Spring 2013 Schedule Updates

SENIOR SEMINAR:
The following are the two English/Communications Senior Seminar courses and the topics they will focus on that are being offered next semester.

NEWS EDITING PRACTICUM/SENIOR NEWS PRACTICUM:
If you are pre-registering for ENGL 321/427, you should pre-register NOW and not wait until the Add/Drop period in January. Also, signatures will need to be obtained from a Beacon advisor, Professor Augur, Professor Jones, or Professor Niedbalski.

NOTE: The prerequisite for ENGL 321 is ENGL 339, Writing and Reporting the News I and instructor approval.

ENGL 441-01: ADVANCED SHAKESPEARE
Professor Rosanne Denhard
Advanced Shakespeare provides committed and experienced upper-level students the opportunity for in-depth study of the plays and poetry of William Shakespeare in continuation of their earlier work. The class reading list and specific details of individual and group projects will be determined by the class participants and instructor, with room for flexibility and pursuit of individual interests. This course developed in response to student interest and continues with the active, "hands on" approach to the study of Shakespeare's plays and poems that students will be familiar with from the Engl 351: Shakespeare course. The class conducts research and prepares scenes for in-class performance study as ways of exploring possible interpretations and relevance to our own understanding of these texts. This course requires students to be willing to experiment, prepare thoroughly, speak and listen, research and write. A prior background in Shakespeare is expected. Interested students should contact Prof. Denhard directly for instructor's approval.

ENGL 340: LITERATURE IN SOCIETY: METAFICTION
Instructor: Annie Raskin, Ph.D.
Prerequisite: ENGL 250
One of the stories that we will read, "Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut, begins: "The year was 2081, and everybody was finally equal. They weren't only equal before God and the law. They were equal every which way. Nobody was smarter than anybody else. Nobody was better looking than anybody else. Nobody was stronger or quicker than anybody else. All this equality was due to the 211th, 212th, and 213th Amendments to the Constitution, and to the unceasing vigilance of agents of the United States Handicapper General." Tim O'Brien's novel The Things They Carried, which we will read, is dedicated to the list of fictional characters in the novel as if they were actual persons.

In this course, we will be reading contemporary fiction that breaks the cardinal rule of fiction – that it be seamlessly believable as real, that as readers we will be able to suspend our disbelief in it as a constructed story written by a writer who made it up – and we will be talking about how and why metafiction is a response to our social and cultural climate. All fiction is a lie, a lie readers are meant to believe. Metafiction exposes that lie in deliberate and interesting ways – sometimes absurdly, sometimes confusingly, often amusingly, but always provocatively.

Harlequin and Allegretto's production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Friday Nov. 2nd and Saturday, Nov. 3rd at 8pm

SPIRES Updates
Please join Spires for the Featured Poets reading on November 29th at 7pm in Sullivan Lounge. It will feature local poets including alumni, Jessica Sweeney, Professor Jeff McRae, Professor Mindy Dow, and current students.

Don't forget! Submission Deadline for Spires is December 21st. Email submissions to mclaspires@gmail.com

Have information you would like included in the next e-letter? Email Jennifer Dermady at j.dermady@mcla.edu.