

Ask The Professor transcript
Episode # 2101

The University of Detroit Mercy presents another brand new episode of Ask The professor. Today's program was recorded using zoom video conferencing technology. The University tower times ring in another session of Ask The professor, the show on which you match wits with University of Detroit Mercy professors in an unrehearsed session of questions and answers. I'm your host Matt Mio, and let me introduce to you our panel for today. To my left, but possibly nobody else's, it's Professor Dan Maggio.

Oh. Hi Matt. Hi everybody.

Hey Dan.

I'm never first.

That's not true, as of right now.

I am first today. So how's everybody's --
You're first in our hearts, Dan.

Thank you. Oh, no one, no questions

I'm about to go off video. I have to cry. I'm sorry, how is the first two weeks of class.

You're not allowed to ask that question.

Also, from the Department of Philosophy, it's Professor Beth Oljar.

My first two weeks were not too bad I mean, given that I've never done this before and the obvious disadvantages with teaching online, but it's a lot less physically taxing this semester, than in previous semesters so you know what - I'm really liking having this option of teaching online. I think it's great.

I'm sorry to jump over it all Dan, but Beth filled in all the gaps, it's just, um, sooner or later like someone said something to me today about things are going pretty well. And I was like, get back to me in week 10,

Well I'm sure I'll this will all change. You know, probably next week, but - probably yeah countdown from the holiday weekend right? two weeks. Two weeks.

Um, Professor, Heather Hill is here from English. Hello.

Hello. You know when you came on, I was looking at what you were wearing and I'm like, Oh my gosh, is that, like we have a cool thing going on in the weather here. It's like "is that a sweater is it fall already. Is it okay to go outside -

No, it's just, it's a scarf.

That works. Okay,

Hold on, No flossing, no flossing.

It was just getting a little chilly here, which I'm not complaining about at all. It's lovely today. It's absolutely gorgeous.

When you spend so much time sitting still.. Of course, if I get up and moved around more, that wouldn't be a problem. But there's like so many amazing ideas just working their way through my head.

There's another answer to Dan's question about how the first two weeks are going, see.

Everybody's got their own version of it.

Well, I don't have to worry about teaching on line.

She's on leave, writing a book.

And I want to wish Professor Manning a happy, happy birthday.

That's right. Happy birthday, Stephen.

Thank you.

Why don't we go to you next. How's it going, Stephen,

My first two weeks of the semester we're fantastic. I love this new thing, I love it.

I think it's terrific. I'm never going back to the old way. I'm down with it. It's great.

You've earned it. You've earned it. Indeed, another person in that category who has definitely earned it is the professor Jim Tubbs.

Howdy. Except I'm still teaching this term. And the first two weeks have been a little odd. I mean, I like my students but I don't see them. I'm looking at a screen full of little boxes with names at the bottom, that's and that's bizarre. I mean it, it is bizarre, there is there's none of the mechanics, you know, teaching is a performance art, and there's just no - there's no give and take, really with that. You have to beg them to say anything, which means turning on their microphones, so they can say something without still you seeing them.

They can use the chat function.

It's just well yeah -

I get a lot more participation that way.

I do, too. I do, too. But it's -- Oh, it's just weird.

I don't have to learn their names; which I have such a difficult time doing, that I've made them do assign seats for years and I just apologize for being so crappy with names. And the stress of not having -- the lack of stress from not having to do that is awesome. I love it.

No, I totally understand that.

And then I feel bad confessing that, but still.

We all have different things we will confess to. Imagine what will be confessing to after week 10, Beth. I mean seriously, it's only been two weeks,

Well, this is a family show, so we'll see.

Matt, when you sit a certain way, and of course people can't understand this, because, you know, we're being recorded; You look like you have the. version of the crown of thorns above your head which is the ceiling.

It's your fan.

People who are listening, it's the ceiling fan

Turn it on Matt, so it moves.

That way, to be like a beanie with a propeller, it would be awesome. Yes.

Is he trying to look like a saint, or

These are my antlers.

No, he's just paying an homage to all the freshmen who used to have to wear beanies until

Thanksgiving, on the first, uh --

Good reference Professor Boats, good reference.

I think the first rule of the first two weeks of teaching is you don't talk about the first two weeks of teaching. I actually love online teaching, it's -- I mean I kind of miss the confused faces and the perplexed looks but, you know, I can get used to this.

It's hard not being able to read the room right Jeffe, because then, you know you, if they're looking confused, you're like, "Oh, I need to do another problem or I need to explain this concept differently" or or something right and you don't have that feedback.

