

Honoring Times

The Newsletter of the Snow College Honors Program



SNOW
COLLEGE

March 1, 2013

Volume 1, Number 4

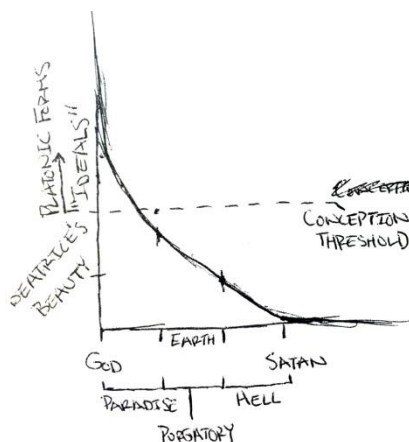
Student Work: Dante Graph

By: Tyler Christensen

I was fairly concerned when I joined Intellectual Traditions of the West (Ancient World). I'm definitely not an avid reader, but Professor David Allred assured me that we would find a way to work around my inexperience. I'm one of those "Math and Science Guys," and this graph is an example of my way to ensure I fully comprehended our class readings. By pulling them into my way of thinking; in most cases, I was forced to translate them and, typically, this is what the result would look like.

As you can see, this graph makes reference to Dante Alighieri's famous work *The Divine Comedy*. It represents Beatrice's beauty as it relates to her distance from God. In this book Dante transcends the spiritual world. For a portion of his journey, Beatrice (the love of his life) serves as his guide and shows him the way to Heaven, or, inversely, as Dante departs from Hell (or Purgatory). Now the graph comes in: when Dante enters into Hell and descends toward Satan, he doesn't so much as make reference to Beatrice in the text. It is as if he is so immersed in his sensations and the environment around him that he can't even recall Beatrice (or a memory of her) to mind. As Dante passes by Satan, the farthest point from God (*and*

furthest), and begins to climb through Purgatory, he notes that a feeling of hope has been restored in him. Simultaneously Dante remembers his main purpose, recalling Beatrice, and begins to long for her. At the top of Purgatory stands Beatrice physically waiting for Dante so that she can guide him into Heaven. Upon beginning his heavenly ascent, Dante notes that Beatrice seems especially beautiful. Shortly thereafter, Dante exclaims in his text that Beatrice has become so beautiful he cannot even begin to describe how beautiful she has become; Dante states that Beatrice's beauty has surpassed conception (she is becoming



the ideal of beauty).

To generalize this graph to most objects, the point at which an object is close enough to God that it is beyond conception I called the conception threshold. In this graph, that point is represented with a dotted line. Anything graphed below this line is worldly and can be perceived via our senses. Anything graphed above this line has surpassed its platonic form (the perfect representation of a conceptual view of an object); it is therefore beyond conception.

Faculty Focus: Professor Rachel Keller

By Professor Rachel Keller

The Snow College Honors Program offers such engaging diversity to its students. Students are encouraged to pursue the luxury of thinking. But the students are not the only ones to benefit; I have the privilege of teaching English 2160, Intellectual Traditions of the West, this semester.

This class is such a joy for me. I lovingly selected each and every novel, poem, short story, and art slide out of a sincere appreciation for what each piece can tell us about its own time period and ours, as well as how it can challenge our preconceptions. Added to the challenging text list of this class is a mixed media journal that allows for open student-teacher communication. These journals incorporate drawings, photos, creative writing, and much more. They offer a space for one-on-one dialogue between my students and me.

We are currently starting *The Awakening*, a novel published in 1899 by Kate Chopin. The novel offers a profound look into the complexities of wifhood, motherhood, and selfhood. We are allowed to watch as Edna Pontellier (the main character) discovers herself, and we are challenged to look inward as well. Chopin notes, “How few of us ever

emerge from such beginning! How many souls perish in its tumult!” It is a daunting task.

In addition to this great class, another Honors class proposal is in the works. Several devoted faculty members have been shaping and molding a Gender Studies class. This idea is to focus on a particular theme, such as poverty, education, leadership, etc. Then we will work to examine the facets of the chosen theme through the lens of gender. We are excited about seeing this class come to fruition through the Snow College Honors Program.

