



ASMS

Special Projects Week 2022



December 17, 2021

To: ASMS Students

Cc: ASMS Parents, Faculty and Staff

From: Dr. John Hoyle, President

Re: Special Projects Spring 2022

Reminders:

- Special Projects start each day at **9:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m.** beginning **Monday, February 14, 2022, through Friday, February 18, 2022**, unless otherwise specified by your sponsor.

Note: Special Projects are part of the ASMS Academic Program. The requirements for Special Projects are as follows:

“Each student must participate in and successfully complete with the grade of “P” for pass a Special Project during each year of residence at ASMS. Successful completion will earn 0.25 CU per year. Failure to pass the Special Project will result in a school-initiated withdrawal. No unexcused absences are permitted during the Special Project. The President must give direct permission for a student to not participate in Special Projects at the appointed time. If excused, a specific time frame must be set as when and how a student will make-up the special project. A Special Project brochure will be available to students before the end of the winter term. **The same ASMS rules of conduct, regulating students’ behavior while residing at the school, apply to behavior while participating in Special Projects.** All projects will produce some tangible product or service.” *Community Standards Handbook page 26, “Special Projects.”*

Students will sign up for Special Projects beginning **Wednesday, January 12, 2022, through Friday, January 14, 2022**, on campus. Some projects will be fee based and the amount is noted by the project. Other projects will be no cost to the student.

Note: Some course descriptions, enrollment numbers, and costs are subject to change.

Dress Code

Students are reminded to follow the *Dress Code, page 72, of the Community Standards Handbook*:

Student Dress Code

Dress and grooming standards are established to ensure that the school climate reflects decency, safety, appropriateness, and a serious focus on learning. Fashions, styles, and trends evolve; therefore, the school reserves authority in matters which may arise and are not identified with this policy. ASMS staff reserves the right to request students to return to their residence hall to change if attire is deemed inappropriate or potentially disruptive to educational processes or social environments. Both faculty and staff shall enforce this policy and the final authority regarding dress and grooming shall be the ASMS Administration. Learning to wear appropriate attire is important to every student's social development and in many instances their future success. Although all ASMS staff and faculty can use discretion in deciding what clothing is not appropriate, the Office of Student Affairs will have final judgment over clothing. In short, ASMS will use common sense and reasonableness to determine appropriate attire. See page 82 for a list of standards.

Additional Information:

Students needing assistance during Special Projects week should first contact their course instructor. If you are experiencing technical issues, please email our Director of Information Technology, Mr. Keidrick Wooten at kwooten@asms.net.

Ms. Neda Bitterman, the school nurse will be in her office for any students that are sick.

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ACT Prep with Class 101

Instructors: Class 101 staff, with Dr. Mitch Frye, Facilitator

Maximum: 45

ASMS has partnered with Class 101 to offer an extensive ACT prep program during Special Projects Week. This program will primarily target juniors, though sophomores may be eligible if there are enough open seats. We would like for a range of students to be involved, from those who want to drastically improve their scores to those who just need a few more points to push them to the next level. Students will have daily sessions with Class 101 and ASMS staff, as well as practice sessions followed by individualized score reports as feedback. There will be a Q & A session with Class 101 staff. Students will receive a license for one year of online practice testing and the use of an ACT Study Guide. This program will only be offered for the 2021-2022 Special Projects term. The course will be offered at no cost.

America in the 1950s in Film

Instructors: Derek Barry and Brian Saylor

Maximum: 13

This project will be a study of America and American culture in the 1950s through the use of film. We will watch and analyze several classic American movies from the period to determine what the art can tell us about the culture in which it was produced. We will also examine different artistic trends in American film and how different genres of film fit into the American experience. Topics of discussion and analysis include: history, film, race, class, gender, sexuality and the American experience.

