

Class Opportunities 2019

You've waited for weeks to see just which of the exciting courses you'll request at the Governor's Honors Academy in 2019. You can now read through the descriptions to see which of the classes you "simply must" take, and in the next few days you will receive an email from the GHA deans telling you when the class registration opens.

You will choose one intensive and one broad-based class. Intensive classes go more deeply into areas in which you already have a knowledge base. Broad-based courses are shorter in length and do not require previous experience with the subject matter. The broad-based courses should not be in the field of your major (intensive) class. For example, if you take an intensive math class, your broad-based course may not be in the math field. You should take a course in the Arts and Humanities from the broad-based offerings if your intensive class falls into the Math/Science/Technology category.

The web-based class selection forms are managed through an online survey. The GHA staff will use the data you send to record your preferences and sort you into classes based upon the best available fit. Please follow these steps:

1. Read the course descriptions carefully to decide which ones most interest you.
2. Jot down five (5) of your preferences for the Intensive courses and have them available when you are ready to register. Do the same for broad-based courses.
3. Follow the directions from the deans' email to register on line for your classes. The

And now---the great class choices for the GHA Class of 2019.

Intensive Classes

Humanities and the Fine Arts

BEST DISCOVERIES LEADING TO THE POTENTIAL OF YOUR SILENT SELF!?!

Instructor: Toneta Akers-Toler

Experience a fun, healthy and intellectually analytical approach to understanding your body as a high functioning, scientifically engineered, machine. Learn a series of physical movement exercises that can be used to sustain health. Find your "silent self" as you connect your body, mind, and emotions through movement communication improvisations. No prior movement or dance experience is needed! Bring clothing that will be comfortable to move in and let's get started! This is a movement class, not a dance class.

Breaking the Silence?: Dramatic Depictions of Expression and Suppression from Shakespeare to Shanley

Instructor: John Shirley

How do individuals and individual minorities (attempt to) express, protect, and preserve their voices (and/or their silence) despite official and unofficial attempts to force silence (or speech)? What role(s), if any, do demographic factors such as age, race, income, nationality, religion, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, education) play in our individual and collective consideration and our willingness to accept/value (or reject/devalue) the voices we hear/read each day? What are the individual and collective costs of speech – and of silence?

Can silence ever be a form of speech? Can speech ever be a form of silence?

Pull back the curtain to consider these questions – and more – as we read, watch, and discuss a variety of plays (in a variety of styles), including works by Henrik Ibsen, Arthur Miller, Suzan Lori-Parks, William Shakespeare, and John Patrick Shanley, all with an eye toward the often complicated relationships not only between speech and silence but also between individuals, minorities, and majorities and the larger societies in which each they exist. Along the way, we'll meet the authors who wrote them, examine the issues and events that helped inspire them, and consider their enduring social relevance.

Courts and Democracy

Instructor: James R. Steiner-Dillon

This class will examine the seemingly strange place that courts occupy in American democracy, and will ask whether and how judicial review of political acts can be reconciled with our belief that everyone should have a voice in government decisions. We will look at the structure and history of the federal court system, and will examine several moments in American history in which the courts — particularly the United States Supreme Court — have become involved in contentious political debates including race relations, the role of religion in the public sphere, and the definition of marriage. Every week, we will participate in that process by holding mock arguments of actual Supreme Court cases.

Students will finish the class with a better understanding of our how system of constitutional government works, and maybe how it could be made to work better.

Creative Writing for Digital Media

Instructor: Ian Nolte

How can you give voice to the voiceless and share your perspectives and experiences with the world? This course explores creative writing from poetry to creative nonfiction and how our words can be crafted into audio visual projects. Starting with pen and paper, we will produce good, powerful writing and learn how to translate that into exciting multimedia content.

Shattering Frankenstein's Body

Instructor: Adam Booth

Mary Shelley is remembered for creating a novel that at once birthed both a pop culture icon and an entire genre of literature. At the heart of the story is a male scientist who creates a male monster. But were these men necessary for her success? This class will study *Frankenstein* and its related narratives, exploring 200 years of perspective about social progress and awareness.

Then we will flip history by studying world mythology featuring women, nonbinary characters, and unsilenced voices in order to reimagine Shelley's story and the monster within.

Loud, Quiet, Loud: Making and Breaking Silence in Literature and Art

Instructor: Daniel O'Malley

In this course we'll find examples of silence in literature, art, and the world around us. We'll explore how silence occurs – where, when, why – and how it gets broken. Through the technique of erasure, we'll also produce some creative works of our own. As an artform, erasure involves taking an existing work (a text or something visual) and erasing or otherwise obscuring portions of the original to make something new – in other words to obscure one voice and bring forth a new one. We'll find connections to current events as we consider what it means to have a voice in our world and how voices are silenced. And we'll also look at literature and art as ways to break a silence.

