

Class explores 'The Meaning of Life' ... Python style

By Sarah Bowers
Staff Writer

This is no ordinary class, and it is not for the faint of heart. It's the BCE 111 "Perspectives" class—and what a perspective it provides: The World According to Monty Python!

The class was created by Dr. Scott Sheffield, who was asked two years ago to teach a BCE 111 class. "I was thinking about what I wanted to do that would be fun," he said, "and I like Monty Python and Monty Python humor. So I decided just to take a shot, and to try to create a course."

And thus the class was created.

This is the second year the class has been taught, and judging by how well it is received by its students, it will probably be a class for years to come. "This is only the second year I have done it. It just sort of came from my imagination. It's a strange course!" Dr. Sheffield says with a laugh.

For those who do not know, Monty Python is a British comedy group that formed in the 1960s. Monty Python humor is described as "serious business," and always on the "edge of absurdity." Inspired by their shocking, and sometimes disturbing humor, a word was created and put in the dictionary: "Pythonesque" -adjective, of humor, bizarre, and surreal, as in the BBC Television comedy series, Monty Python's Flying Circus."

Also, it is rumored that the word



Columbia/The Kobal Collection

The Monty Python gang: Eric Idle, left, Graham Chapman, Michael Palin, John Cleese, Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam in 1971.

"spam"—when used to describe those unwanted advertisements or mail sitting in your E-mail inbox, as opposed to the curious canned lunch meat—was taken from the Monty Python skit "Spam-A-Lot."

The World According to Monty Python encourages fun, creativity, and silliness which can be accidentally squelched in other, more formal classes.

"It's not as much lecture," Sheffield says. "It's more interacting with the students and helping them figure out how to be funny. And I enjoy that."

Behavior such as yodeling, dancing, telling jokes, and bursting into song are not frowned upon, but encouraged ... unless done in bad taste!

It's definitely a class where students have

to overcome their shyness very quickly. "This class is just off-the-cuff, spontaneous, and unpredictable. It's just a fun course, okay?" says Dr. Sheffield with a smile.

Expect to hear a lot about this class in the future.

PEACH SALSA

from Chef Boy-ar-Dave

Average Cost of Meal: \$5- \$7

Time of Preparation:

10 minutes

Serving Size: 5 or more people

Ingredients:

3 ripe peaches
½ of a small red onion
1 package of mint leaves
1-2 tsp. of sugar
¼ cup of olive oil

Instructions:

Cube up the peaches as small as you want. Cut the red onion in half and chop up the onion into small slivers. Remove the mint leaves from the stems and roughly chop them. Mix the peaches, onion, and mint together. Add 1 tsp. of sugar and slowly add the olive oil. Toss the salsa and taste. Add more olive oil or sugar if needed.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BC

Club and Organization Fair: Today, 3-6 p.m., in the Residential Quad. Meet and greet BC's clubs and orgs—there are more than 25 of them! This is a great way to get involved whether you are a new student or a returner.

Multifaith Council Retreat: Today, 5-10 p.m., Spiritual Life Center. For more information, please contact Dean of Students, Chris Holland.

CAB Underground Trivia: Tonight, 9 p.m. Test your knowledge, and win bragging rights (and maybe more!)

BC Athletics: Men's Soccer vs. Mt. Olive: Sunday, 2 p.m., soccer field.

CAB Presents Deal or No Deal: Saturday, 9 p.m. in The Underground. Test your luck and win big!

BC Athletics: Women's Soccer vs. Belmont Abbey: Sunday, 4 p.m., soccer field.

EMERGE Info Meeting: Sunday, 5 p.m., Reserve Dining Room. Everyone is welcome!

CAB Presents Movie Night! "Iron Man 2": Sunday, 9 p.m. on the lawn in front of the AEC. Bring a blanket!

Beyond the Wall Poster Sale: Tuesday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Reserve Dining Room

CAB NFL "Kick-off Party": Thursday, 8 p.m., The Underground