Fall 2013 Tutorials

Based on the Oxford style of teaching, "Honors Tutorials" pair a small group of honors students (typically two to five) with a distinguished MU faculty member to discuss a topic, author, book/s, or issue very intensely over the course of a semester. Meetings take place in the faculty member's office (or other, non-classroom setting) once a week. All tutorials in the Fall 2013 Semester are ONE CREDIT HOUR.

Please find a description of each tutorial below.

If you would like to participate in one of these tutorials, please email a one-page statement to the tutorial professor about why you'd like to enroll in the tutorial, addressing the following questions:

Why does a tutorial method of learning appeal to you?
What do you think you'll gain from the experience?
And why are you interested in the particular topic?
Make sure to indicate your major/s as well as your overall GPA.

Applications for Tutorials 1-10 are due April 22nd.
Application for Tutorials 11 & 12 are due May 1st.

Tutorial #1
Title: Spanish Civil War: History, Literature, Today
Dr. Michael Ugarte, Professor of Spanish
UgarteM@missouri.edu

In this one-credit tutorial we will study various aspects of what was conceivably one of the most important events of the 20th century: the Spanish Civil War. We will explore this conflict not only as a historical phenomenon, but also as a cultural one. What was the so-called anti-fascist struggle about? What impact did it have on Nazism and the Holocaust? Why were so many world writers and thinkers (George Orwell, V. Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, Langston Hughes, Pablo Neruda, F. García Lorca) deeply affected by this conflict? Why was anarchism such a popular social and political ideology? We will also try to come to an understanding of the lessons of the conflict for today, both in Spain and in the world. Short, weekly responses (oral and in writing) to the readings will be required.

Tutorial #2
Title: The Way We Live Now
Dr. Elizabeth Chang, Associate Professor of English
ChangE@missouri.edu
In this one-credit tutorial we will read Anthony Trollope's major Victorian novel *The Way We Live Now* in serial installments. The novel's plot alone gives us a lot to talk about—it covers financial corruption, social climbing, American railroads, even the Emperor of China—but we will also discuss the Victorian social world, serial publication, and the recent television adaptation of the novel for the BBC. And surely we will be able to discover some relevance to the present day in Trollope's satiric portrayal of a devastating investment scandal.

Short, periodic written responses to the readings are required.

**Tutorial #3**

*Title: Veterinary Medicine: Beyond the Animal*

*Dr. Chuck Wiedmeyer, Associate Professor of Veterinary Pathology*

*WiedmeyerC@missouri.edu*

Discussions in this one-credit tutorial will focus on the clinical and professional skills necessary for success in veterinary medicine. In addition, there will be an introduction to routine techniques used to diagnose and treat diseases in domestic species.

**Tutorial #4**

*Title: History of The Vikings*

*Dr. Lois Huneycutt, Professor of History*

*HuneycuttL@missouri.edu*

The years between 800-1100 are often referred to as the “Age of the Vikings” by scholars of European History. During those years, Scandinavians roamed the seas and rivers of Europe, disrupting long-established civilizations and breaking cultural patterns that went back centuries. Scandinavians explored and settled areas from the Caspian Sea to North America, and influenced the course of Russian, Byzantine, British, and French history. They settled Iceland, Greenland, and eastern Canada. By the end of the era, the loosely-knit Scandinavian societies had coalesced into Christian kingdoms much like their southern European counterparts. The “Age of the Vikings” was over as quickly as it had begun. Scholars still debate what caused the sudden expansion of Scandinavian societies as well as the long-term effects of the Scandinavian expansion on western history.

In this one-credit tutorial, students will read introductory works on the Scandinavian Middle Ages, including Saga Literature, Poetry, and other primary sources before developing a reading list based on the students' own topical interests. Suggested topics include: Scandinavian Religion and the Conversion to Christianity, Women in Scandinavian Society, Scandinavians in the Americas, and Warfare in Scandinavian
Culture; but students are free to develop their own interests. Students will write summaries and reviews of works on their reading list and will have the option to produce a longer research paper (10-12 pp) that could be presented at the Phi Alpha Theta regional meeting in the spring. Students and the instructor will meet every two weeks for discussion.

