HONORS TUTORIALS
SPRING 2013

Attention all Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Honors Students!

This spring, the Honors College is launching additional "Honors Tutorials." Based on the Oxford style of teaching, "Honors Tutorials" pair a small group of honors students (typically three) 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.

Please find a description of each tutorial below.

If you would like to participate in one of these tutorials, please send 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 November 9th

Tutorial #1
Gn_Hon 2085H IST-8 1 credit hour
The Way We Live Now
Dr. Elizabeth Chang, Associate Professor of English
change@missouri.edu

In this 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 #2
Gn_Hon 2085H IST-10  2 credit hours
Food Scarcity
Dr. Sandy Rikoon, Professor of Rural Sociology and Associate Dean, HES
rikoonj@missouri.edu

In 2011, more than 46 million Americans worried about not acquiring sufficient food for their household and over 16 million at some point had to reduce portions, skip meals or otherwise involuntarily reduce food intake. We will examine the extent of food insecurity in the US and its causes, the kinds of public and private programs that provide a safety net for the food insecure, and other policy options for change. We will read together, but students will also visit with other researchers at MU working on this issue, participate in our Hunger Research group, and visit facilities (e.g., food pantry, food bank) that comprise aspects of our societal response.

Short, periodic written responses to the readings and visits will also be required.

Tutorial #3
Gn_Hon 2085H IST-9  1 credit hour
Examining Causes of the Financial Crisis
Dr. Daniel Turban, Professor of Management
Turban@missouri.edu

We will attempt to understand some of the causes of the financial crisis of 2008 by reading articles and books and watching movies that provide compelling yet opposing views of the causes of the financial crisis of 2008. My intent is for us to read and discuss quite divergent views of the causes of the crisis. I expect we will learn quite a bit about the causes of the crisis as well as how evidence is used in support of an argument.

Short, periodic written responses to the readings are required.
**Tutorial #4**

*Gn_Hon 2085H IST-11   1 credit hour*

**Downton Abbey and Sherlock!**

*Dr. Nancy West, Professor of English and Director of the Honors College*

*Westn@missouri.edu*

In this tutorial, we will study the various aspects and pleasures of televised British drama, as shown to us by *Masterpiece Theatre*, by looking at two of its most recent incarnations, the spectacularly popular *Downton Abbey* and *Sherlock*. Students will watch the series on their own and meet once a week with me to discuss them. As we study the series’ production and reception, we’ll also read some of the original Sherlock Holmes stories as well as study various writings on such topics as adaptation, British acting, soap opera, “quality” television, screenwriting, and why it is that we Americans can’t seem to get enough of British culture. Short, weekly responses to the series and the readings will also be required.

**Tutorial #5**

*Gn_Hon 2085H IST-12   1 credit hour*

**Chongqing Sunshine, Chongqing Blues: Chongqing and the Future of China,**

*Michael Volz, Assistant Teaching Professor and Chinese Program Coordinator*

*volzm@missouri.edu*

Please note: The title of this tutorial is derived from the name of a movie from director Xiaoshuai Wang. In English the movie has been marketed under the title “Chongqing Blues”, but the Chinese title is more accurately translated as “Chongqing Sunshine.”

Chongqing sits at the confluence of two major rivers where the interplay of heat and water leads to a constant struggle between gray shrouds of fog and bright sunshine. This mega-city is also a meeting point of forces competing to shape the future of China: the New Left and capitalist development, affluence and poverty, corruption and the search for values, crime and opportunity, East and West. While this might be said of just about any city in China today, Chongqing is unique in its inland location, far from the usual economic and political centers of China. During WWII, its location made it a prime site for the temporary Nationalist capital, and more recently it has served as a center for China’s efforts to develop the western part of the country. Chongqing most recently attracted international attention when its prime leader, Bo Xilai, a standard-bearer for China’s New Left political faction who had enacted controversial reforms in Chongqing, was caught up in a scandal and purged from the party.

We will explore the forces competing to shape China’s future by focusing on the recent history, culture, development, and politics of Chongqing as they are represented in both films and various readings.

Students will be assessed on participation and a project on a given subject.
**Tutorial #6**

Gn_Hon 2085H IST-13 1 credit hour

**México: la cultura, la gente y el español más allá de los cártel...**

Miguel A. Bahena is a Ph.D student in Spanish Studies and a native of Mexico with extensive experience as a language instructor (6 years), as well as a legal and illegal immigration researcher. mab7p9@mail.missouri.edu

This tutorial focuses on Mexican culture. It will be held for the most part in Spanish and requires medium to advanced language skills. We will analyze and compare Mexican and American culture with special emphasis on news and social media. How is Mexico portrayed in the US versus Mexico? How do Mexicans deal with the drug cartels? The readings and discussions will be mostly in Spanish and some in English so students have a good understanding of the cultural, socioeconomic and political issues. The tutorial will also cover some idiomatic expressions and language barriers that sometimes make communication difficult in real time. Students are expected to read, analyze and write about contemporary Mexican topics. Topics and readings will be taken from online sources and vary. Students will be assessed on participation and a project on a contemporary topic.

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**Tutorial #7**

Gn_Hon 2085H IST-14 1 credit hour.

**Turkey at the Crossroads: Culture, Identity, and Community,**

Dr. Monika Fischer, Associate Teaching Professor & Associate Director of the Honors College

fischerm@missouri.edu

“The best education for a clever person is found in travel.”
- J.W. von Goethe, *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*

This tutorial focuses on Turkey as a country of contradictions due to its geographic location and history. As a Muslim but non-Arab country that blended Islam with democracy, Turkey has looked towards the West in the past but recently has started to see itself as the bridge and potential problem solver between East and West. It has also been expanding its contacts and influences eastward into the Middle East. Students will track cultural and political developments as well as news about Turkey on Web sites, blogs and other digital media as well as analyze storytelling – the role of the meddah - as an entry gate into learning about Turkish culture.

Students will be asked to think critically about Turkey’s role on the global economic and political stages. For their project, they will be required to develop an
educational tour of Turkey for a global citizen - in the spirit of Goethe’s “Bildungsreise” – that provides in-depth encounters with the people, places, and issues that shape Turkey and our vision of its role in the world. Students will be assessed on participation and their project.

**Tutorial # 8**

**Gn_Hon 2085H IST-4**

**Discussions of Science and Public Policy,**

*Dr. William Folk, Professor of Biochemistry*

[folkw@missouri.edu](mailto:folkw@missouri.edu)

This course explores the intersection of important issues in science and public policy, particularly relating to health, food production and the environment. Classroom discussion and assigned readings will be augmented by Dialogues, led by invited experts/stakeholders from both the science and the public policy arenas. Students are expected to synthesize information from readings, discussions and Dialogues and to incorporate these materials into written proposals for informed public policies.

**PREREQUISITE:** Students who have participated in GH 1070H in previous years are encouraged to enroll in the **Honors Tutorial** with Professor Folk, which will include defining and researching the specific topics to be covered and helping lead class discussions.