

# The Ded-Beat

Volume 2, Edition 1:

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## COURSE SPOTLIGHT:

*CLAS 2311: Myth and Thought in the Ancient World.*

Explores the conceptual and philosophical underpinnings of ancient understandings of reality in Western and non-Western cultures in ancient and modern times. Materials for investigation will be primarily textual, including myths, epics, tragedies and philosophical discourse in ancient Greece.

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## Welcome to Dedman College!

Welcome to SMU and welcome to **Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences!** Dedman College encourages curiosity and challenges conventional thinking. We are the oldest, largest and most diverse school on campus, and home to the humanities and social, natural, and mathematical sciences.

Nearly half of all declared majors and minors are housed within Dedman College. Considering Dedman houses 16 different departments and nearly 90 majors and minors, it's not hard to understand why we are the heart of the SMU.

**Dedman College Ambassadors (DCA)** is a student organization devoted to creating a cohesive and unified Dedman College community. DCA works towards establishing and maintaining a sense of "Dedman Pride" on and off campus while encouraging students to pursue a major or minor with the college.

*The Ded-Beat* is the official newsletter of the Dedman College Ambassadors. The views represented within are not necessarily those of Dedman College nor of Southern Methodist University. All inquiries regarding *The Ded-Beat* or any of its content may be directed to Dami Salako, President of DCA and Editor-in-Chief of *The Ded-Beat*, at [dsalako@smu.edu](mailto:dsalako@smu.edu).

# A Guide to First Year Science-Professors

by Kristina Lackey

Are you interested in the pre-med program, pursuing a science degree, or simply taking classes in "The Sciences"? If so, you will probably enroll in Introductory Biology and Introductory Chemistry during your first few years here. In which case, here is a quick snapshot of some of the professors at SMU who teach these courses.

The Introductory Biology first semester professor, **Dr. Wise Ph. D.**, is a great professor who is passionate about the subject he teaches. He will amaze you with his vast, yet specific knowledge about the study of life. Dr. Wise urges his students to read the textbook

before attending lecture, which is a great way to approach any college course and ensure that you know the basics before you come to class. He is a very welcoming person and will help you understand any concept, as long as you put forth the effort to learn.

**Dr. Oberdoster Ph. D.** is the Introductory Biology second semester professor, who is

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guaranteed to make any lecture more entertaining with her numerous anecdotes about her toxicology and aquatic biology courses. She is true to her word when she says that she only tests you on material that she has gone over in her lectures. I highly recommend that you attend every lecture for this course because she covers information that isn't in the textbook. Unless you absolutely have to, don't miss class!

General Chemistry (semester one and semester two) may seem like an intimidating subject, but **Dr. Wisian-Neilson Ph. D.** will make sure you know the material backwards, forwards, and sideways and that you are prepared for any and all future

courses such as Organic Chemistry. She is very involved in her research and truly loves the course she teaches. Dr. Wisian-Neilson loves to use visuals in class and does an excellent job approaching problems, using different methods so that everyone will understand the material. She offers so much of her time to help students succeed, including available office hours and online help sessions before each exam. With online helps sessions, you don't even have to leave the comfort of your own room!

Here at SMU, you are getting the highest quality professors that a college can offer. All of the professors have a doctorate and are

currently researching at SMU, acting as pioneers in their field and uncovering the mysteries of the biological and chemical sciences. In addition to being trailblazers in their field, these professors share their knowledge with students so that we may have the opportunity to follow in their footsteps and advance the sciences even further.

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## COURSE SPOTLIGHT:

*ANTH 2301: Introductory Cultural Anthropology.*

Basic theories and methods of cultural anthropology. Explores variations in cultural values, social practices, religion, rules of law, etc., in different cultures around the world. Focuses on understanding the forces that shape cultures and societies, and how they adapt to a rapidly changing world.

