Honors Courses Fall 2014

Honors Anthropology 6
Cultural Anthropology

What is “culture”? Is it the language you speak? Your religion? Your economic system? This riveting Honors Course will show you how anthropologists approach the complex concept of “culture” while trying to understand human behavior and globalization.

You’ll learn how anthropology can help solve social problems and even get to encounter first-hand ethnographic fieldwork done with Thai peasant women working in sweatshops as well as a controversial study of the “crack cocaine culture” of Spanish Harlem in NYC.

MW 1-2:20PM IGETC Area 4A, CSU Area D1, Honors: Social/Beh Sci

Professor Liana Padilla-Wilson is an LMC graduate whose passion for anthropology took her to Saint Mary’s College (B.S.) and Arizona State (M.S.). Her graduate work focused on migration and involved extensive fieldwork around the U.S.-Mexico border. This focus on Latin American and Mayan studies took her to Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Chile. A recipient of the prestigious Irvine Scholar Award and the Rigoberta Menchu Award, Professor Padilla-Wilson lives in Brentwood with her husband and three children.

Honors Biological Science 10
General Biology

Should flower pictures be considered pornography? Why does the Atkins diet actually work for some people? And, of course, why is the grass green?

If you spend long sleepless nights pondering the answers to any of these questions or if you just need transferable science lab course, you should enroll in this class! Honors Students will study a variety of living organisms to learn how they survive, change, and reproduce.

You’ll also explore the importance of different types of organisms, as well as the extraordinary effects of human life on the natural world.

By designing a scientific hypothesis and an experiment related to a biological question of your choosing you’ll get the opportunity to use the scientific method first hand. You’ll also get to go outside and examine the natural world around you up close and personal.

TuTh 1:30-4:50PM IGETC Area 5B; CSU Area B2; Honors Math/Science

Professor Mark Lewis went to school to become a writer, but he got sidetracked along the way and ended up with a PhD in biochemistry from UC Berkeley. Since then, he has mostly been using aliases and assumed identities to escape FBI surveillance. His latest cover is as a mild-mannered Biology instructor at LMC.
Honors English 221
Advanced Composition & Critical Thinking

What do a laundry detergent ad, a presidential campaign speech, a lawyer's courtroom argument, a column in the LMC Experience, and the heated words of Glenn Beck on Fox News all have in common? They are all arguments: someone is trying to persuade you, using some sort of reasoning, emotional appeal, rhetorical bluster, or some such trickery. English 221 is an advanced composition class (meaning you write essays) that focuses on arguments. We slice them, dice them, question them, praise them when they're good, bow down to no authorities (right or left wing), and then exhaust ourselves trying to write thorough, rigorous, convincing arguments of our own. In doing so you will increase the power of your brain, and then use that big brain of yours to get a degree, launch an excellent career, and think more deeply and insightfully in all areas of life.

MWF 11-11:50AM IGETC Area 1B, CSU Area A3; Honors: Humanities/Arts

Professor Alex Sterling has an MA in philosophy from Purdue and an MA in English from Cal State East Bay. He moved to California to become an indie rock songwriter and join the ranks of overeducated musicians with bad jobs. Then Alex taught at the middle and high school levels until happily landing at LMC in 2006. Alex has an adorable family—wife Julianne, and two boys, Jasper and Adlai—with whom of late he can be seen shouting from the couch while watching the Golden State Warriors on TV. Alex loves to read (especially on his patio in Albany), and has been reading political philosophy, nonfiction and novels in recent years.

Honors Journalism 100
Mass Communication

The mass media (TV, blogs, newspapers etc.) pervade our daily lives. Yet many Americans lack “media literacy” – the ability to analyze and evaluate this information.

In this popular Honors Class, we will take an in-depth look at the role media plays in our society. We’ll focus on controversial issues, such as: the portrayal of sex, violence and stereotypes; effects of the media on our democratic political process; freedom of expression and “political correctness”; the public's right to know and the need to protect national security; and how the media affects childhood in the 21st century.

TuTh 9:30-10:50AM IGETC Area 4G, CSU Area D7, Honors: Social/Beh Sci

Professor Richard Livingston is a community college graduate who then earned degrees at Stanford University and the University of the Pacific. He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Costa Rica and subsequently worked as a newspaper reporter and copy editor. Richard founded LMC's journalism program when the college opened in 1974. He later served in various academic management positions, including many years as Senior Dean of Instruction and several terms as LMC's Interim President. Richard the proud father of two LMC graduates.
Honors Speech 110
Speech Communication

The power of your voice is something no one can take away, so it's imperative that you learn to use it to advocate for change. In this class, Honors Students will give a variety of speeches, conduct research, analyze audiences and question what they think they know about our increasingly complex world.

TuTh 11-12:20PM IGETC Area 1C; CSU Area A1; Honors:Soc/Beh Sci

Professor Marie Arcidiacono earned her MA is Speech Communication at California State University, East Bay. She is the Assistant Director of the LMC Debate Team and will probably try and recruit you. Marie is a runner and if you’re up early enough on a Saturday morning you might catch a glimpse of her and her dog running long miles all over town—she is a Pittsburg native after all. She also loves the movie, “Mean Girls” and will make references to it in class so be ready, otherwise, “You can’t sit with us!”

Honors Philosophy 2
The Ethics of Consumption
Honors Seminar

Food, electronics, clothing, water, clean air - all these shared common goods need to be understood for their intrinsic and economic value. This class will explore consumption as a common theme that unites the world. What counts as “fair” distribution and who should monitor this? Should you buy shoes made in India? Should Northern California water be sent to valley farmers and Southern California suburbs?

As Honors Students, we also consume information and this seminar will be run in a fashion where we can talk openly about the ethical and occasionally vulgar ways that humans consume the world. This class will challenge you to reexamine your place in the global economy.

M 7-9:50PM IGETC Area 3B; CSU Area C2; Honors Seminar

Professor Kasey Gardner earned his Master’s degree in Political Rhetoric at the University of the Pacific after double majoring in Political Science and Communication at Western Kentucky University. In Kentucky, Kasey's forensic team traveled to 25 different states and won seven national and international titles. Now that he has conquered the USA, Kasey has started work on an MBA in Global Business at Saint Mary’s University. Professor Gardner landed at LMC in 2011 and when he isn't reaching snowboarding at Squaw Valley or backpacking in the Sierras, he is often “geeking out” with books, games or politics.