Yeah.

What I do find is there's usually a student or two, who doesn't have the online savvy to shut off their mic when they're not talking, or you can hear all their comments and stuff like that. So they sort of end up being the room captain, and no one seems to mind. You know, and so and I get I see, I think the students asked me a lot more questions now. I don't think I've had a class yet that didn't go completely over time, because they're asking so many more questions. Maybe they're less embarrassed to ask because I can't see them.

I think there's something to that. Yeah.

Yeah, that's a positive thing. Professor Mara Livezey is here from chemistry and biochemistry.

Am I really here though?

Um,

A philosophical question,

Where is here.

I was thinking killer robot from the future but whatever, you know we can get into the philosophy of it later. Yeah, so how about Dan's question about the first two weeks, Mara?

They've gone, uh, about the same or maybe better than I thought they would, for me at least. You know, my students generally are telling me that I'm doing an okay job, so I think that's all I can ask for right now,

Meaning you're still alive and they're still alive. Right,

Absolutely.

That's half of it.

It's the, the window, of course that we're all speaking about is before the first major exam or paper in any of our courses. So it really is, in many ways, many many ways. Someone who doesn't need to worry about the honeymoon anymore, it's Professor Dave Chow.

Pleasure to be here, as always.

I, every time I kind of want to say Dave like "department of retired", but that doesn't really apply - you're still sending stuff out.

Yeah, I'm still honestly I'm probably busier than I ever have been.

Wow.

So, no complaints but it's tough because right now I'm sending out a bunch of bids, bunch of estimates, but nothing's coming in yet. okay people with all these scripts. Let's go. I'm gonna draw. So, yeah, it's a living.

Okay,

Can't complain.

Well folks, this is a program you could send us questions regarding anything, if you stump the family you can win a prize. You can send us the questions and number of ways, email us at atp@udmercy.edu. Find us on Facebook or Instagram, listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking you to play ask the professor at the University of Detroit mercy, where upon Of course you relinquish all of your personal liberties by having a smart speaker. We're happy to be a part of that process with you, alongside of you. We've got some questions here from students. And so

we'll just jump right in. Dear professors My name is Lucas Bentley I've attached 20 trivia questions for you all to try and answer -

I've got him in Intro this term I think

Hey, there you go. "They should provide some challenge for you while Professor Roche, it says here encouraged me to send you some questions and I hope that you will enjoy them." Oh by the way, end of the question set, "Have a good weekend."

Nice. Nice touch.

Okay. How many hearts does an octopus have? it's not one.

Is a three?

It's three yeah Dan.

I've eaten octopus before

I've heard that somewhere.

usually Dan You're the "Matt, I'm an octopus heart surgeon, like where have you been"

Speaking of hearts and animals, I think I see the Wikipedia random button being mashed here.

Which animal on planet Earth has the largest heart at over 1500 pounds?

Blue whale.

Right. Yeah. It's a good, it's a it's a classic trivia question classic. Much like this one, um, who was the second person who walked on the moon. The second person?

Buzz Aldrin.

. Yeah, it was Buzz Aldrin.

Marty The Martian?

Buzz Aldrin, I nearly said Buzz Lightyear. Oh my Gosh,

oh no, what's the other one. There was a

Definitely Buzz Lightyear.

Alice Kramden.

No, she was already there. to the moon.

Um, hematology is the study of what?

Blood.

Yes, from the Latin. Absolutely. I'm starting to sense a little bit of a trend here. Does anybody know the name of the doctor who performed the first human heart transplant

Christian Barnard

Incredible, you guys are –

I have been in his surgical suite which is still preserved there at a ____ Hospital in Ohio right.

It's preserved in formaldehyde, right?

When he was learning his craft, he was doing heart transplants on various animals, mostly baboons and chimpanzees, but he had to invent what we would now call a heart, lung machine.

He used a cow milking machine to, to keep the blood circulating from the animal he was working on. He was quite the Playboy too

Well, if you can transplant a heart, I mean don't the ladies go for that?

He was given an honorary membership to the Playboy Club in London. I saw the framed certificate outside of his office.

Honorary?

Okay, let's um, let's go back to second gear with, "who was the first woman who won any Nobel Prize in 1903.

Marie Curie.

Yes. Do you remember what the prize was for?

Physics, physics, wasn't it.

Yes, and I can't let this one go by without bringing up my favorite internet based joke of the last week where some student is reporting "We had a family tree project to kick off class and I found out that I'm related to Mary Curie. And the students sitting next to me said "it's pronounced Mariah Carey".