## Egyptian, Roman Culture Live in Spring Class

by Adrienne Glaze

If you are a Classical Studies major or love anything about Ancient Egypt, Cleopatra, or the Roman Empire, the seminar *The Triumph of Cleopatra: Egypt and Rome Under the Empire* is a great class to consider. In the research class, students will choose their own topic for a twenty-five-page research paper and can share their own ideas about why their topic is important. The class focuses on the interaction of cultures in the Roman Empire as it spread across Europe and Asia. Ancient Egypt is used to describe and understand Rome because, as Professor Dowling explains, "Rome is transformed by the Egyptian culture." Romans were religious and cultural tourists in Egypt, and students find that Cleopatra is the link between the two ancient civilizations. Students will read about the many different ways she was represented, from Roman propaganda slandering Cleopatra as an evil queen to ancient Egyptian archeological articles describing her as a good queen. Once students choose their topic and begin writing their research paper, they will enjoy it as well as appreciate their work because they will be contributing to history through their professor. And let's face it: many of us want to be remembered in some way. So here is your chance to leave your mark on history, or at least to get your foot in the door.

*Adrienne Glaze is a senior. She can be reached at [aglaze@smu.edu](mailto:aglaze@smu.edu).*

## 10 Things to Know About College

by Sara Shaffer

1. Bring snacks and stock up! You will get hungry late at night when Umphrey Lee (the campus cafeteria) is closed and you won't want to trek all the way to Mac's Place to get food – especially if you live in the North Quad (Virginia-Snyder, Shuttles, Peyton, and Mary-Hay residence halls).
2. Get plenty of sleep, and bring a mattress pad or topper. Beds in college are not incredibly comfy and you will need the extra padding to get a good night's sleep.
3. Bring an umbrella, a rain jacket, and rain boots. It rains in Texas, too!
4. Studying in college is completely different from studying in high school. There will be fewer exams and they will cover more material than you are probably used to. Take thorough notes during lectures.
5. Planners, lists, and calendars are extremely helpful for staying organized. It is much easier to manage your time if you have everything written down. Take advantage of these tools!
6. Don't do your laundry on the weekends. There won't be any washers or dryers available because that is when everyone is trying to do their laundry for the upcoming week. Try snagging the washers and dryers during the weekdays, especially in the afternoons.
7. Comfy clothes are a must. Especially when you don't feel like exerting a lot of effort before an early morning classes. SMU students are notorious for dressing well, but we all have our lazy days!
8. Even though you might feel overwhelmed by doing it, check your SMU email often. Going to class when your professor cancelled via email is awkward and annoying.
9. Join different clubs and organizations and go to their meetings to decide which ones you like the best.
10. Don't worry if you don't meet your new best friend at Mustang Corral (the new student, 3-day, off-campus retreat before classes). It's not uncommon and you still have the rest of the year!

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**"So here is your chance to leave your mark on history, or at least to get your foot in the door."**

# The Hilltop Scholars Program

by *Aubrey Richardson*

The Hilltop Scholars Program (HSP) is comprised of students who have indicated high academic ability and leadership skills in their application to SMU. Students who are chosen have the opportunity to interact closely with students of similar academic and leadership backgrounds both inside and outside the classroom. It is for first-year students only and is a wonderful program to be a part of.

HSP provides an amazing opportunity to grow as an individual and as a student. The HSP is different from other programs because it is a residential community. Living in close quarters with the same people you take classes with is a true blessing and convenience. There is always a friendly face on your way to class and always a helping hand at the end of the day. Doors are always open and students are able to engage with each other on both a social and academic level. Socially, the students of the Hilltop Scholars Program (or the "Smerkins," a portmanteau of "Smith" and "Perkins": the Hilltop Scholars' residential communities) are a close-knit group of friends that bond as a floor, as a hall, and as a program.

Another major advantage of the program is the residential classrooms. Taking classes in the same hall as your dorm room creates a sense of pride within the community and encourages a close-knit group. Similarly, the

specialized Hilltop classes give students the chance to explore a new discipline with top-notch professors.

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I took a

Debunking Myths in Archaeology class during my freshman year and it was by far my favorite class of the year. There were only twelve students and we all sat around a desk the size of a dinner table, which made for an intimate classroom setting. The professor had also just finished an archeological dig in Peru and was able to describe the dig in relation to our class, which made the material even more intriguing and interesting.