Music and Power from Beethoven to Beyoncé

Instructor: Kelly St. Pierre

Classical music has long been held as a moralistic pursuit; the works of Beethoven, and Mozart are not just “good,” they’re “good for you.” But who says? Why can't Beyoncé be just as good for the soul as Mozart? Students in this class will explore the tastemaking processes that led to formation (and veneration) of the classical music composers with special attention to the ways power dynamics—especially tensions between majority and minority groups—continue to shape how music is discussed today. More specifically, four main objectives frame the course: 1) To examine the ways nationalism has shaped and continues to shape twentieth- and twenty-first century history (Beethoven's music became an especially dark propagandist tool during WWII, but today serves as the European Union's national anthem); 2) To learn to recognize opinions-expressed-as-facts (that “Beethoven is great,” for example); 3) To explore the ways politics still inform how we hear music today (why is Beethoven's music so much “better” than Beyoncé's?); and perhaps most importantly: 4) To practice thinking carefully and with complexity about the ways power relationships—especially the impulse to silence “others”—continue to frame today's political conversations, especially at the level of social advocacy. In the end, students will harness their critical thinking skills towards developing their own advocacy campaigns. What issues are important to you? Whose voices might be underrepresented and in what ways are they silenced? Come prepared to work as a team to promote a cause of your choice.

Poetic Acts of Recovery and Remembrance: Writing Odes and Elegies

Instructor: Cody Lumpkin

This course will examine classic and contemporary odes and elegies in a discussion-based classroom. These poetic works will serve as inspiration and models for the students own creative adventures into these well-established, yet ever-evolving forms. To help support the creative process, the class will visit Marshall University archives and local museums to research and discover subject matter for their odes and elegies that may give voice to lost and overlooked stories, humans, and history that have been silenced.

Revitalizing Appalachia through Public Art Initiatives

Instructor: Karen Gergely

This course will focus on murals and public works in Appalachia! We will look at urban renewal by way of public art, and economic vitality cultivated through public arts initiatives . . . and we'll paint our own mural in the community!

Rights, Wrongs, And In Betweens

Instructor: Dan Hollis

A beautiful, spirited, smart, rowdy, three-ring circus. That may be the best way to describe this class. In it, we'll tackle virtually every hot button issue of our time and debate it with the Bill of Rights as a background. Those first 10 amendments to the Constitution, together with the 14th Amendment, ensure the right of every American to a fair trial, free speech, religious choice and due process among many other rights.

Be warned, even though respect for others and what they think is a requirement, the class might be noisy on occasion and possibly even approaching raucous because students are encouraged to bring the full force of their convictions to class. It is not for the mild mannered.

The class won't tell you what to think. Its goal is merely to get you thinking, talking and appreciating the opportunity to hear what your intellectual peers think. The class is a natural for students interested in law, journalism, religion, history, political science or any number of other college majors.

Math, Sciences, and Technology

A Crash Course in Coding

Instructor: Cody Hood

Programming is one of the most valuable skills an emerging adult can have in our society. Even more valuable than this skill are the thought processes and perspectives on life gained through the use of programming. No matter what your interests are, being able to have a mindset of a programmer will allow you to approach all aspects of life more logically, allowing you to achieve whatever goals you may have. While learning how to use the programming language MatLab, we will be examining real life scenarios from perspectives that aren't necessarily visible at first glance. By having the ability to see issues from multiple perspectives you will have gained an invaluable advantage over anyone or anything that comes to hold you back from achieving your dreams.

Can We Predict the Future? Using the Convergence of Statistics, Big Data, and Computing to Make Significant Estimates of Future Occurrences

Instructor: Uyi Lawani

Are you interested in forecasting future events? In particular, would you be interested in acquiring the skill to help you forecast the result of sports and games, electoral contests, the weather, or the likelihood of a stock performing? If you are, then this class is tailor made for you. After taking the class, you will have acquired the knowledge and skill to collate, clean, analyze, and understand archival data; you will then be able to make future projections based on any trends you observe from the data analysis.

Competition Math and the Math of Casinos

Instructor: Doug Squire:

Is math easy for you? Do you want more of a challenge in your math classes? If so, this class is for you. We will examine many advanced mathematical topics in this class. We will focus our study on math that shows up in high school math competitions, focusing on sequences and series, discrete math, combinatorics, sets, logic, and even some calculus – topics much more difficult than those in a standard high school math curriculum. We will also look closely at casino games and the math behind them.

