FALL 2014 HONORS 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).

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.

Tutorial Applications are due Friday, March 21st, 2014

Tutorial #1: Lean In, Lean Out
Dr. Joan Hermsen, Sociology
HermsenJ@missouri.edu
1 credit
Meeting time: TBD

Students in this seminar will read Sheryl Sandberg's (Facebook COO) bestseller Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead as well as feminist critiques her approach to women and leadership. The goal of the course is to critically consider strategies to enhance opportunities for leadership in future careers. Students in the tutorial will meet with women leaders in Columbia to discuss career and leadership issues.

Students will complete weekly writing exercises to include reading responses, personal reflections on leadership, and an interview with a leadership role model.

Tutorial #2: Staying Focused: Discontinuity in Musical Form
Neil Minturn
MinturnN@missouri.edu
1 credit
On occasion, one may be tempted to conceive of musical form in the same way as one might think of a well-performed phrase: as a seamless structure that pushes ever forward. In that sense, early events lead smoothly into immediately succeeding events and musical drama moves in the same way we read a book—from left to right. After all, music exists in time where one moment moves into the next one.

This tutorial seeks to question the idea of seamless or relatively seamless form. Counterexamples in the music of Stravinsky or Debussy, composers of the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century, are not difficult to find. But counterexamples are also to be found in the music of earlier composers, including Haydn and Beethoven.

The tutorial will examine the idea of musical form in both its relatively seamless guises and its disjunctive guises. The pieces we will study include Haydn’s Sonata No. 35 in C (first movement, Allegro con brio), Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 in Eb (first movement, Allegro con brio), Stravinsky’s Symphonies of Wind Instruments (and possibly excerpts from Le Sacre du Printemps and Les Noces), and Debussy’s La Soirée dans Grenade (and possibly excerpts from Jeux).

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.

Assignments: two papers (5-10 pages) and one presentation.

**Tutorial #3: Ukraine: Troubled Past, Uncertain Future**

Dr. Russ Zguta  
ZgutaR@missouri.edu  
1 credit  
Meeting Time: TBD

With the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, there appeared on the Eurasian continent fifteen, sovereign independent states, among them the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The latter, with forty-six million people, is second only to Russia itself in size and geopolitical strategic importance. Situated between Russia, its huge neighbor to the east, and Europe to the west, Ukraine has endured centuries of turbulence, war, and annexation. In the last decade, it has also witnessed two “revolutions,” the so-called Orange Revolution of 2004 and, more recently, the Maidan (Independence Square in Kiev) bloody protest of 2014. In this course we will read and discuss a variety of sources
dealing with important and controversial issues pertaining to Ukraine and its modern history, with particular emphasis on most recent events.

**Tutorial #4: C.S. Lewis’ Political Thought**
Dr. Justin Dyer  
DyerJB@missouri.edu  
1 credit  
Meeting time: TBD

C.S. Lewis—the prolific twentieth century academic, essayist, lay theologian, and author of children’s literature—was, on the surface, an apolitical man. The Irish-born Oxford University don was always careful not to donate money to or become associated with political causes. In 1951, he even refused Winston Churchill’s offer to make him an honorary “Commander of the British Empire.” Yet despite Lewis’ distance from the practical political issues of his time, his writings are saturated with the enduring themes of Western political philosophy. In this tutorial, we will read and discuss several of Lewis’ works with an eye toward their underlying political themes and the classical sources of Lewis’ political thought. Grades will be based on participation and weekly journal entries.

**Tutorial #5: The I-70 Sign Show: The Curatorial Process**
Professor Anne Thompson, Dept. of Art  
Thompsonanne@missouri.edu  
1 credit  
Meeting time: TBD

What happens to our landscape when we put contemporary art on the interstate? Students engage in hands-on curatorial research and documentation connected to the “I-70 Sign Show,” a new, yearlong, public-art project that exhibits works by celebrated conceptual artists on mid-Missouri billboards. Tapping the rich art-historical tradition of land and environmental art, the “Sign Show” embraces the state’s interstate condition as a potent display opportunity, capitalizing on the signage surplus and engaging the provocative mix of messages along I-70. A dedicated Web site will document the project with photographs, texts, and other information about participating artists and the Missouri billboard context.

Tutorial members will generate Web content for the project, as well as
collaborate in creating a Web-based photographic archive of the I-70 billboards stretching across the state. This index establishes the “Sign Show” context online and functions as an independent artwork—a digital update of conceptual-art photographic traditions dating from the 1960s. Students become “authors” and “artists” as well as “assistant curators” within the project, gaining hands-on experience as they enter the workplace or pursue further scholarship. As a group, we will watch a curatorial experiment unfold from the inside, seeing how it works and gauging community response. Like other land-art projects, the “Sign Show” aims to insert a fresh perspective and shake up perceptions about mid-Missouri—how others see us and how we see ourselves.

**Tutorial #6: Internship with “Speaking of Culture”**
Professor Gabe Fried, English
FriedG@missouri.edu
1 credit
Meeting time: TBD

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 "The Poetry of Baseball," 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.

**Tutorial #7: Writing About Running**
Dr. Pat Okker, English
OkkerP@missouri.edu
1 credit
Meeting time: TBD

This Honors 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 #8: 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
GruzdevV@missouri.edu
1 credit
Meeting time: TBD

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 biochemistry
- 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:

Dr. Wayne Brekhus, Sociology
BrekhusW@missouri.edu
1 credit
Meeting Time: TBD

What do we fear as dangerous and what do we take-for-granted as safe? What things do we perceive as acceptable risks and what things do we perceive as unacceptable threats? What is the relationship between subjective fears and objective risk? What are the social uses of fear and confidence? What are the benefits and consequences of fear and confidence?

In this tutorial we will explore the social aspects of fear and confidence, looking at cultural, subcultural, community, and organizational perceptions of safety and danger. We will read a variety of sources on fear and danger to explore 1) how media portray dangers and threats, 2) the relationship between risk and fear, 3) cultural and subcultural frameworks for perceiving danger and safety, fear and confidence, risk and routine and 4) cultural and subcultural conflicts over fear and risk assessment. We will read about safety and danger in a variety of contexts including crime, environment, economy, geography, and social interaction, to explore social and cultural perceptions of danger, safety, risk, and routine.