There's a movie out about her now.

Marie Curie

yeah it's called glitter I've seen that one

No, it's called radioactive

Professors, which, and be careful about this there's your big hint, which is the hottest planet? On the surface,

Venus.

It says it's Venus, you think it would be mercury but it's Venus, because it's got the clouds, and they keep the heat --

Mercury has no atmosphere. It also doesn't rotate at all so one side of it's actually pretty cool.

Really and figuratively.

Yes, 462 degrees Celsius. That is one hot planet. Okay. How many bones we get this one every once in a while it's a great one, are in the human body and birth versus how many bones are there if you become a full fledged adults.

Is 208 the latter.

It's 206 is definitely cool Wait, you know, that's when you're an adult, but how many are you born with?

None.

400.

Something like 400, that sounds right. Yeah.

And then fuse together?

No, I didn't ever do that.

300.

Yeah, it's 300. Yeah, 300 bones and they start fusing together one by one

I thought it was a trick question. Obviously Yes.

Very funny.

From the gelatinous blobs that we were, right, Dan.

Right.

I still can't get over "We have no bones at birth.

sponges at birth,

I'm an amoeba,

Then our whole body would look like Harry Potter's arm in.

Yes,

Secrets. After Gilderoy Lockhart. Yeah.

Yeah, I've felt like that after pitching a few innings.

Professors, approximately. When was the idea of the atom, first introduced approximately? in ancient Greece by

Greece yeah into Greek philosophers talked about the atoms in everything.

Yeah, I would give you at least three quarters credit, but it says approximately that would have been 450 before the Common Era but that's that fits that fits.

A while ago.

Yeah. A while ago.

Before I was born even.

Would that be more like in the alchemical sense though I mean just this concept of indivisibility and inseparability and quintessence of the soul?

It is kind of interesting to think that in the year 2020 we still use the same word for the same concept. Okay, which planet in the solar system, after all is said and done, we have the telescopes we need now. When I was in fourth grade, we actually didn't know how many moons Saturn and Jupiter had because certain ones were hiding behind other ones and we just didn't have the technology yet by 2020, we know this planet actually has the most number of moons, between the two which is?

I'm more fascinated by the cat fight.

Same here. I'm watching Mara's cats

Saturn,

between which two planets?

It's Jupiter and Saturn.

Jupiter.

Jupiter has more or has more moons, but do you know how many moons, it has?

112.

11

You know what, it's only 67 .

Magic Number.

How can I let This question go by without bringing up my favorite NASA headline of all time – Moons can have moons, and they're called moon moons.

Is that a made up term?

I thought it would be like auxiliary moons, or something like that.

That is the title of an actual scientific paper that NASA published.

You know a scientist named that. Scientists are the least creative with naming.

Oh, last one from Lucas here this was a good set of questions. What kind of energy. Do scientists say an unlit match possesses potential potential is a little general, it's more of a physics answer.

Excuse me.

It's chemical energy, scalable. Thank you, Lucas for those questions. Those were those.

Thankfully, because

you're listening to a special edition of Ask The professor, in which each of the nine professors participating in this recording session, were connecting to each other from different locations, thanks to zoom video conferencing technology. We're grateful to those listeners who submitted questions for today's show, and we welcome your questions at ATP at UT mercy.edu. Now, let's return to our host Matt Mio, with more questions for the panel. So my middle son, Lorenzo is obsessed with tossing video game based questions on your way. This one is a audio question, if you're ready. It's only one so he didn't supply us with the whole set, but he wanted to know how many professors could identify the sound that I'm about to play for you Are you ready.

Okay. Okay.

Set a power on power up sound from a device. One more time.

Any ideas. No, not at all, is done.

That is the free man or the one up sound from the Mario games, fairly. Give him a mug and coffee.

You'll probably want something signed, I think,

yeah, yeah, yeah, tuition payment. So, um, we have some questions here from Detroit mercy student Jaden Alojapan.

Oh, I'm teaching him this semester.

Yeah, that makes sense because he was in my organic class last year.

He's about to teach you something, I'm sure.

I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude for your work and making sure students can get a well rounded education.

Okay. And by hours you've committed to students in a position to succeed is by far one of the greatest contributions you've made to our future. Hope you're getting to spend time with family and friends on your vacation. I hope some of your trivia questions, not bother you while you were commuting interesting

down the hallway. Okay Mara this sounds like an extra credit request to me.

