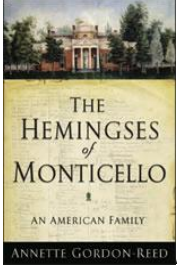


# Fall Honors Trip

## *Charlottesville, VA*

### September 18-20, 2009

#### **Honors Summer Reading Selection:**



Annette Gordon-Reed: *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family* ISBN 978-0-393-06477-3

**Faculty and Mini-Course descriptions** (on the next page you will sign up for a mini-course and indicate your top 3 choices—courses will be small and sizes will be limited—seniority counts! We will do our best to honor your choice(s):

**Dr. Steven Benko: *Camp Crystal Lake and the Ethics of Revenge* or *Jason Vorhees: Culture Warrior***

This mini-course will examine the ethics of horror films. Since we will be camping in the woods, we will look at examples from the “Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>” series of films (the original from 1980 and 2009 re-launch of the franchise). In addition to looking at how various elements of the films combine to produce gasps and frights, we will treat both films as an historical document that is commenting on various aspects of contemporary young adult culture. We will consider whether or not Jason Vorhees is a hockey-mask wearing, machete wielding psychopath or a social critic.

**Dr. James Boyles: *The Roots of American Painting and Sculpture***

Parallel to the construction of Jefferson’s architectural masterpiece, Monticello, was the establishment of American painting and sculpture as a national – even an international – treasure. In the span of less than 150 years, these art forms had developed from amateurish productions in an impoverished environment to rich statements about the vigorous spirit of this new country. This course studies the evolution of American art and painting in the late seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries and the reasons that contributed to the quick emergence of the fine arts as important aspects of American life.

**Dr. Tim Hendrix, Dr. Beth Mulvaney, and Mr. Steven Gaddis: *Monticello: Geometry, Proportion and Architecture***

This group will be examining basic architectural principles and how architects are guided by geometry and proportion. What components make a great building? What does a great space feel like? Besides considering these fundamental questions, we also will seek to understand the historical meaning of Jefferson’s choices of architectural form and ornament. How do the underlying principles of geometry and proportion affect not only the form of architecture, but also its meaning and our perception of it?

**Professor Warner Hyde: *The Apple as Document***

What do Johnny Chapman, Thomas Jefferson, and the 2009 Meredith Honors Trip all have in common? We have all been summoned by the apple! This mini-course will look at Virginia’s rich apple traditions (cider-making featured that weekend at Monticello), and leave one of our own. Jefferson’s South Orchard featured over eighteen varieties of apples and is a prime example of his interest in man’s relation to nature. After discussing chapter one from Michael Pollen’s *Botany of Desire*, we will investigate how Jefferson and our culture have manipulated the apple, or more likely- how it has manipulated us. We will then explore our own relationship to nature via the apple, and create a sculptural installation using apples to document this experience.

**Dr. Cammey Manning: *Mathematical Modeling of Nature***

In this course, we will discuss how mathematical models can be used to examine various patterns in nature. We will learn about mathematical modeling in general and then develop models for streams and trees that will enable us to investigate relationships between various physical characteristics of each.

**Dr. Jeffrey Martinson: *Inventing US Foreign Policy: Charlottesville’s Jefferson, Madison and Monroe***

Jefferson, Madison and Monroe all devoted their youth to the liberation of their country from the influences of foreign powers. Having accomplished that, what would they do after Independence to re-integrate that country into the community of nations? In particular: How to relate to the former foe, Britain? What to do with the friend-turned-enemy, France? And how to use America’s own growing power and influence relative to weaker countries? This mini-course will examine the details and legacy of the three “Charlottesville Presidents” inventive solutions to these problems.

**Dr. Walda Powell: *Jefferson: A Dirt-y Business***

Jefferson was known for his scientific method of gardening. My group will examine soil chemistry and compare it to soil from an organic garden.

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**Friday, September 18**

7:00 am Leave Meredith College

11:00 am Arrive at Triple C Camp: <http://www.tripleccamp.com/retreat.php>

Triple C is a rustic retreat center that is 5 minutes from Monticello and less than 10 minutes from downtown Charlottesville. We will be sleeping in large cabins with mattresses on the floor. We expect that these arrangements will allow for a lot of personal interaction and bonding among all the students in the Honors Program as well as with the faculty who join us.

12:00 pm Eat lunch

1-5 pm Ropes-Challenge course (designed to strengthen team-building, and decision-making skills: <http://www.tripleccamp.com/challenge.php>)

6:00 pm Dinner at the camp

9:00 pm s'mores around the campfire  
[We are leaving this evening unstructured to allowing time for bonding.]

**Saturday, September 19**

7:30am Breakfast

8:30-12:00 pm Mini-Courses  
Lunch at the camp

1:00 pm Tour Monticello

5:00 pm Bus heads into Charlottesville  
Dinner on your own

TBA Bus heads back to camp  
s'mores around the campfire

**Sunday, September 20**

8:30 am Breakfast & Mini Course Presentations

11:30 am Lunch

12:15 pm Depart from Triple C Camp

4:15 pm Arrive at Meredith