuss everything from folk tales and trickster figures to murder ballads and the blues. I am especially interested in "crossover" works: we will look at Dorothea Lange's Dust Bowl photography, listen to Woody Guthrie's Dust Bowl Ballads, and read from John Steinbeck's Dust Bowl epic *The Grapes of Wrath*. Join us to talk about many exciting and challenging films, novels, and works of art and music.

Christina Jones: Public Speaking (COMM 1303H)

Public Speaking: sweaty hands, racing heart, knocking knees-if you experience any of these at the thought of speaking in public, fear not! By the end of the semester, you will have the skills and confidence to *volunteer* for any public speaking opportunity: informative, persuasive, small group, and demonstration speeches plus special occasion speeches (wedding toasts, eulogies, awards, commencement); good communication equals freedom! In addition to writing and presenting speeches verbal, non-verbal, and mediated communication will be studied, applied, and evaluated for persuasive meanings to be used and avoided when making public speeches as well as for social occasions (Do you know how to tell if a person is interested in you, NOT interested in you, how to get that guy across the room to come talk with you, know BEFORE you approach a girl if she is interested in you?). Honors Public Speaking is not just for speeches!



Jacqueline Jones: English Composition II (ENGL 1023H)

Joseph Campbell once said that "myth is a metaphor for life"; my Composition II Honors class challenges this assumption by having students explore thematic archetypes found in mythology. Together, we will embark on a hero's quest to find out answers through writing, seeking out our own sacred objects and places, discovering the uniqueness of creation, synthesizing the roles of gods and goddesses, and arguing the contemporary existence of tricksters. In the end, blogs, presentations, 3D-animiation, and word clouds will act as our heralds to sing songs of our deeds and process in our quest to defeat ineffective writing. My Composition I Honors class asks students to think about all genres of writing as argumentative,

catering and connecting to an audience for a specific purpose. In my class, we will rant about the worst movies of all time and voice observations about the spaces around us; we will express our opinions to editors of newspapers or advocate change to a board of directors. As a class, we will examine the effectiveness of using appeals in the comical writings of Ted L. Nancy-- letters written to Topps Baseball Cards persuading them to accept his Mickey Mantle toenail collection or Ringling Brothers persuading them to promote him as the next big act. Innovation, design, credibility, and ReVision will be our tools, for writing is never done.

Dixie Androes: Survey of the Universe (ASTR 2004H)

With a universe filled with wonders, it's impossible not to be amazed. In honors astronomy, we will tackle the big questions – the amazing, the bizarre, the beautiful, and the hazardous places of the cosmos. Be prepared to stretch your minds and gaze heavenward for just a glimpse at the vastness of space. Although Earth is likely the most incredible planet you will ever study and the Sun our greatest star; the universe is amuck with stellar performers that will inspire you with awe and excitement. I look forward to our cosmic journey together. I am an eternal optimist that believes all students can do well in science – with much of our time devoted to student led

discussions! My teaching philosophy is simple, as we cruise through the cosmos, I'm the tour guide and you're the tourists. It's important to know what's important and why. That's my job – pointing you in the right direction for ASTRO 101 literacy and to give you room to ask the questions yourself. Although we can't hop on a rocket ship – a virtual tour of the Earth and the Cosmos is now possible thanks to NASA, Hubble, Worldwide Telescope, and technology. As in any course, learning will be dependent on your desire to learn and your willingness to follow the path that is laid out.

Carl Franks: English Composition II (ENGL 1023H)

Incest! Murder! Ghosts! Child Abuse! The Devil! These are some of the topics I deliver papers on at conferences and that we shall encounter in Honors Composition II in exploring the various genres of literature. Learn how to interpret poetry, explicate short stories, and examine in detail the art and elements of the drama as you and your classmates work together to increase your love of reading.



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