**Tutorial #5**
*Title: Writing and Running*
*Dr. Pat Okker, Professor of English*
*OkkerP@missouri.edu*

This one-credit tutorial focuses on two of my passions: running and writing. During the semester, each student will choose an appropriate goal—whether that is to run/walk a mile or complete a marathon. While each person works independently toward that goal (teacher included!), we will work together to reflect on our training, and we'll do so through a series of short writing exercises. This course is appropriate for students who have never run, students who are accomplished athletes, and anyone in between. When submitting their applications for this tutorial, students should indicate their previous experience with running and a tentative goal for the semester. Previous experience with running is not required: the sole requirement is a willingness to reflect on running through writing and to explore the connections between the two activities.

**Tutorial #6**
*Title: Ludwig van Beethoven, Artistic Revolutionary.*
*Dr. Paul Crabb, Professor of Music*
*CrabbRP@missouri.edu*

This one-credit tutorial focuses on the composer, Ludwig van Beethoven and his role in the artistic development of the nineteenth century. Who was he? What role did his temperament play during that turbulent time in Europe? How did his music reflect his role in society? How did he affect the next generation of artists? Discussions, readings and assigned listening will center on his *MASS IN C MAJOR* (Op. 86), culminating with a live performance in Jesse Auditorium with Choral Union, University Singers, University Philharmonic and professional soloists. Short, written assignments will be periodically assigned. Music majors or non-majors with musical background, either instrumental or vocal. 2-5 students. Assignments will include varied readings about Beethoven, the social/political climate and his work as an artistic reformer. Some written work will be required along with attentive listening to assigned recordings.

**Tutorial #7**
*Title: Ritual in Stravinsky’s Le Sacre du Printemps (1913) and Les Noces (1923)*
*Dr. Neil Minturn, Associate Professor of Music*
Two of Stravinsky’s masterpieces, *Le Sacre du Printemps* and *Les Noces*, are balletic depictions of ritual. We can provisionally take ritual to mean a regularly repeated routine (I suspect we will refine our definition as the tutorial progresses). In Stravinsky’s words, *Le Sacre* is “a solemn pagan rite: wise elders, seated in a circle, watching a young girl dance herself to death. They were sacrificing her to propitiate the god of spring.” And *Les Noces*, says Stravinsky, “is a suite of typical wedding episodes told through quotations of typical talk...As a collection of clichés and quotations of typical wedding sayings it might be compared to one of those scenes in *Ulysses* in which the reader seems to be overhearing scraps of conversation without the connecting thread of discourse.” The tutorial will explore how ritual influences the music, the dance, and even the relation between the analyst/observer and the works themselves.

We will begin by learning the *Le Sacre du Printemps* and *Les Noces* through listening, watching performances, and score study. We will then study the concept of ritual and explore how it applies to these two works. I hope that our study of ritual and of form will spark thoughts about how these concepts may apply to other pieces, other composers, and even other art forms (!).

Open to all, though the ability to read music is essential, limited to 5 students. (Applicants need not be music majors.) Meetings will be held once per week. Two required papers, 5-10 pages. The first paper will be on an aspect of either *Le Sacre* or *Les Noces*. Here, I intend the idea of “an aspect” to be fairly wide ranging; I can imagine musical analysis, analysis of the ballet, analysis of some aspect of ritual, or a study of the genesis of the work, to name a few possibilities. The second paper may continue work on *Le Sacre* or *Les Noces* but it may also branch to study related issues in other works of Stravinsky or even in works of other composers.

**Tutorial #8**
*Title: Lasers in Advanced Industry and Modern Life*
*Dr. Robert D. Tzou, Interim Associate Dean and Chairman*
*Dr. Vitaly Gruzdev, Research Assistant Professor*
*Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Department*
*TzouR@missouri.edu*

This 1-credit-hour course is proposed for Fall Semester 2013. No prerequisites and specific background are required. The course is composed of case studies from real life. Each case involves application of specific type/class of lasers and is formulated to stimulate students’ interest and promote their ability in tackling viable solutions employing proper lasers. Each case will start with introduction, followed by detailed descriptions of the case study, formulation of the problem, and suggested resources for more detailed information regarding the case. The resources include materials on the websites, laser-research centers and institutions, textbooks, review lectures, and
technical papers. Each case is split into several parts. Each student will work independently on each part, prepare a written report, and then make a 10-15 minute presentation to the class. The final grade come from all the cases studied within the semester.

The objectives of this course are:
1) to expose and inspire interest of high-level MU students in laser science and technology by encouraging them to do research in selected areas of modern laser technologies;
2) to stimulate the students to explore the current levels of laser technologies for uses in a wide variety of environments with high-precision demand.

