Honors Astronomy 10

Introduction to Astronomy

Would you like to learn the difference between dark energy and dark matter or how to calculate the number of detectible civilizations in the Galaxy? If your answer is “yes”, then take this class! We will explore the Cosmos with a profusion of inquiry scenarios and special topics. The planetarium and the rooftop telescopes will be pressed into service regularly, and we will organize field trips to the Chabot Space and Science Center and the Morrison Planetarium.

MWF 9-9:50AM  IGETC Area 5A, CSU Area B1, Honors: Math/Sci

Professor Scott Cabral has loved astronomy since as long as he can remember. After getting a B.A. at U.C. Berkeley, he started teaching astronomy at Los Medanos in 1989 while still working on his M.S. at San Francisco State University. Scott is a veteran of countless public planetarium shows and telescope viewing parties, besides being the proud owner of over 15,000 astronomy slides. In addition to that, he loves participating in Honors activities, whether it is delivering a bad poem at the Honors Yosemite Retreat, moderating at the Honors Research Symposium, or trekking up Mount Diablo on our annual spring hike.

Honors Economics 5

Economic History of the U.S.

Why do some nations grow faster than others? What parallels can be drawn between contemporary issues like the “war on drugs” or the global financial meltdown of 2008, and historical events like alcohol prohibition in the 1920s or the Great Depression of the 1930s? Can we draw economic parallels between Southern slavery and today’s prison system? And what exactly is “cliometrics”? You’ll learn to be economic historian as we retrace the history of the American economy from the colonial era to the present time. If you’re fascinated by the “story of US” then this course is for you!


Professor Shalini Lugani received her PhD from the University of Georgia (home of the Georgia Bulldogs) gazillions of years ago. Ever since then teaching has been her passion, and she strives to impart a hunger for learning and logical thinking. She has been awarded a Rotary International Scholarship for advanced studies along with membership in Gamma Sigma Delta in recognition of high scholarship. Shalini enjoys practicing yoga, taking nature walks, and a perfectly brewed cup of piping hot Darjeeling tea.
Honors Courses Fall 2015

Honors Programs

Honors English 221
Advanced Composition & Critical Thinking

What do a Superbowl ad, a presidential campaign speech and a column in the LMC Experience have in common? They’re all arguments: someone is trying to persuade you using some sort of reasoning, rhetorical bluster, or some such trickery. Honors English 221 focuses on analyzing arguments and bringing your academic writing skills up to the next level in preparation for transfer. But don’t take it from us, here’s what Honors graduate and current UC Berkeley student Miguel Mauricio says, “My experience at Cal has been great, but it has also been challenging. LMC as a whole did not prepare me, but there are two classes that I have taken there that did and one of them was Mr. Sterling’s 221 class. Use this class as practice to prepare yourself for your future academic careers.” How’s that for persuasion?!

MWF 10-10:50AM IGETC Area 1B, CSU Area A3; Honors: Humanities/Arts

Professor Alex Sterling has an MA in philosophy from Purdue University and an MA in English from Cal State East Bay, and has been a full-time member of the LMC English department since 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. Alex loves to read (especially on his patio in Albany), and has been reading political philosophy in recent years in addition to novels and various nonfiction.

Honors Humanities 30
Modernist Paris: Artists & Intellectuals

Make it new! This was the motto of painters, writers and musicians on the cusp of the 20th century who thumbed their noses at established institutions and created astonishing art and ideas that disgusted and thrilled a generation. Many works of the Modern movement trace their roots back to Paris including Picasso’s cubist paintings, Ernest Hemingway’s sparse prose and Lee Miller’s shocking photography. This interactive class will explore the foundations of Modernism in the City of Love and trace its effects ever since. We’ll read poetry out loud, watch early movies, go on museum field trips and, yes, eat French food together. Allons-y!

TuTh 9:30-10:50AM IGETC Area 3B, CSU Area C2, Honors: Humanities/Arts

Professor Jennifer Saito is the founder and director of the LMC Honors Program and teaches in three departments: mathematics, philosophy and humanities. An unabashed francophile, she has lived and worked in Paris and once had a gig teaching theater in French to bilingual kids in Berkeley where she received her BA and MA from Cal. In her spare time Jennifer goes to old movie festivals with her daughters, hikes in the Sierras, sings Balkan music and cooks a mean Poulet Grand-Mère.
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!”

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Honors Philosophy 2
Environmental Ethics
Honors Seminar

Why should I really care about the environment? Is it fair that farmers and loggers and average citizens are regulated to protect the Delta or the spotted owl or migrating salmon? How do my food choices affect the economy and planet? Is the suffering involved in meat, egg and dairy production bad enough that I should go vegan? Should I buy expensive organic food or is factory-farmed food more efficient and ultimately better?

This fascinating Honors Seminar will delve into these complicated, important questions. You’ll learn to analyze arguments on all sides of environmental controversies and come up with your own solutions.

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

**Professor Jennifer Smith** transferred from Los Medanos College to University of California, Berkeley; where she earned a BA in Philosophy. She then went on to San Francisco State University to earn a MA in Philosophy. Besides work you can find her practicing Pilates, working out, reading (as of lately mostly environmental philosophy books), working on her newest creation in the kitchen, or binge watching Netflix.