Deciding to join the Hilltop Scholars Program was the best decision I could have made for myself freshman year. The program gave me a solid academic foundation as well as a friend base to put me in the best position for success. College is a chance to try new things and take advantage of every opportunity life offers you. Do not let this opportunity pass you by.

*Aubrey Richardson is a sophomore. Her majors are Sociology and History. She can be reached for comment at [arichardson@smu.edu](mailto:arichardson@smu.edu).*

## Major: Undecided

by *Dami Salako*

If this is your current major, don't panic! College is the perfect time to explore options and delve into topics or concepts that interest you. Always wanted to take a European History class? Maybe Psychology? Medieval Studies? Latin? Philosophy? Now is the time to take those classes and discover just how interested you really are. Nearly all SMU students change, drop, or add majors/minors during their four years here. Starting off as "Undecided" is nothing to be afraid of. Use your first few semesters here to explore classes that may interest you and go from there.

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### COURSE SPOTLIGHT:

*CFB/PHYS 3333: The Scientific Method: (Debunking Pseudoscience)*

This course will provide you with an understanding of the scientific method sufficient to detect pseudoscience in its many guises: paranormal phenomena, free-energy devices, alternative medicine, intelligent design creationism, denial of human-induced climate change, propaganda, science-based-medicine denialism, misuse of data and statistics, and many others. You will learn to think critically and to question outlandish claims, hype, and outright BS.

# Pre-Law in Dedman College

by *Lisa Martinez*

One key question that students ask when contemplating law school is what they should major in as an undergraduate. Students typically think that there is a “best” choice when narrowing their options. As a student who is currently undergoing the pressures of anticipating law school, this is understandable. However, after speaking with current law school students and college advisors, most will avoid a solid answer and explain that it is not about the specific major that one chooses, but the opportunities that particular classes will permit one to experience and excel in.

Dedman College offers an array of courses in the humanities that foster the practice and growth of written and oral expression. Law school will require one to not only display the understanding of concepts, but also to verbally report them with confidence and clarity. Dedman College also provides classes that allow students to explore problem solving from a logical perspective, challenging orthodox thinking. As reported by SMU, 60% of the pre-law seniors stem from Dedman College. This is most likely due to the range of majors the school has to offer that encompass priceless opportunities within social and humanities disciplines. Philosophy, English, Psychology, and Human Rights are all great examples of what Dedman College has to offer for pre-law students as well as other students not planning on attending law school.

I am a pre-law student who is majoring in Psychology and Human Rights. I have professors that have worked in and are currently practicing in the field that they are instructing. They have advanced degrees and keep me updated on the latest information in their fields. One of my professors in particular, Dr. Baldwin, is presently conducting psychology based studies here at SMU that will help aid local hospitals in implementing needed resources to assist the community in healthcare needs. Another professor of mine, Dr. Campbell, is a visiting lecturer for Dedman College. She previously instructed here and has since had opportunities to teach at various other colleges in the United States. She also has experienced life in South America, studying the cultures and social aspects of others in a different light and bringing it to the table of sociology here at SMU.

The pre-law student has many options to partake in at SMU. Dedman College has a boundless selection of avenues that can give potential law school students an edge and exposure to knowledgeable and seasoned professors and invaluable experiences.

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## For SMU's Future *Fashionistas*: The TEN Must Do's to be a SMU All-Star

by *Zoya Mohammad*

Known for its dapper students, SMU is reminiscent of the runway. You may walk around any other college and find hundreds of students wearing their pajama bottoms to class, but here at SMU, we keep it classy (of course, excluding finals week). The implications this has on the impression you give professors, officials of SMU, and your peers is great—believe it or not. A fashionably put together student here at SMU is one that expresses an eagerness to learn, seriousness in their career, and professionalism. Of course, we aren't implying conformity, but instead, a general guideline (let's say “Code”) of expectations that you can alter to be your own. For those of you who are not familiar with or need a little help understanding how the typical SMU student gets from the bed to the classroom, here are a few pointers.