An Introduction to 3D Printing

Instructors: Dr. Jessica Alexander and Kristal Webb

Maximum: 10

Cost: \$6

From creating rapid prototypes to printing medical prosthetics, 3D printing has become more ubiquitous in everyday life. In this course, students will learn about the history and development of 3D printers, as well as how they are being used in different engineering and medical fields. They will then learn how to use computer-aided design (CAD) software and slicing programs to turn an idea into a custom trinket that will be 3D printed for them to keep as a souvenir. This course is recommended for students with little or no prior experience with CAD software. Students will need access to a laptop or Chromebook for this project.

ASMS Week of Service

Instructor: Coach Angel Jackson
Cost: \$20

Maximum: 6

ASMS students will explore the topic of community service and its challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. This exploration will include taking a group of 4-6 ASMS students to local organizations to serve the community. The students will begin the week on campus creating a project to deliver to the residents of Little Sisters of the Poor. We will end the week on Friday by staying on campus and serving our own community. The off-campus organizations will include Dumas Wesley Community Center, Little Sisters of the Poor, and one additional organization.

NOTE: Some sites require visitors to be vaccinated, so vaccination status is a requirement for this reason. It's not a school policy-- it's policy for visiting an offsite location.

Beginning Knitters, Yarns & Fabrics

Instructor: Muriel Hoequist
Cost: \$30

Maximum: 12

This project will teach you to knit a shawl after a simple pattern. Only total novices are eligible for this class, please. Each student can pick their own yarn. More advanced skills will be demonstrated also. Each student will research a textile-related topic of their choice, and report their findings to the class each day the group meets. Students will receive practical experience in knitting, and learn how to correct and improve on beginning work. Students will further get an insight into more intricate projects and variations of beginning skills to set a goal for the future. Students will receive each their own yarn and a set of knitting needles to go with it, as well as a crochet needle for finishing the project. Costs are an approximate average guess; any surplus money will be used for joint snacks.

Requirement: **Participants MUST see Ms. Hoequist in H208 three weeks before the start of the project in order to choose their yarn from Michael's.** Failure to do so will result in a random yarn selection

Computing Camp

Instructors: Grey Gaillard and Deborah Gray
Cost: \$25

Maximum: 24

Apply computing to create games and music, solve cybersecurity puzzles, and control circuits. Use pocket-sized computers – micro:bits and Raspberry Pis – to program LED circuits and games. Learn and improve your Python programming skills. Hosted part of the week at the University of South Alabama, students will have the opportunity to hear about computer science research and visit labs. During the other part of the week, students will tour local tech industries to see programming, research, and computing in action.

Dangerous Women and the Men Who Love Them

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Jones

Maximum: 16

Cost: \$7

For more than two thousand years, humans have been writing and performing dramatic works as representations of their social, political, and cultural environments. The age-old battle of the sexes is a frequent theme in drama, ancient and modern. In this class, we will explore this theme as we cross the boundaries of time and space, reading plays and viewing productions from Ancient Greece the 20th century. We will read works by *Medea* by Euripides, Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, and Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* and examine how gender is performed and perceived, what (and who) determines that a woman is "dangerous," and how masculinity and femininity are defined against each other. Students will be given a choice of topics within this theme to research during the week and will present their research on the final day.

Deconstructing the American City: Urban Sociology and Spatial Semiotics

Instructor: Dr. Diane Gerard

Maximum: 10

Cost: \$75

Do you like Sociology? Cultural Anthropology? Did you enjoy Human Geo? Join Dr. Gerard for a week-long urban adventure that explores the local places and spaces around us as texts, which if we take the time to look and listen, reveal much about the American city and in particular, the city of Mobile, AL. Students will learn to "read" streets, identify types of urban architecture, interpret signage, and learn that the study of society is dependent on the visible. Mobile has 99 neighborhoods, and we begin with a trip to the archives and local history library to see what has changed and if the perception, when we visit, corresponds to the reality. We will interpret the sights, sounds, and smells of Mobile, assigning meaning but also learn that city planners use visual evidence to modify the city in the name of progress (smart, sustainable) and inclusiveness.

