

Educational Videos in the Sciences

What Works and What Doesn't

Honors Course: Summer 2003



HON 3000/01 (CRN 10131) · The Honors Colloquium
Wednesdays · LB 426
Eight -Week Session (May 28 - July 22)
5:00 p.m. - 6:40 p.m. (1 credit hour)
Dr. Marina Koether, Department of Chemistry

Some films put us to sleep and others confound us with fast-paced, frenetic action. What does it take for an educational video to inspire us to pursue an area of knowledge further? What are the educational merits of a video used for teaching?

This course will develop criteria for educational videos and apply these measures of assessment to videos from an array of sources. One of our sources will be "Films for the Humanities and Sciences," and among the videos it offers we will consider the following:

The Chemistry of a Forest
Hole in the Sky: The Ozone Layer
Hormone Imposters
Mines and Minerals
Nuclear Technology

In addition, we will analyze *CFCs and the Ozone Layer -- Disrupting a Delicate Balance*, which is produced by the American Chemical Society Conversations with Nobel Laureates in Chemistry. Homework will include watching and responding to commercial films such as *October Sky*, *Civil Action*, and *Erin Brockovich*.

A discussion of the videos' merits and downfalls will follow each viewing, and each student will prepare a 300-word critique on each film based on the criteria for educational videos the class develops by consensus.

Please call the Honors Office at
(770) 423-6116 for permission to register.