MicroTerm Course Descriptions 2016

Read these descriptions. At registration on Friday, May 6, you’ll be asked to register your TOP 5 DIFFERENT classes.

Hatched! Exploring Urban Chickens
Janet Jensen Kristina Lewin

Raising chickens in the city has grown tremendously in popularity in recent years. Come learn about urban chickens and find out why so many people are embracing this cultural phenomenon. We will visit urban chicken farmers and get up close and personal as we photograph these beautiful animals. We will learn about commercial egg production and the benefits of doing-it-yourself when it comes to your food, as well as the logistics of keeping chickens in the city. Join us for an eggceptional week!

Frisbee Golf Tournament of Champions
Derrick Robinson Paul Eliot

Since the ancient times, people have been taking other sports, putting them together and making them easier to play. Our Microterm class will capitalize upon this concept by using our time to study, learn and compete in the Frisbee Golf Tournament of Champions! Each day, we’ll meet to learn about the sport, and each day we’ll play outside, no matter the weather. Be prepared to mildly exert yourself, to work on a team, to honor all skill levels and to have competitive fun!

Utopia and Dystopia: More than Just the Hunger Games
Maddie Kollen

In this class, we will be exploring the ideas of Utopia and Dystopia. Popularized by recent movies like "The Hunger Games" and "Divergent", the idea of Utopia is becoming increasingly present in pop culture. We will watch movies and complete short readings while examining different writer's interpretations of a Utopian society.

SOrTA Survivor: The Tacoma Season: Episode 1
Lucie Kroschel Cyrus Brown

Do you like reality TV? Do you like playing outside? Are you thirsty for fitness? This is the micro-term for you! We will hike in the city, in Point Defiance, and in the local mountains. Learn to set up tents, work on your fitness, plan a wilderness trip, and build a team. This is a micro-term where you will be active every day, but will also read some, watch some film, listen to guest speakers, and problem solve.
Get Your Golf On!
Jordan Hightower Michael Hagmann

Get out, get sporty! Join Hagmann and Hightower, the new Rory McElroy and Michele Wi, as we focus on the art of ball sports. We will spend our (hopefully) sunny June week at Meadowpark Golf Course learning the history and science behind golf. How do you putt for maximum efficiency? Launch a ball down the fairway like Happy Gilmore? We will learn about the history of the game, the legends, and work with the First Tee Program to get quality instruction on your game. By the end of the week, we expect to see you at the next US Open, or at least out at the driving range this summer!

BIKEro-term
Annie McCormick Jen Koenig

Micro-term: as easy as riding a bike! Join Jen Koenig and Annie McCormick for a week of learning to ride safely in the city, perform basic bike maintenance, read maps and plan a longer bike trip. Our conversations will range from chains and drive trains to urban planning and the bicycle's place in our world. The class will use these skills to plan, lead and embark on a full-day bike tour. No experience necessary and we can provide you a bike to use for the week. Expect to be riding, outside for a small part of each day.

COURSE TITLE: “Todos Comemos... But Have You Ever Thought About Who Harvests the Food You Eat?”
Rachel Pardur Darla Roberts Diane Savage

The students will explore the current living conditions in Latin America to gain a better understanding of contemporary immigration issues. We will investigate food source and labor costs and analyze the contribution of the migrant worker and the impact his or her work has on current prices and demand. We will spend the afternoons cultivating in our own community at the Hilltop Urban Garden. The students will be practicing and enhancing their Spanish language usage through online games and programs. The students will also be viewing a variety of films on the topics being discussed. The students must be enrolled or have taken at least one year of Spanish to participate in this course.

The Art of Combat: Move With Power
Robin Jaecklein Mark Thomason Kelly Doran

"Martial Arts is not about fighting. It's about building character." - Bo Bennett.
In this class, students will study and train in the basics of martial arts, learn to hold confidence and power, and develop skills and techniques for performance. Students should dress to be moving and rolling around on the floor as we will be doing extensive physical work including self-defense training and stage combat, as well as learning techniques from local marital artists and watching on screen combat choreography.
POWERING THE FUTURE with the LeMay Car Museum
Ken Luthy Sara Siemens-Luthy

WANTED: Creative teams to design the future. “Empower yourself” in a cooperative venture with the LeMay Car Museum! Take an in-depth look at automobile power sources of the past and future. Investigate various fuel alternatives as you creatively develop potential interactive experiences for future visitors to the museum. Joining this team will require you to be an active participant in learning about future energy options. Question experts in alternative fuel sources. Share your opinions and student viewpoints on the impact and sustainability of various fuels on the economy, environment and society. Work with the museum to vet concepts and ideas for a new exhibit. Join this movement to creatively inspire thousands of museum visitors to make informed energy, vehicle, and alternative fuel choices for the future.

