



In-Person Hybrid Options

Students can enroll either in-person or online. Students participating in-person will meet in a hybrid classroom on campus that is capable of supporting remote students.

Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra

Tutor: Mr. Louis Petrich

Description: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* is Nietzsche's most popular book and the one that he considered his best. It is the work of a lonely man at the height of his powers of expression, with nothing to restrain him but posterity, to which he looked for appreciation. It is a work that combines the sublime and ridiculous, the prophetic and psychological, the philosophic and poetic. It is a book of laughter and gravity. In the end, it is an attempt to provide a transition from Christianity to a new, life-affirming human posture, one that avoids nihilism and pity, and overcomes the lassitude of the "last man" who blinks at the news—delivered by Zarathustra come down from the mountain—that God is dead, and man has killed him.

Digital Computation

Tutor: Ms. Sarah Benson

Description: "Computer science touches on a variety of deep issues," writes Richard Feynman in his *Lectures on Computation*. "It has illuminated the nature of language, which we thought we understood: early attempts at machine translation failed because the old-fashioned notions about grammar failed to capture all the essentials of language. It naturally encourages us to ask questions about the limits of computability, about what we can and cannot know about the world around us. Computer science people spend a lot of time talking about whether or not man is merely a machine, whether his brain is just a powerful computer that might one day be copied." We will explore these and other deep issues of computing by considering its elements. Building and programming a simple mechanical computer will be accompanied by readings in Feynman, Leibniz, Lovelace, Boole, Turing, Peirce, and others. No prior knowledge of computing or programming is needed.

Required Materials:

- Richard P. FEYNMAN. 1996. *Feynman Lectures on Computation*. Edited by Tony Hey and Robin W. Allen. Westview Press; paperback edition 2000.
- Manual of readings. (Compiled and printed by St. John's College, more information to follow.)
- Digi-Comp computer kit. (Supplied on first day of class or by mail; paid for by the college.)

Online Options

The preceptorials below will be conducted online using Microsoft Teams and/or Zoom.

Homer, *Odyssey*

Tutor: Mr. David Townsend

Description: A foundational great, great book exploring poetically and symbolically the deathless ideas of home and love. Can we separate truth from shadow as we follow this man of many wiles? We shall explore the relations of men and women, parents and children, and time and the eternal in encounters with Circe, Athena, Calypso, Aphrodite, Cyclops, Nausica, and a panoply of beasts, men, and gods. How shall we restore our home should we ever find it occupied?

Black American Poets

Tutor: Ms. Joan Silver

Description: Our reading will range from folk poetry to poems by Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Amiri Baraka, Audre Lorde, Rita Dove, and Ruth Forman to name a few. Although the list of poets is necessarily long, we will read only a few poems in each preceptorial meeting, to allow ourselves time to pay close attention to the poetry as poetry. Our primary text will be the anthology, *The Black Poets*, edited by Dudley Randall, supplemented by other poems we bring to the class.

Introduction to Ancient Greek

Tutor: Mr. Robert Goldberg

Description: An introduction to Ancient Greek language using the Mollin and Williamson textbook, *An Introduction to Ancient Greek*.