

HONORS FORUM COURSES

Fall 2019

HF 203-001 **Citizen Studentship**

4 Credits

R. Rotheim

T/TH 12:40-2:00 pm

LIB 213

A course that places students at the center of the learning process. Students from Skidmore College designed the course's structure, readings, and pedagogy as an introduction to a self-motivated and self-governed approach to learning. Interdisciplinary by nature, the course challenges students with critical thinking and writing, student-driven discourse, governance, citizenship, and character development. Students and the instructor work in a collaborative manner to design course goals, select readings, develop assignments, and direct class discussions.

Prerequisites Expository Writing and at least sophomore standing or permission of instructor.

HF-215.001 **Peer Health Education**

3 Credits

J. McDonald

W 10:10-12:00, R 5:40-6:30

Theater GLS/Ladd 107

This course builds on concepts covered during Peer Health Education by guiding students through the process of promoting health and wellbeing among the Skidmore student body. The course is student-driven and allows the opportunity to further delve into specific areas of study that are of particular interest to each student. Students will design, implement, and evaluate programs and outreach education in a variety of topics relevant to the lives of college students including alcohol and substance use and abuse, sexual assault, eating disorders, stress, mental health, sexuality, and other topics commonly addressed by peer counselors and health promotion professionals. In addition, students will continue to build on leadership and communication skills by serving as peer counselors on the Skidmore campus.

HF 315-001-007 **Adv. Peer Health Education**

1 Credit

J. McDonald

TBD

An expansion of concepts covered in Peer Health Education by allowing students to fine tune their health promotion and peer counseling skills. Students will select specific areas of interest and will work closely with other Peer Health Educators and the instructor to plan, implement, and rigorously evaluate outreach programs on campus. The course will focus on building leadership and communication skills and on deepening the expertise of the students on college health related issues.

Prerequisites HF 215 and permission of the instructor.

Not for liberal arts credit. May be repeated for credit.

AN 102H.001 Honors: Anthropology of the Human Past

4 Credits

K. Baustian

M/W2:30-4:20

Dana 348

Course provides an expansive overview of primate evolution, the origin of modern humans, and their physical and cultural adaptations throughout time. Topics explored will include the geographical distribution of humans across the globe, the growth of populations, cultural adaptation, subsistence practices, the domestication of plants and animals, ritual behavior, and technological innovation.

BI-115H.001 Ecology of Food

4 Credits

M. Raveret Richter

T R 11:10-12:30PM,

R 1:30-4:30

Dana 381

The study of fundamental concepts in ecology from a who-eats-whom perspective. Topics include the behavior and ecology of herbivores, predators, parasites, and mutualists, interactions among competitors in quest of food, trophic connections, and analyses of communities and landscapes managed for agricultural and aquacultural production. Quantitative field investigations of herbivory in Skidmore's North Woods are complemented by laboratory investigations of plant physical defenses and secondary chemicals, including the use and function of these secondary chemicals in world cuisine. A similar investigative approach is taken to the study of pollination, seed dispersal, and predation. Local food producers contribute to the study of agroecology. Ecological impacts of various agricultural and aquacultural practices and the implications and potential ecological impacts of genetically modified foods are explored.

Prerequisites: QR1.

Three hours of lecture, three hours of lab per week. One Saturday field trip. (Fulfills laboratory science requirement.)

CS-275H.001-004 Computer Science Research

1 Credit

M. Eckmann, T. O'Connell, A. Prasad, D. Read

TBD

An introductory exploration of research in computer science. The students, in collaboration with a faculty mentor, will participate in a research project in a particular area of computer science. The research projects may, for example, include designing new algorithms for computational problems, surveying the research literature, implementing existing algorithms from the research literature, or performing computational experiments.

Prerequisites: permission of instructor. Students may only take four CS275H courses in their careers and may take no more than two in any given semester. If two are taken in a single semester, each must be a different section.

CS275H may not be counted toward the CS major. Must be taken S/U.