Exploring Engineering Design Today: A Case Study

Instructor: Hugh Costello

Learn about the design engineering process in the current High-Tech age. This course will use a team-based approach to teach students to use both, the analytical tools and the creative elements of design. The coursework will consist of presentations, creativity exercises, and a hands-on design project. The course will emphasize teambuilding and critical thinking. Other subjects will include engineering ethics, the use of mathematical tools, how to create specifications and a bill of material, and basic problem-solving approaches. Students are encouraged to bring a laptop if one is available, but it is not required. Students should bring a scientific calculator.

Silenced Numbers

Instructor: Ben Jones

How far are you willing to go to keep a secret? Legend has it that in the 5th century BCE, the cult of Pythagoras tossed a mathematician over the side of a ship, drowning him as punishment for sharing the discovery of irrational numbers. Discover for yourself the intrigue and mystery of mathematics throughout history by exploring numbers so controversial that mathematicians would die for them. Gain a deeper understanding of mathematics and go beyond the world of arithmetic as we explore everything from the ancient roots of zero and the groundbreaking discovery of irrational numbers to a modern-day controversy over the infinite.

Sometimes these ideas took centuries to gain acceptance, so be prepared to grapple with difficult concepts.

Broad-Based Classes Humanities and the Fine Arts

#blackmusicmatters

Instructor: Adam Booth

#BlackMusic forms the backbone and soul of our #AmericanMusicalLandscape 🍌 Long before the strong voices of @KendrickLamar @Lizzo & @TheWeeknd filled your ears, themes of #struggle and #personalexpression were foundational to #popsongs 🎵 This class begins with #Black #19thC #rootsmusic and looks at analyzing #socialjustice #poetry + #lyrics in 200 years of #AmericanPopSongs to find out how #BlackMusic shaped and responded to culture 🎤🎤 Join up to explore A-A sociopolitical musical history from before you were born. #radicalsongs #speakyourmind #FightThePower 🍌 #americanhistory #funk @JamesBrown @BillieHoliday #minstrelsy #banjo #rockandroll #LGBTQ+ @StevieWonder @NinaSimone #kingofpop #AChangelsGonnaCome

45 Words

Instructor: Dan Hollis

Fair warning. This class, based on the First Amendment to the Constitution is bound to upset you at least a couple of times. You'll get mad at your professor, mad at your classmates and maybe even mad at yourself.

The First Amendment comprises a mere 45 words, but those words protect our most basic freedoms: religion, speech, press, assembly and petition. They make us the envy of the world, but they are much debated here at home. This class won't shy away from those debates. We'll embrace them, and it is likely to lead to some wild, loud and free-wheeling classes.

Our debates will be ripped from today's headlines. It'll be so challenging and fun, you'll be mad if you didn't sign up for it.

Beyond the Protest: The ART of Change and Healing

Instructor: Karen Gergely

This class aims to introduce students to the ideas of Socially Engaged Art and its positive effect in amplifying the voice of a community in need. We will look at art around the world and here in Appalachia that cultivates authentic relationships and collaborations, advocacy, visual storytelling, joy and healing, all in effort to cultivate real, lasting change. We'll see how artists can empower communities, relinquish hierarchies, and create a sense of belonging. . . and we'll put some of these ideas into practice!

Breaking the Silence: Noise, Popular Music, and Political Advocacy

Instructor: Kelly St. Pierre

This class focuses on political protest and Civil Rights advocacy during the Vietnam War. We'll explore moments like Jimi Hendrix' performance of the national anthem at Woodstock and the release of Aretha Franklin's "Respect" to learn how people have harnessed "noisy" sounds, visuals, and texts as political tools in history. In the end, students will produce a podcast that examines politically charged music from their own time and place. What is today's protest music? What do its sounds reveal about the expectations—sonically or socially—of contemporary listeners? And what does it claim needs to change in today's age?

How Do We Know What We Know?

Instructor: James Steiner-Dillon

Who was the first president of the United States? What is the speed of light in a vacuum? What time will the sun rise tomorrow? You probably know the answers to these questions, but how do you *know* that you know? And what does it mean to know, anyway?

This class will try to figure that out. Starting from the fundamentals of logic and reasoning and working our way through high-profile controversies about specific knowledge claims, we'll try to decipher what we really mean when we say that we "know" something, or that something is a "fact." We'll think about how our brains and senses work to form beliefs, and some of the ways that they can trick us. We'll also take a close look at the methods of modern science, thinking about whether and how science can deliver on its claims to produce reliable, objective knowledge of the natural world. Finally, we'll look at the way claims of knowledge are used (and misused!) in the real world to make social and political decisions that affect all of us.

Come join us! You know you want to.

