

Ottawa Mission
35 Waller Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 7G4

December 7, 2012

Dear Potential Applicant,

Thank you kindly for your interest in Discovery University (DU). The Ottawa Mission and its partner agencies are very excited to present two free university-level courses in English for the Winter 2013 Term. For your information, we will be offering another course in French in September 2013. The courses for Winter 2013 are:

1. Classics and Philosophy (*The Self and the Sacred*); and
2. *Music and Popular Culture (Part 2)*.

Applicants may apply for one course only.

Please note that, in order to attend Discovery University, applicants must be experiencing homelessness or living on a low income, be over 18 years of age, have a willingness to learn and have stable mental health and addictions under control.

The Ottawa Mission is currently accepting applications to both of the abovementioned courses. Attached, please find three documents (application form, student guidelines and questionnaire) which must be filled out completely and returned by email, mail or fax to the Ottawa Mission by **Monday January 7th**. **On the application form, please indicate the course to which you are applying.**

If you require any other information, please do not hesitate to contact the Ottawa Mission.

Best wishes,

Jill Zmud
Program Coordinator, Discovery University
Ottawa Mission
Tel: 613-234-1144 Ext. 296
Fax: 613-234-7588
jzmud@ottawamission.com

Classics

The Roman Empire was a world remarkably similar to our own. Dominated by an imperial power with unprecedented military strength, it was ethnically diverse and culturally complex. Multiple philosophical and religious perspectives were in competition for the attention and allegiance of people who had previously unimaginable potential for mobility and communications. Sound familiar?

Individuals within this ancient Mediterranean civilization were struggling to define themselves and their place in a world where events seemed largely out of their control. In this context, two authors stand out in their unique attempts to make sense of this world—Apuleius of Madaurus (d. 180 CE) and Augustine of Hippo (d. 430 CE). Both men—one pagan, one Christian—were Latin-speaking North Africans who, even though they wrote nearly three hundred years apart, were both deeply interested in the religious and philosophical questions of their day. Each have left us fascinating accounts of how they tried to find their place in the world, give meaning to their lives, and define their sense of “self”. At the same time, their lives mark an important transitional period of profound political, social, and spiritual upheaval within the Roman world.

This course will examine the journeys of these two ancient authors by means of a close and comparative reading of their two major works. The *Metamorphosis* (or *Golden Ass*) of Apuleius, one of the first “novels” of Western literature, tells the story of Lucius, an amateur magician who is accidentally turned into a donkey and after a series of misadventures eventually achieves spiritual enlightenment. The *Confessions* of Augustine, the first true autobiography, recounts his journey from degenerate student to church leader through a series of poignant meditations on his past. Students will be asked to engage with these works critically, to learn to situate them within their historical context, and to reflect on the ways in which the narratives can inform our own quests for meaning and identity in a similarly dynamic contemporary context.

About the Instructor:

Tim Pettipiece is a sessional lecturer in Classics and Religion at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University. He received his doctorate in Religious Studies from Université Laval in 2006, where he studied numeric patterning in Coptic Manichaean literature. He continues to study the religious and philosophical culture of the ancient world and is passionate about connecting what happened then to what is happening in our modern world today. Outside of the ancient world, Tim is active in the local art and music scene.

Course Times:

The course will be held each Friday at the University of Ottawa from 9:30-11:30am from February 1st until April 12th. Please note that there will be no class on Friday March 29th. Weekly tutorial sessions will take place each Wednesday at a downtown location from 7:00-8:30pm beginning on February 10th. A light supper will be offered at 6:30pm before the tutorial sessions. Graduation will be held on Friday April 12th.

Music and Popular Culture (Part 2)

This course examines the history and development of North American popular music following the advent of rock and roll in the 1950s. Genres and styles to be considered include surf rock, the British Invasion, the folk music revival, soul, funk, punk, stadium rock, heavy metal, grunge, and hip hop. The course will emphasize both the changing nature of the music, and the changing social, historical, and cultural circumstances in which various styles were created and appreciated. In addition to considering the work and influence of key musical performers, we will examine the broader social and cultural contexts that inform—and are informed by—popular music trends, examining issues of class, gender, sexuality, and race as they relate to the history of popular music and culture in North America.

About the Instructor:

Jesse Stewart is an award-winning composer, improviser, percussionist, visual artist, instrument builder, educator, and writer dedicated to reimagining the spaces between artistic disciplines. In 2012, he received the “Instrumental Album of the Year” Juno award for his work with Stretch Orchestra, a trio with Kevin Breit, and Matt Brubeck. Stewart’s music has been featured at festivals throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. His writings on music and art have appeared in numerous academic publications including *Black Music Research Journal*, *American Music*, and *Contemporary Music Review*. He is a professor in the School for Studies in Art and Culture at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada.

Course Times:

The course will be held each Friday at the University of Ottawa from 1:30-3:30pm from February 1st until April 12th. Please note that there will be no class on Friday March 29th. Weekly tutorial sessions will take place each Wednesday at a downtown location from 7:00-8:30pm beginning on February 10th. A light supper will be offered at 6:30pm before the tutorial sessions. Graduation will be held on Friday April 12th.