EN 105H-001**Land of Absurdity****4 Credits****M. Wiseman****M/W/F 9:05-10:00/PMH 302**

This course will take us into the land of absurdity, as mapped by fiction writers, filmmakers, poets, and playwrights. We will venture into regions of dark humor, charged outrage, searing satire, and profound silliness, with the aid of such guides as Fyodor Dostoyevsky (whose *Underground Man* is sometimes considered a proto-existential absurdist), Samuel Beckett, Franz Kafka, Italo Calvino, Lewis Carroll, Donald Barthelme, Haruki Murakami, and Flann O'Brien, among others. We will see the absurd as brought to us onscreen by such directors as Luis Buñuel, Spike Jonze, Terry Gilliam, and Stanley Kubrick, and Monty Python will add pointed silliness to our proceedings.

Sinister, ludicrous, surreal, irreverent, or all of the above, these portrayals and explorations will help us to think about, and especially to write about, the absurdity we might find in our own lives. We will ask, how do these visions illuminate our own dilemmas? How, in other words, can an absurd perspective help us to live? How does an appreciation of paradox deepen and free our thinking? How can chaos and incoherence be shaped—how is incoherence made coherent? Thus, the relationship between certainty and chaos, the disjunction between seeing and knowing, the blurred distinctions among sense, senselessness, and nonsense, the uses of satire, and the mingling of the sublime and the ridiculous will serve as catalysts for our writing as well as for our discussions.

Our writing practice will emphasize understanding and developing our own writing processes. Students will write frequent short papers of several types—personal, analytical, persuasive, reflective—and three substantial essays, submitted first as drafts and then in careful revision.

EN-303H.001**Hon. Peer Tutoring Project****4 Credits****M. Wiseman****W/F 10:10-11:30****Bolton 100**

In this course students will receive the theoretical and pedagogical training to become peer tutors of expository writing. The readings and classroom discussions cover topics in discourse and rhetorical theory, composition pedagogy, and collaborative learning. Students will apply their developing knowledge of discourse theory and tutoring to their weekly meetings with student writers enrolled in EN 103: Writing Seminar I. EN 303H students receive four credit units for three hours of class and for their scheduled meetings with the student writers with whom they work. Course requirements include prepping EN 103 assignments, keeping a record of tutoring experiences, giving in-class reports on classical rhetoric, and writing an extensive term project focused on an area of interest related to peer tutoring, rhetoric, and/or discourse.

After successfully completing EN 303H, students are eligible to apply through student employment for the paid position of Skidmore Writing Center (Lucy Scribner Library 440) tutor. Students wishing to enroll in this course should possess excellent writing ability, knowledge of rules of grammar and punctuation, and effective communication skills. Students seeking enrollment must submit a professor's recommendation and a writing

sample to Professor Wiseman; registration is by permission of instructors. Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors in all disciplines and majors.

MA-113H.001 Honors Calculus II

4 Credits

M. Hofmann

M 9:05-10:00

W/F 8:40-10:00

Harder 202

A continuation of MA 111, Calculus I. Together these courses cover most of the traditional topics in single variable calculus. The Honors section of this course includes the addition of two two-week research projects and coverage of more sections of the text. The instructor will maintain high expectations for the students' contribution to their own learning.

MA 125H, 225H, & 325H Problem Solving in Mathematics

1 Credit

R. Hurtwitz

W 4:00-5:20

Harder 203

Students at all three levels will work collaboratively on problems posed in various undergraduate mathematics journals and other sources. Solutions to journal problems will be submitted to the journal editors for acknowledgment and possible publication. Problems are taken from all areas of specialty within mathematics.

Prerequisites: QR1. During fall semesters, students will have an opportunity to compete in the annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition.

May be repeated for credit. Must be taken S/U.

MA-275H.001-09 Mathematics Research

1 Credit

S. Baland

S. Ederer

M. Hofmann

M. Huibregtse

R. Hurwitz

L. Oremland

R. Roe-Dale

C. Szabo

R. Trousil

TBD

Exploration of a research topic in mathematics. The students, in collaboration with a faculty mentor, will participate in a research project in a particular area of mathematics, which may be related to the faculty member's research program.

Prerequisites: permission of the instructor. Students may only take four MA 275H courses in their careers and may take no more than two in any given semester. If two are taken in a single semester, each must be a different section.

MA275H may not be counted toward the MA major. Must be taken S/U.