Introduction to Creative Digital Media Projects

Instructor: Ian Nolte

Digital media provides a powerful tool for sharing our voices. But how do we create it? What kinds of digital media projects are people making? How can we add our voices to that world? We will watch, examine, and discuss a variety of interesting video texts. We will also write, plan, and create our own videos.

Introduction to Film Studies

Instructor: Cody Lumpkin

This broad-based course will consider the key aspects of film form (mise en scène, cinematography, editing, and sound) and analyze their use in both short films and feature-length films. Students will refine and sharpen their rhetorical and observational skills in regards to film analysis through classroom discussion, viewing activities, and the development of their own digital texts that examine aspects of film form.

Plays of Expression, Plays of Suppression

Instructor: John Shirley

What are the individual and collective costs of speech – and of silence? Can silence ever be a form of speech? Can speech ever be a form of silence?

Pull back the curtain to consider these questions – and more – as we read, watch, and discuss a variety of plays (in a variety of styles), including works by Henrik Ibsen, Arthur Miller, and John Patrick Shanley, all with an eye toward the often complicated relationships not only between speech and silence but also between individuals, minorities, and majorities and the larger societies in which each they exist. Along the way, we'll meet the authors who wrote them, examine the issues and events that helped inspire them, and consider their enduring social relevance.

Senses + Emotion + Mind + Body = Reality?

Instructor: Toneta Akers-Toler

Discover a physical language communication that can lead to making connections within ourselves and offer connections to the greater world. Explore the human body, energy, space and time as it pertains to you, others and the greater universe. This examination of specific energies, use of space and time through the human body will lead to individual discoveries that can be shared with others to build on group knowledge. The specific body language found through improvisations will be used to work with others to build group movement communications. This is a healthy equation that is filled with fun and discovery! No prior movement or dance knowledge is needed. Comfortable clothing is needed! Get ready for a BEST ADVENTURE!

Writing the Short-Short Story

Instructor: Daniel O'Malley

This is a course for writers at any level. If you've never written a story, or if you've been writing for years, this course will provide a structure and a space in which you can push your skills. Our primary focus will be the short-short story (a text anywhere between, say, 20 and 2000 words). We'll look at examples of writing we admire and talk about how it works. We'll share writing of our own. And though the course specifies short-short stories, we'll quickly see that genre distinctions have a way of blurring when you get close to them, so we'll make space for fiction, nonfiction, poetry, graphic narratives, anything you can imagine.

Math, Sciences, and Technology

Breaking the Code

Instructor: Cody Hood

In today's society, keeping our information safe and secure is one of the most concerning issues we face. The fundamental concept behind encrypting our data is cryptography. Cryptography is the art of writing and solving cipher and codes. It is called an art because it requires not only logical thinking but creativity as well. This course will look to introduce you to the world of codes. How to make them and how to break them. We will explore some of the most common ciphers and well as their historical importance and how they have shaped the world we currently live in.

Cutting Through the Noise

Instructor: Ben Jones

Separate the signal from the noise by diving into the world of digital information. Learn the mathematics that allows scratched disks to be read, broken hard drives to be salvaged, and Wi-Fi to survive "noisy" airwaves.

In this class, we'll learn how digital devices store analog information and how data can be stored to prevent errors from being introduced. Along the way we'll explore areas of number theory, linear algebra, and probability.

Getting a Great Start to College and Mathematical Preparedness

Instructor: Hugh Costello

If Math isn't your best subject, then this course is for you. This course will teach students to use mathematics as a tool in basic practical applications. This course will attempt to overcome many of the classic errors witnessed by college professors engaged in teaching incoming freshmen. The result will be improved test scores and a smoother transition from high school to college. In addition, Students will learn strategies for success in college through a series of fun exercises and puzzles. They will learn how to properly interact with their professors for positive results. Students will also explore careers and opportunities in their chosen field of study and the college programs available. Bring your calculator!

Symbolic Logic, Competition Math, and the Math of Casinos

Instructor: Doug Squire

Did you know there is more to math than addition, multiplication, polynomials, and graphs? Symbolic logic, competition math, and casino math typically aren't covered in high school; however they are all important parts of mathematics. In this class, we will examine the fundamentals of symbolic logic. We will take arguments, analyze them, and decide whether they are valid or not. We will also learn mathematics used in competitions and learn the math behind some popular casino games. Specifically, we will look at sequences and series, discrete math, and set theory.

Today vs. Tomorrow: The Inevitability of Change and the Role of Creative Destruction

Instructor: Uyi Lawani

Are you interested in a dialogue on the dichotomy between Today and Tomorrow? Would you be interested in getting more aware about the underlying reason for innovation and change? If you are, then this class is for you. After taking the class, you will become more familiar with Creative Destruction and know a lot more about Charles Schumpeter, who popularized the term in his study of, and work in, economics.