Game Shows and Card Games Uncovered

Instructor: Meoshe Id-Deen
Cost: \$10

Maximum: 18

Do you have what it takes to be a contestant on your favorite game show? Can you beat the odds in your favorite card game? Explore popular game shows and card games like Wheel of Fortune, Price is Right, and Texas Hold'em Poker. What are the secrets behind these games? Is it mathematics, knowledge and skill, or just pure luck? Students will analyze video clips, play a variety of sample games, and of course, explore the mathematics behind the games. Students will use the knowledge learned to create their own game show or card game to be played at the end of the week!

Gender and Social Media

Instructors: Daniel Commander and Dr. Karen Smith
Cost: \$25 (field trip lunch and museum tour)

Maximum: 14

Social media has been widely blamed for the spread of disinformation and division, but for many marginalized groups, it has also been vital for sharing information, building community, and bringing suppressed history into the light. In this project, we will focus on the ways that social media has created movements and aided issues related to gender (such as transgender visibility, women's rights, and body image, among many others). We will also research how gender has been represented across various social media platforms. A field trip to the Alabama Contemporary Art Center will introduce us to exhibits that show how various media have shaped our understanding of identities in the past. The exhibits also concern the positive effects of bringing suppressed history to light. At the end of the week, students will have the opportunity to create a social media post (actual posting optional), such as a meme format or video, that will help contribute to conversations around a specific issue/community or help shed light on a suppressed part of history.

Geomechanics

Instructors: Dr. Durga Paudel and Dr. Victor Irby
Cost: \$15

Maximum: 20

This course will give students a fundamental understanding of the mechanical properties of soil and rock for structural foundations and architectural design. We will explore various properties such as strength & stability, stress-strain response, fractures, roughness, slow ground motion, rock melting by induction heating, magnetic susceptibilities in the cores, and seismic wave properties etc. After obtaining a theoretical understanding, students will research various rocks & soil around our campus, characterize them, and test their mechanical properties using our available physics lab facility. They will then utilize their understanding in the application of popular architectural design and the stability of these designs in response to tectonic activities. Finally, they will research USGS website to identify the everyday events related to their study and come up with some creative thoughts to protect global icons from future events.

Habitat for Humanity

Instructor: Coach Bill Brouillet

Maximum: 14

Initial research to be done will cover from the social/economic impact of Habitat for Humanity to how Habitat assists families & how homeownership works. From there, each student participates in building new houses or repairs existing homes for people in need. This is done at specific locations in Mobile County. The specific daily job responsibilities are assigned by the on-site Habitat for Humanity job supervisors. The students not only gain knowledge and experience of working on houses, but are also contributing a sense of dignity, pride, and hope to others. There is a need for decent housing, we are joining the 'fight against poverty housing and homelessness'. **Total cost per student: Each student pays for their own lunch/snacks or brings them each day. Note:** Each student must be at least 16 years of age and will need to fill out waiver forms with parent signatures. Also, a student must be 18 years of age to use any power tools on-site.

India to Italy: The History and Science of Flatbreads

Instructors: Kevin Dolbeare and Orren Kickliter
Cost: \$125

Maximum: 13

Students will learn about the cultural importance of a dietary staple: the flatbread. For over 10,000 years, flatbreads have been developed in every culture on Earth. Students will cultivate a hands-on experience with different styles of flatbreads from across the globe. Students will go to a local restaurant to experience bread making firsthand in a commercial setting. Students will produce a historical background document that explains why a given flatbread is important for a given culture. Each day students will make new styles of flatbreads and learn first-hand why this is such a critical food.

Latin American Culture Through Cinema

Instructor: Dr. Keith Lindley

Maximum: 20

Using two award-winning films as starting points, this course explores aspects of Spanish-speaking Latin American culture, history, and current affairs. *Diarios de Motocicleta* (The Motorcycle Diaries) tells the story of a transformative journey in the life of Che Guevara, one of Latin American's most prominent revolutionaries, while *La Misma Luna* (Under the Same Moon) follows a young Mexican boy as he makes his way to the United States to be with his mother after his caretaker grandmother dies. Class discussions will be used to examine a wide range of topics including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, social stratification, politics, art, cuisine, literature, music and language. Under the supervision of the instructor, students will choose an additional Latin American film to watch and present to the class. Reading and writing assignments will be included. Knowledge of Spanish is **not** required.