### 1. Brush your hair. No, really.

Of course, you might use your 8AM as an excuse to roll out of bed ten minutes before class not bothering with the mane atop your head, but really, this is the least you can do for your peers, your professors, and, well, yourself. Not only does it show that you care (considering the minimal amount of effort) but it makes you look like a more professional student. Even if “brushing your hair” really means running your fingers through your hair for a minute, by all means go for it. It will make a difference.

## COURSE SPOTLIGHT:

### *GEOL 1305: Oceanography*

A study of the physical (geological), biological and chemical processes responsible for the existence of the ocean as we know it today. Examines the impact of man on the oceans and oceanography's role in resource development, climatic and environmental modification, and other human concerns. 3 hours of lecture and one 2-hour laboratory each week.

#### **2. The Button-Up.**

Button-up shirts are a staple here at SMU, and are actually an easy way to trick everyone else into thinking that you put a lot of effort into your outfit. All you have to do is put it on, throw on a pair of jeans, khakis, or a skirt, and you are set. An awesome trick is to hang your button-ups with two or three of the buttons undone at the top. Now you can just throw it on like a regular t-shirt. Just be sure to button those undone buttons while you run out the door!

#### **3. Have a Pair of Khakis.**

Bet you didn't see this one coming. Guys, this one is especially for you. They can be worn as semi-formal attire with a blazer. Or you can pair it with a collared polo and voila – you've got a more casual look.

#### **4. Sunglasses.**

This isn't really for making an impression, but your eyes will thank you for this one. For you out-of-state-ers: welcome to Texas! An afternoon walk to your English class in Dallas Hall might cause you to encounter some heavy-duty sunlight piercing into your pupils. And what better way to fix the problem with a

stylish pair of Wayfarers accessorizing that beautiful face?

#### **5. Pro-tip for the Lovely Ladies of SMU.**

Ladies, let's face it: a good majority of us appreciate a nice dress or skirt. So then, why not wear one to class? Oh, yeah. Just be sure your definition of nice encompasses the fact that the dress/skirt should be a little longer than the mere end of your rear side. Add some easy-to-wear heels or some cute flats, and you're ready to go

#### **6. Pro-tip for the Handsome SMU Gentlemen.**

As previously stated, khakis should be your staple (in shorts or pants form). Get a belt, some matching dress shoes or Sperry's, and an array of shirts to wear them with. You don't need a crazy elaborate closet but when you do go shopping (or have your mom shop for you), make sure the few items you buy are professional and sophisticated. If you plan on buying less, go with solid colors. It will make your outfit look almost new each time. Think about it: it's easier for others to remember that red and blue plaid shirt you wore two days ago, versus that solid blue one you wore yesterday.

#### **7. Wash your Face.**

I hope this goes without saying, just as brushing your teeth and taking regular showers should. Really though, wash your face. Keeping your face clean will prevent the dreaded acne that can be so distracting. It will also prevent that awful shiny gleam on your face that is especially visible in Instagram photos.

#### **8. Mind your gait.**

Walk confidently: the sidewalks of SMU are your runways.

#### **9. Shoes, Shoes, Shoes.**

Keep your shoes clean, and prevent wear and tear. If you can't always buy a new pair of shoes, then don't! Just make sure the few pairs you do get are nice, neutral colors, and are taken care of. Don't let old mud dry on them and don't let those laces fray. If they are dress shoes, try and get them polished every now and then. If they are pretty beat...well, we'll call those your "lazy day" pairs.

#### **10. Know How to Redesign an Outfit.**

While having the opportunity to buy new clothes is always fun, it's definitely not necessary or cost-friendly. Having a good eye is simply the key. If you are wearing the same outfit, change your hairstyle and it will make a big difference! This option is a tad easier for girls. Also, dare I say it, Pinterest may grant you inspiration. For guys, try the combed over gentlemen's look one day, and a clean-cut rugged look another. Also, try mixing and matching different pieces of clothing and shoes. And, of course, accessorize. Ladies, just by changing a necklace, you're changing the outfit. Gentlemen, maybe add a scarf in the winter? GET CREATIVE!

Now get out there and work it.

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