With all that the Honors Program provides, let’s take a minute to appreciate the amazing luxury we have, as part of the Honors Program, to spend time thinking, discussing, and formulating ideas to change our world.



Honors Opening Social Pictures



Honors students enjoyed an opening social on Jan. 31st



Jasmine and Sariah smile for a picture.

Student Work: Debate Team

By Spencer Ostler

Honors students are often involved in many activities on campus, and several students in honors classes this year have also been members of the debate team.

Snow College houses one of the strongest two-year-school debate teams in the country. Over the course of the school year the team has been able to place over schools such as the University of Utah, UC Berkley, and UCLA in sweepstakes points at each tournament they have went against them while placing 2nd at Air Force out of 29 schools, 3rd at Lewis and Clark out of 38 schools, as well as 1st place at Northwest College out of 13 community colleges and universities present. After doing well

nationally, the team will end the year by traveling abroad. In early March, they are going to Antwerp, Belgium, to show that they are a team that is a world class team.



The debate team is a great opportunity for honors and all students alike.

Helps and Hints: Improving Efficiency of Studying

No matter what your major, from to art to engineering, it is essential for every student to study. Depending on your teacher, trying to prepare for a test can be a daunting and difficult task. But did you know that you may be doing things that make it harder for yourself? Here are a few tips to help you succeed in your academic endeavors.

- **Balance is key.** Schedule a time to study and follow through. Study what you need to and then don't stress. Let your free time be free time. Take some time to take care of yourself. This will help you feel more confident when it comes time to test.
- **Get to know your professors.** *Ask questions!* By talking to your professor, you come to understand what they expect. You often can anticipate what their tests will be like based on what answers they give you. They won't waste time talking about things that aren't worth your time.
- **Dumb it down.** Could you explain it to your 12-year-old sister? Try it out. Pretend to explain the concept to someone who has never heard it before. Chances are it will reveal what you need to study more.

- **Study groups!** Get together with the other students in your class. Often they will have understood concepts you might have missed and provide other insight on things you are struggling with. Studying in groups can offer a good change to your normal routine.
- **Make flashcards.** By studying with flash cards, you can commit many things to memory. As you go through them, separate the cards into “know” and “don’t know” piles. Watch the pile of

what you know grow with every round you complete.

- **Don’t force it.** If you try and force feed yourself information, you will be less likely to remember it. Work at your own pace and don’t become frustrated if you need to take more time. Just be sure you aren’t over doing it. Remember balance!

Studying is crucial to being successful in school, but it can also be a student’s downfall. By keeping in mind a few tips, you can succeed in any class you put your mind to.

Honors Announcements

Scholarships. We are happy to be able to offer five more Honors Leadership Scholarships for next year. The recipients of these scholarships will be the Honors Leadership Team for next year, and they will receive \$700 split over fall and winter semesters. Any honors student who will be returning next year is eligible to apply. See the honors webpage for details. The application deadline is April 1.

March Honors Social. On March 19th, Matt Nickerson, the director of SUU's honors program will be on campus. If you are interesting in transferring to SUU, let David Allred know and I'll make arrangements for you to meet Professor Nickerson. That night, we will also have an honors class preview discussing the fall honors classes, including another special interdisciplinary class.

Honors 5K. In April, watch for an honors program 5K. We want people to run and help run the race. Contact Abby Fordham with questions.

Honors Program Photo Contest. From now until early April, Honors is sponsoring a photo contest. The name of the contest is "The Honors Experience," so take photos of moments that show what the life of an honors student is like. Or capture images of what the honors experience should be. Many of the photos will be shared on the Honors facebook page (like the page if you haven't done so already), and the winning photo will earn a \$25 prize or a book chosen by the winner.

Newsletter Editor: Haley Reed

Honors Leadership:

Abby Fordham

Caitlin Thomas

Emily King

Kailey Madsen

Honors Event Photos: Jennie

Robins

Director: Professor David Allred