The cases covered in this course include:
- Lasers in military: What laser is needed to intercept terrorist tracks?
- Lasers in industry: How to drill though a 1-in-thick steel plate with a laser?
- Lasers in energy industry: LIFE plant of the future
- Lasers in high-tech: From micro- to nanoscale – the ultimate laser capabilities
- Lasers in biology and medicine: Laser applications for lab-on-chip, MEMS, and NEMS
- Lasers in digital media: How does a CD/DVD player work?
- Ultrafast lasers versus nanosecond lasers – Thermal versus non-thermal processes
- Lasers in medicine: Laser surgery versus traditional surgery
- Lasers in medicine and science: from laser chemistry to laser bio-chemistry
- Lasers in telecom: How does a high-speed internet line use the lasers?
- Lasers for measurements: How to measure the distance to the Moon?
- Lasers for standards: How does an atomic clock work?

4-5 cases will be chosen from this list for the entire course (3-4 weeks per case).

The class time will be one hour per week in average, in the form of one hour per week or two hours every other week, depending on the case studies. The class will take place in regular classroom for lecturing, discussion, and presentation, while the laser laboratory will be involved for demonstration.

Tutorial #9
Title: Culture and Evolution
Dr. Mike O’Brien, Professor, Department of Anthropology
OBrienM@missouri.edu

Usually when we think about evolution, we think of it as a biological process—groups of related organisms changing genetically and physically over time. Certainly when most of us think of evolution and humans it’s in biological terms: When did our ancestral line diverge from the ancestor that also produced chimpanzees? What did that ancestor look like? What is our relationship with, say, Neanderthals? When did our ancestors
develop the capacity for language? These are all important questions, but there is another, just as critical question: When did humans develop a capacity for what we term culture? For this one-credit tutorial, we are going to throw out most modern definitions of culture, not to mention most approaches to understanding it, and look at culture as a special case of social learning. Many animals exhibit social learning, but it is the fact that human culture evolves quickly and is cumulative that makes it an exceptional case. And it is exceptional. By this I mean that one generation does things in a certain way, and the next generation, instead of starting from scratch, does them in more or less the same way, except that perhaps it adds a modification or improvement. The succeeding generation then learns the modified version, which then persists across generations until further changes are made. Human cultural transmission is thus characterized by the so-called ratchet effect, in which modifications and improvements stay in the population until further changes ratchet things up again. I guarantee that by the end of this course, you’ll be able to hold your own in any debate over what it means to be human.

**Tutorial #10**

*Title: The Literature of the Garden*

*Dr. Nancy M. West*

*westn@missouri.edu*

This one-credit tutorial will explore two of my favorite hobbies: gardening and reading about gardening. Beginning with the explosion of gardening's popularity in 18th century England and ending with a look at the current craze for gardening in the United States, this course will explore the cultural, social, and literary meanings of gardens. We’ll read a variety of famous texts on gardening, including *The Secret Garden*, *Derek Jarman's Garden*, *The English Gardener*, and *The Well-Tempered Gardener*. Assignments will include weekly, informal responses to the readings and a group project that will somehow involve getting our hands in the dirt. Open to all majors.

**Tutorial #11**

*Speaking of Culture*

*Gabe Fried, English*

*Nancy West, Honors College*

*friedg@missouri.edu*

Students in this tutorial will help administer Speaking of Culture, a new monthly lecture series on the humanities sponsored by the Honors College. The series features dynamic MU professors and staff speaking on a variety of fascinating topics, from the "Making of Christmas" to "Caveman Courtship" for a general audience. Responsibilities will vary, but will certainly include supporting the promotion (e.g. writing press releases, maintaining social media), interviewing and introducing the speakers, and on-site production of the series. Please note that this tutorial will require occasional Sunday
afternoon commitments as well as weekly attendance for group discussion and planning.

**Tutorial #12**  
*Appreciation of Francophone Cultures*  
*Juan Wang, Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures*  
[wangjuan@missouri.edu](mailto:wangjuan@missouri.edu)

This one-credit hour tutorial introduces students to the cultures of several Francophone countries including France, the Maghreb, West Africa, the French Caribbean, and Indochina. A variety of authentic materials will be used: news, films, literature, and art. This course aims to help students prepare for Study Abroad, internship, service, professional development, and tourism in francophone countries. We will focus on topics tailored to suit students’ disciplines and interests. Assignments will include weekly oral discussions and short written reviews of the readings. Each student will have the opportunity to lead a group discussion on a chosen topic. The course is conducted mainly in English, and no knowledge of French is required. However, students who wish to improve their French language skills will be given the opportunity to do some of the course work in French. Open to all majors.