Fall 2024 Natural Science Colloquia

Deep Yet Accessible Problems in Math

James Cossey
HONOR 370 – 001
MWF 9:40 am – 10:30 am

We sometimes give students the impression that getting through the Calculus sequence is the be-all and end-all of math. But there is so much more to math than that – including many deep, yet easily accessible (and fun!) problems that have nothing to do with calculus. We'll explore twin primes, stable marriages, and let the Harlem Globetrotters of the future put our brains back where they belong. People will die in a duel, a grown man will cry, and we'll save Rand-McNally money on ink. No math background beyond high school algebra is needed – just come open-minded. **RESERVED FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS; please register using waiting list and you will be added to the course.**

The Great Debate: Nature Vs. Nurture

Sarah Psihountakis
HONOR 370 – 002
TTH 12:15 pm – 1:30 pm

The Nature versus Nurture debate has been deeply rooted in the search for what aspects of behavior are either inherited (genetic) or acquired (learned). Is it our genes that impact our behavior or is it our environment? In this course, we will examine the nature versus nurture debate- its origin and how it has influenced future theorists, critically analyze each side of the debate and apply to our own behavioral development, reflect on how genetics and the environment impact overall development, and develop discussion skills within our online classroom environment, emphasizing effective and respectful sharing of personal experiences. **RESERVED FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS IN LEARNING COMMUNITY**

Global Environmental Issues

Michael Dunbar
HONOR 370 – 003
TTH 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

HONOR 370 - 004
TTH 5:15 pm – 6:30 pm

As the human population grows towards 8 billion, what kind of lasting impact do we have? During the semester we'll be exploring how our unsustainable lifestyles have impacted the earth's natural resources, species, environments, and offer a prognosis for the future. Our discussions, proposals and debates will examine how to confront some of these issues and how we can act on a local and personal level.

The Psychology of Physical Activity

Alan Kornspan
HONOR 370 - 005
T 7:45am – 9:00am (Hybrid)

HONOR 370 - 006 (Hybrid)
T 9:15am – 10:30pm

HONOR 370 – 008 (Online asynchronous)

The focus of this course is on the psychology of physical activity within the context of natural science. The course will cover scientific methodology and scientific writing utilized in the psychology of physical activity. The colloquium will be divided into two main sections. The first section introduces the historical and contemporary developments of the science of the psychology of physical activity. The second part of the course examines various phenomenon related to the science of flow states, stress, anxiety, and arousal in sports and exercise. Interactive applied activities will be provided throughout the course to help students understand how the science of the psychology of physical activity can be applied to sports and exercise.

Technoculture and Society

Robert Williams
HONOR 370 - 007
M 3:30pm -4:45pm (Hybrid)

Focusing on the intersection between Culture, Political Economy, Science, and Technology, this colloquium introduces students to their relationship with this growing techno-entanglement. Students will explore ways in which people interact with the environment - both built and natural, and with one another by examining sociocultural processes such as science and technology, race and social inequalities, bodies and medicine, social aspects of climate change, political power, policies that legislate human interactions with the natural world, and global ecological futures. Students will also participate in the virtual application of ethnographic frameworks to contemporary environmental issues and the writing of papers to report their findings.

The Science of Science Fiction

Andrew Knoll
HONOR 370 - 009
MW 2:00pm – 3:15pm

This class will explore how science fiction media influences science, technology, and society.