The Story of Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest
Melissa Moffett Elly Claus-McGahon

In this micro-term you will get an in-depth look at Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest and the effects of colonization. Students will learn about communication, arts, and the celebrations of the different local tribes. Students will also experience hands-on activities such as making dream catchers and cooking authentic dishes. The course will culminate with a research project on a Native culture topic of the students' choosing.

In Every Sense: Poetry and Peace Wherever You Are
Michele Shepard Mark Kloeppper

June. The last test taken, the Seniors moved on. Time for the rest of us to pause, breathe deeply, and move through our world without stress or deadlines. Each day we will read and write poetry, meditate, and enjoy a lot of time outdoors. In the forest, at the beach, in Tacoma parks, downtown streets, and Seattle's Olympic Sculpture Park, we'll watch, listen, smell, touch, sensing as much as we can, then sharing our poems about it all.

Sculpture in Field and Forest
Terri Placentia Marisa Billington Abbie Brown

Inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy, students with a heart for art and a love of nature will have the opportunity to create large scale sculptural installations for Swan Creek Park. Several local professional artists have been selected to create and install artwork, and SOTA students in this miniterm have been asked to conceive of, create and construct sculptural work(s) of their own design. The course will include drawing and mapping, site observation, selection and preparation, prototype and model exploration, as well as onsite construction working in teams with the natural materials and debris located onsite. Be prepared to produce and get dirty as this opportunity will take place rain or shine!
Cookbooks: The Art and Math Behind Cooking (And Walking to Burn it Off)
Lauren Stout Michele Soderstrom

In small groups, the students will explore cuisine of different geographic regions. This will include researching a healthy meal from appetizer to dessert. Students will choose recipes from a predetermined list and alter them to accommodate different group sizes and different measuring systems. To complement their recipe, students will create artwork. The class will also include cooking related videos and daily walks including a trip to the local farmers’ market. The week will culminate with a potluck to reflect on our experiences and share a meal. Students will leave with a cookbook containing all of the groups’ recipes.

2016 Summer Xplore Program: Training to Teach
Debbie Shapiro Matt Sherls

This Microterm is for students who have been accepted as hired staff and volunteer staff in the 2016 Summer Xplore Program. This is a mandatory class for all staff, including graduating seniors serving as our summer hired staff members! In this Microterm, we will spend the week preparing for our six weeks with elementary school students from all over Tacoma. This includes lesson planning, visiting elementary schools and Boys and Girls clubs, preparing for site-specific logistics and supplies, and, most importantly, learning how to teach as a team to students with diverse backgrounds. Be prepared to participate in exercise and other physical activities, as we are in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club! We look forward to helping you grow as educators, leaders, and role models!

This Just In! A 96-hour Film Festival
Aaron Shamp Kainoa Higgins

Whether you are a dedicated to film, creative writing, or student voice we’ve got an adventurous micro-term that will get you out of the classroom and collaborating with your peers through media journalism.

There are stories all around us, begging to be told: the top 4 ½ SOTA events of the year, graduation coverage and grilling seniors on their next move, a highlight of the micro-term listed directly above this one... and, of course, the Legend of Dave Savage. These are just a few of the SOTA stories worth sharing and we are hoping YOU want to share them.

In four days (96 hours), your team will film, edit, and produce a journalistic short made BY students, FOR students that gets at the heart of what makes SOTA great and why we all CHOOSE to be here.
Teach Us Something
Brian Scannell David Savage

We want to learn from you! In this course, you are in charge. You will have the opportunity to teach the class, as well as Brian and D. Sav, about an interest or hobby you have or something you’re passionate about. You’ve heard Higgins teach about plankton, Cyrus on mindsets, and Paul Eliot on his cat Luther. Now, it’s your turn to create an interactive lesson for a class of your peers on that one thing you know about that everyone else should too. For instance, you can teach us how to fold an origami armadillo, take us on a ghost tour of Tacoma, talk us through a critical analysis of an episode of your favorite anime show, start a debate on which Star Wars character is the most toxic to the franchise, or perhaps explain the cultural significance of NWA. Do you want to check for understanding by giving a test? Prepare one and give it to Dave and Brian and see how we do.