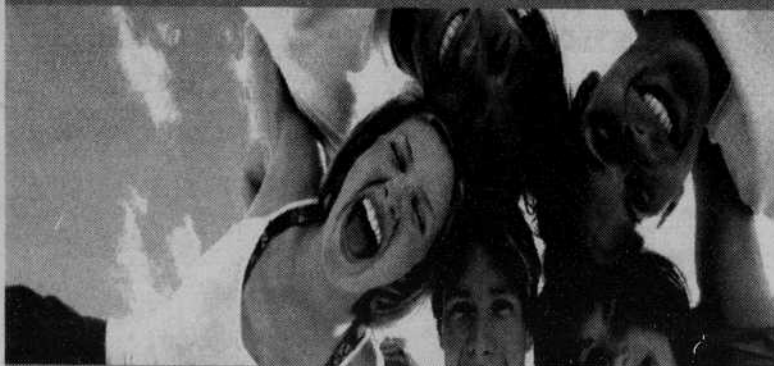




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Strange courses spice up spring-term class schedule

Students can explore cyborg babies and Asian rock art at the University this spring

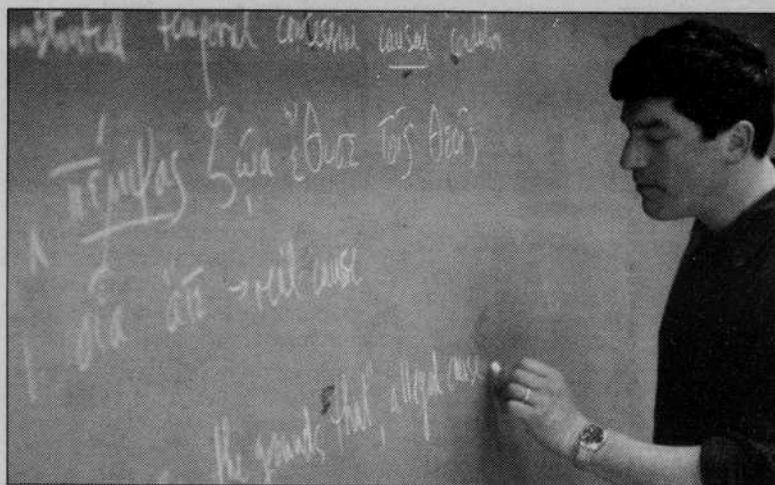
By Chelsea Duncan
News Reporter

The University is offering an array of courses during spring term that allow curious students to dabble in unusual and unexpected topics.

Among these classes is a women's and gender studies class called Techno-Sex and Cyborg Babies, which explores the integration of technology into processes such as pregnancy and birth.

Alexandra Stotts, women's and gender studies visiting assistant professor, will teach the class next term. She said the class is important for analyzing human interaction with technology, adding that it explores the advantages and disadvantages of advancing technology in reproductive medicine.

"This course gives students an opportunity to think about their own



Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

Associate Professor Malcolm Wilson teaches his Introduction to Greek class on Friday morning. Wilson will also teach the class during spring term.

values and priorities around technology," she said. "Just how cyborg do we want to be?"

Other course topics focus more on the arts and less on the sciences. In Art History 407, students learn about rock art in Northern Asia.

"There's an enormous amount of rock art from that region," Professor Esther Jacobson-Tepfer said. "The quality is just beautiful."

Jacobson-Tepfer, who is the first to teach the class at the University, said students study rock art that dates as far back as the Paleolithic period. She said she bases the class on her own field work in countries with this form of art.

The University also provides students with the chance to learn dead languages, such as Latin and ancient Greek.

Associate Professor Malcolm Wilson, who teaches an introductory course in ancient Greek, said ancient Greeks probably wouldn't understand modern day interpretations of the language.

"It's dead so we don't know how it sounds," he said.

He said the course gives students the ability to ponder the original "pristine" writings of famous ancient Greeks, such as Homer, Plato and Euclid.

For students who are hoping to improve their Japanese writing abilities, the Japanese special topics course, Learn Writing Through Comics, could do the trick.

Graduate student Kyoko Sato, who teaches the class, said students study Japanese anime to make reading Japanese texts easier and to "increase motivation."

"I think for most students it's helpful to have some visual input," she said.

Junior Ashley Wright, who is studying music, said the most unusual class she has taken at the University was a music class in which students learned how to play instruments in an Indonesian Javanese Gamelan orchestra.

"You don't really find a lot of those instruments in the United States," she said. "I didn't really even hear about it until I came here."

Sophomore Sayer Singleton, who is studying general sciences and business, said the Evolution of Human Sexuality anthropology course made a strong impression on him.

"It was sex," he said. "It was exciting."

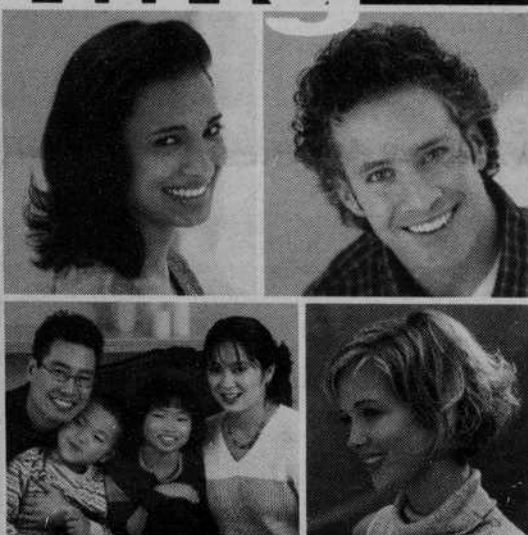
He said his most memorable experiences were his professor's dirty jokes and drawings of Chimpanzees' sexual behaviors.

"I was a little surprised and shocked at times," he said.

Students can check out other unusual courses on the University's DuckHunt Web site at <http://oregon.uoregon.edu/~bnrserve>.

Contact the higher education/student life/student affairs reporter at chelseaduncan@dailyemerald.com.

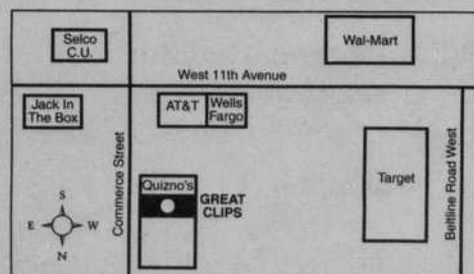
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