

Guidance for Students I



Nautical Archaeology Program



TEXAS A&M
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1

The first advice we give our students is that it is paramount that they know **the field:**

How are things working worldwide? What is the future looking like?

How is nautical archaeology evolving?

Which are the best journals?

Which are the most relevant international meetings?

The most active international organizations?

The trends? There are more non-western archaeologists every year!

What are the fashionable narratives?

The role of the media?

The perceived social value of archaeology?



2 The second is about the **job market**:

What skills are in demand, and are likely to be in five years:

What is the job market looking for right now?

What will the job market look like in five years?

The academic world

Contract archaeology

Museums

State research centers

State offices



3 The third is about **knowledge**. Theoretical, practical, intellectual ambition, a taste for literature, the arts, cinema, music, politics, food...

Common sense: an idea of what is a life worth living.

Socrates

You cannot be neutral on a moving train.

Howard Zinn

Do you read? Are you curious?

Are you interested in the world?

4 The forth is about **practical** skills: know your software!

ArcGIS, AutoCAD, Rhinoceros, AutoDesk Maya, Houdini,
Computer vision software...

Diving

Mapping

Operating remote sensing equipment

5

The fifth is **citizenship**: activism.

If you don't stand for anything, don't have any intellectual ambitions, don't understand why social justice is important, why knowledge is more important than money, if you don't care about diversity, the environment, and the future of the planet... go study finance! There is a place for you in Wall Street.

6. Students must be the directors of their lives, not mere actors.



Guidance for Students II



Notes from John
McDermott's
*Philosophical
Pedagogy* classes

Nautical Archaeology Program



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Professional Ethos

Classes have a texture.

Be a good listener.

Urban, Patient, Tolerant, Collegial.

Grades don't matter.

Conduct

Never emulate anybody. An intellectual life is not a job. It is a vocation. Authenticity is your only option.

Don't be a burden. Better be an understatement.

Never pander. Never sell out. Study and search out yourself.

Peer Help

Seek the faculty that have a conciliatory remark.

Look for people that know where you are and can tell you.

How to read a Syllabus

A syllabus is a grid: inside should be life.

It should be an invitation to a dinner with friends, and classes should be like dinner parties.

Teaching is about healing, growing, helping. If your life goes bad, let the teachers know and expect them to help you.

A syllabus must be friendly: attendance is not required but it is necessary.

Syllabi have been politicized – university administrators don't trust faculty and don't like students.

Professional codes are repressive.

Training is often about telling us not to do horrible things: their premise is that without training we would do despicable things!

Rules prevent tragedies but enforce mediocrity.

Ambition

Students must choose instead of accept knowledge. They are not empty vessels where teachers pour knowledge.

Ideology is not inquiry.

Today's world doesn't value memory. Nobody wants to study medieval philosophy. We live in a society with single lines. There are no texts. Who would read *The Magic Mountain* today?

There is too much to learn: teachers can show how much students should learn and how, but they cannot demand too much. Burdened students don't learn.

Students must be intellectually ambitious!!

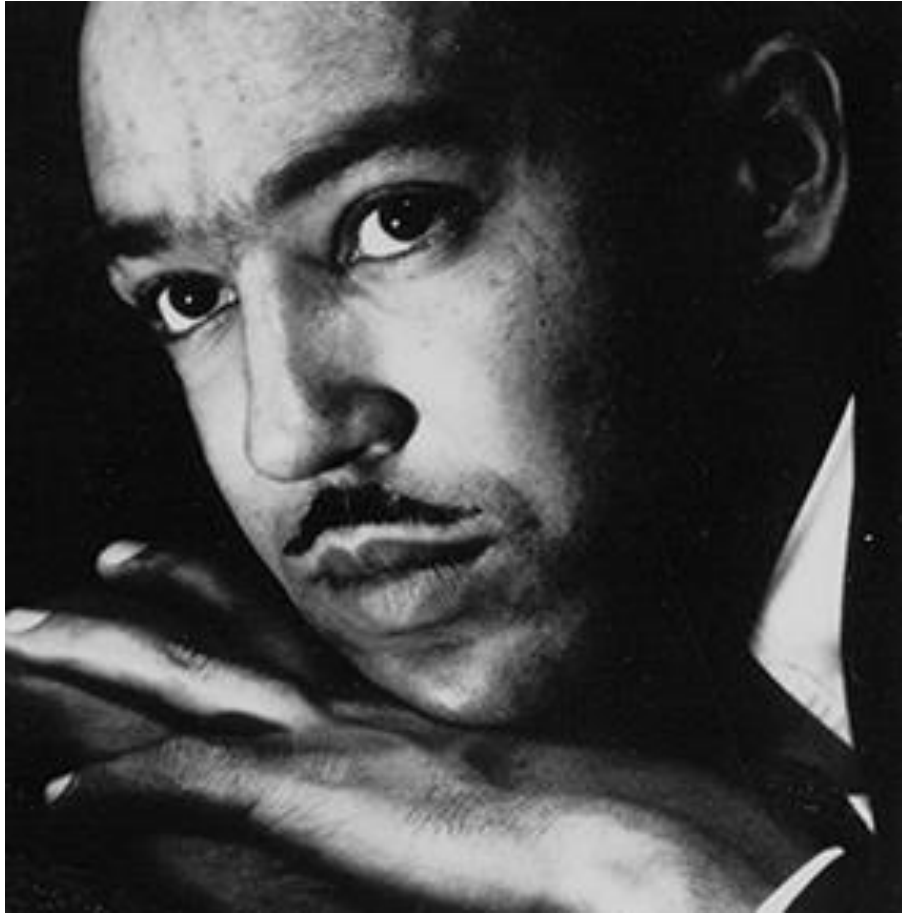
Competitiveness

Hierarchy is the opposite of community.

Avoid competition: a learning community is the opposite of a competitive environment.

Teams are more powerful than individuals.

Alone you will all loose (look around).



Harlem

BY LANGSTON HUGHES

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up

like a raisin in the sun?

Or fester like a sore—

And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?

Or crust and sugar over—

like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags

like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

Thank you