Microplastics and You

Instructors: Dr. Natalie Ortell and Dr. Rebecca Domangue

Maximum: 20

Cost: \$32

Can you imagine your life without plastic? Plastic enabled the technological breakthroughs of modern human society. But there is a dark side. During Special Projects week we investigate plastics at the micro-scale. Students learn about the persistent, pervasive environmental problem of microplastics, and the ubiquity of plastics in the environment and body. Students conduct fieldwork and labwork centered around identifying microplastics in samples they collect as well as investigate the database of microplastics in the Gulf of Mexico. At the end of the week students produce a locally-relevant synopsis sent to local media or the Mayor's office.

Osprey Initiative

Instructor: Dr. Karen Palazzini

Maximum: 7

Cost: \$25

The Osprey Initiative is a Mobile, Alabama based company focused on developing cost-effective solutions to litter control and clean up. The firm is active in collaborating with private and public entities to customize litter solutions that not involve the removal of litter but also litter control and litter recycling as both an input for industry and an output/product for consumers. Participants in this project will learn about the broad environmental problems posed by litter and learn how litter control devices can be engineered to solve problems. Students will travel to Osprey Initiative litter control sites and help collect data and litter. Please visit www.osprey.world to imagine yourself being engaged in all of the aspects of litter control and recycling.

Physiognomy – The Influence of First Impression

Instructor: Nasrullah Aziz

Maximum: 12

Physiognomy is the science of facial features held to show qualities of mind or character by their configuration or expression. The truth is that we all are a kind of naïve Physiognomists: we form impressions and act according to these impressions. In this Special Project Students will learn about this old Science which promises an easy way to solve the problem of understanding others by facial features.

Radium's Deadly Green Glow or The Watches That Killed

Instructors: Martha Mozer and Dr. Matthew Davenport
see below

Maximum:

Cost: \$20

Between 1917 and 1938 the US Radium Corporation developed and marketed Undark, a paint used to create luminous dials on watches, clocks and instrument panels for the military and ordinary consumers. Factories in New Jersey, Illinois, and Connecticut hired thousands of young women to do the painting. When workers began dying from unexplainable symptoms five courageous women in Illinois sued the company for knowingly exposing employees to unsafe working conditions. The newspapers covering the trial dubbed the women The Radium Girls. Using primary source documents students will create a slide show to accompany a dramatic reading of the play Radium Girls by D.W. Gregory. The performance will happen on Friday afternoon in the auditorium. In addition, Dr. Davenport will present background information on radiation safety as well as the decay process of radium and other radioactive materials. This discussion will include examples of other ways radioactive materials have been used in commercial applications with varying levels of safety practices in place.

Minimum Enrollment: 5 men and 5 women for acting roles

Maximum Enrollment: 5 students for acting roles, visual media or technical skills

Russian Culture and Language

Instructor: Natalya Prokhorova

Maximum: 12

Russian culture has a long and rich history steeped in literature, ballet, painting and classical music. In this class students become familiar with Russian customs and traditions, history, language, arts, literature and architecture, food, folklore, and holidays. Outcome: PowerPoint presentation on topics of student's choice.

Stained Glass Art and the Visible Light Spectrum: An introduction to Tiffany style stained-glass and color

Instructor: Dr. Elisa Rambo

Maximum: 12

Cost: \$ 125

This special project will introduce students to the basic techniques of Tiffany style art glass. Students will learn to score and cut stained glass, to copper foil, and to construct decorative glass pieces. Students will begin by making a simple geometric sun-catcher followed by one or more signature projects of their own design. Students will research how plants and animals exhibit colors and base their first signature project on an original design of that plant or animal. Materials will be provided to complete all projects. A field trip to a local glass hot shop will be organized where students will receive a demonstration on glass blowing and/or glass making techniques.