

Welcome to Wesleyan!

Below is a list of courses open to visiting Parents and Families on Friday, November 1st. Feel free to attend any of these classes to see how your students challenge ideas and broaden their skill sets here at Wes!

Introductory Chemistry

Professor Davis

08:50AM-09:40AM, Shanklin 107, (Located at 237 Church St)

***Description:** Introductory Chemistry is the first half of an introductory course in general chemistry intended for science majors and for premedical studies. The topics covered will include measurement and dimensional analysis; atomic theory; chemical nomenclature; mass relationships and the mole concept; stoichiometry; aqueous reactions; gases; thermochemistry; the quantum mechanical model of the atom; periodic trends; bonding theory; and molecular geometry*

Empires in World History

Professor Masters

08:50AM-09:40AM, Public Affairs Center 422 (located at 238 Church St)

***Description:** The earth is a dynamic planet, as tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions make tragically clear. The very processes that lead to these natural disasters, however, also make life itself possible and create things of beauty and wonder. In this course we will study the forces and processes that shape our natural environment, as well as the effect we have on this world. Topics range in scale from the global pattern of mountain ranges to the atomic structure of minerals and in time from billions of years of Earth history to the few seconds it takes for a fault to slip during an earthquake.*

Principles of Chemistry I

Professor Smith

08:50AM-09:40AM, Science Library 58 (Located at Exley Science Center, 265 Church St)

***Description:** An introduction to chemistry intended for motivated students with a solid high school chemistry background and some exposure to basic calculus, this course will emphasize the fundamental principles of chemistry and is recommended for students interested in pursuing majors in science or mathematics. The topical focus will be on the concepts of electronic structure, molecular geometry, and equilibrium thermodynamics, with applications to current research on, for example, the carbon cycle and nanomaterials.*

Philosophy As a Way of Life (First Year Seminar)

Professor Horst

09:50AM-10:40AM, Albritton 304

Description: *For many philosophers, East and West, philosophy has been more than an effort to answer fundamental questions. It has been an activity aimed at changing one's orientation to the world and, thus, how one lives one's life. We will explore Chinese, Greco-Roman, and contemporary versions of the idea that philosophy should be seen as a way of life. How does philosophical reasoning interact with lived practice? Despite their differences, Confucians, Christians, Aristotelians, and Stoics all agreed that philosophy should aim at making us better people. Can such an idea still get traction in today's world?*

Introduction to Economics

Professor Adelstein

09:50AM-10:40AM, Public Affairs Center 001 (located at 238 Church St)

Description: *A general introduction to the principles of economic analysis and their implications for public policy, covering concepts and issues in both microeconomics (concerning the function and performance of individual markets, organizations, or institutions) and macroeconomics (concerning the function and performance of the economy as a whole). This course is intended primarily for students without significant prior study in the discipline, and it satisfies the prerequisites for most 200-level economics electives.*

Black Power and the Modern Slave Narrative

Professor Rushdy

10:50AM-12:10PM Center for the Americas, (Located at 255 High street)

Description: *The historical moment immediately after the civil rights and black power movements saw an explosion of African American writing about slavery. In the past half-century, black writers have written award-winning novels that have given unprecedented attention to the intricacies of the life of people who are enslaved and to slavery as a system that they suggested could help us better understand late-20th-century American culture. We will read some of the most important works written by contemporary African American writers to see how and why they transformed the first autobiographical form for black writers--the slave narrative--into a fictional form that has served them as they dissect their own cultural moment.*

General Physics I

Professor Sher

11:05AM-11:40AM, Science Library 189, (Located at Exley Science Center, 265 Church St)

Description: *This course is the first term of a general physics course with calculus, recommended for students interested in majoring in the sciences. With the focus on Newtonian dynamics, PHYS 113 seeks to develop both conceptual understanding and the ability to use this knowledge to obtain quantitative predictions of how the universe works. Through a collaborative and interactive classroom experience, students develop problem-solving skills and a mathematical description of mechanics.*

The Black 60s: Civil Rights to Black Power

Professor Rushdy

01:20PM-02:40PM, Center for African American Studies

(Located at the entrance to Wesleyan University at 343 High Street)

Description: *This course will explore the development of African American political activism and political theory from 1960 to 1972, with particular focus on student movements in these years. We will familiarize ourselves with the history of political activism and agitation for civil rights and social equality during the sixties by examining the formation of specific organizations, especially the Student Non-violence Coordinating Committee and the Black Panther Party, and tracing the changes in their political agendas.*

Conservation Biology

Professor Singer

01:20PM-02:40PM, Shanklin 201, (Located at 237 Church St)

Description: *This course will focus on the biology of conservation rather than cultural aspects of conservation. However, conservation issues will be placed in the context of ethics, economics, and politics. We will cover the fundamental processes that threaten wild populations, structure ecological communities, and determine the functioning of ecosystems. From this basis, we will explore important conservation issues such as habitat loss and alteration, overharvesting, food web alteration, invasive species, and climate change. We will use readings from the primary literature and field projects to learn about current research methods used in conservation biology.*

How to Talk to Machines

Professor Zimmerick

01:20PM-02:40PM, Science Library 113 (Located at Exley Science Center, 265 Church St)

Description: *How do we tell robots and computers how to do what they do? Getting a handle on this question is the goal of this course. Since telling a device how to do something depends a lot on what that device can do, along the way we will learn a bit about what is "in the box." We will start with the kind of programming one might use to instruct a robot how to interact with the world around it. That will lead us to the Turing machine, a beautiful mathematical model of a computer. We will adapt that model to something that is closer to how most computer systems today are designed. We will end with an introduction to high-level programming, learning the fundamentals of programming in a language such as Python or Java.*

Dynamic Earth

Professor Greenwood

01:20PM-02:10PM, Science Library 405 (Located at Exley Science Center, 265 Church St)

Description: *The earth is a dynamic planet, as tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions make tragically clear. The very processes that lead to these natural disasters, however, also make life itself possible and create things of beauty and wonder. In this course we will study the forces and processes that shape our natural environment, as well as the effect we have on this world. Topics range in scale from the global pattern of mountain ranges to the atomic structure of minerals and in time from billions of years of Earth history to the few seconds it takes for a fault to slip during an earthquake.*

Political Fiction

Professor Miller

01:20PM-04:10PM,

Description: *Attitudes toward politics, economics, society, and history will be examined from works of fiction that directly criticize an existing society or that present an alternative, sometimes fantastic, reality*