He's a good guy, he's a good guy, there's a buttering up going on here. Absolutely. No matter how you choose to spend your holiday remember, I'll see you soon. And that actually sounds kind of ominous if you just put it that way but we'll go part of your body is actually more active, while you're sleeping versus when you're awake, your eyes. I lay. It's not what it says here in some cases the brain actually

is the brain yeah so certain parts of the brain Oh yeah,

yeah. I don't know if this is a fact but I remember reading was sometime or somebody told me one time that you actually burn more calories in your sleep, and when you're watching television, because in your sleep occasionally your mind is active.

It's better than your bladder so I mean

An endocrinologist told me one time he had that your testosterone levels are higher when you're asleep than when you're awake.

That is true. That is true.

That. Okay, that's

peculiar to me but. All right.

Jaden says, people have now come to terms with the fact that humans share 99 over 99% of their base DNA with chimpanzees, what interesting organism do humans share over 70% of their DNA code with octopus. No, this would be a term you would call somebody in a denigrating sense, because they were sort of lazy and said get up the floor you a slog through remember that bones remember that we're getting closer.

I think we're about 98%

with mice. That's right. Yeah, absolutely.

Absolutely. So much for biological diversity.

Well that 2% take us a long way,

I guess so.

We're doing the best we can.

I think we get this one every once in a while too but it's a great one, which state as the most lighthouses in the United States. Basically, never gets old, that's the great state of Michigan with over 100 standing lighthouses Yes.

We still got the most registered boats too.

That's right,

even more than Minnesota.

Traditionally speaking a physician will tell you that there's an organ you're born with that does not grow, hardly at all the entire lifespan of a human being, what is it, I know it's not the prostate. Your eyes, your eyes yeah your eyes.

Yeah, it's kind of weird, but I was gonna say brain but I figured that only applies to some people.

Try this one on for size here. What famous plant seem during the end of the Year holidays translates from Anglo Saxon as little dung twig mistletoe, meaning it sprung from dung and I guess it's kind of interesting.
festive.

Quite festive. Speaking of end of Year holidays. In what year did the President and Congress declare that Christmas would be an official holiday in the United States.

Here. 1810.

It's, it's quite a bit later than that now that I think about it.

When did we start having official holidays probably around then.

One year or something.

And I can tell you it was late 1800s but that's almost giving it away.

Really, because Thanksgiving started earlier than that as a as an official i don't know i thought it was FDR who said it was the third Thanksgiving was always going to be the third Thursday of November, maybe I'm wrong about that.

No you're you're thinking the Dallas Cowboys

Lincoln. The date of it and

then it's like, you know, it's 1870 but you know the way I roll Professor Hill, I'll give it to 1870 grant or John's official.

That must have been grant yeah

uh one last question from Jaden Alojapan. How many acres of land is Wayne County Detroit Metropolitan airport encompass.

Wow. Well the first square mile at 640. So how many square miles, would you say it is. Oh, it's quite a bit so

3000 sounds about right. 3000 6000, it's lower than 65,000 4000.

You know what it's 4800 54,000 5000 Yeah. Wow. Yeah. So let's take a quick gander at the next thing on our list thanks to the Bureau's Emily on ETP favorites. Ah, this is kind of cool. crafts

What's your favorite fictional place that you would like to visit. Oh boy.

Easy peasy, Hogwarts me too sure no

testify sister, at

the end of the universe.

Very nice. Yes, Millie ways. Love it.

Do you want doctor whose telephone booth den or whatever.

Only if it can take me anywhere I want any time I want to go. I would go with Hogwarts, I think, I think.

Yeah, I think I'm in the Chartists booth myself Targa,

because then you can just go anywhere else you want to go.

Exactly. And it's kind of cheating right if you say that that's the, no cuz that's what it does. That's what he does.

That's like wishing for more wishes

to have aware, then it's not what it does.

But in squares are infinite.

Yeah, this is like wishing for more wishes it's cheating.

I was tempted to answer arachis because it's the site of my favorite book of all time. But then I thought it I wouldn't want to be someone living I would not want to go to Iraq.

I don't think it's a very pleasant place and it makes for a good movie though.

For most of our

fiction and I can leave 1000 places that do not want to go to Dune.

But Jeff aren't they supposed to be coming out with a new Dune. There's

something about that. Production haven't slowed down. I haven't seen it yet but there's this

jodorowsky steun, I guess it's a documentary about jodorowsky tried to, he wanted to make a

version of Dune and it was absolutely nuts but somehow never got made. I got to see this but I

can't find it anywhere I missed it when it was running at Main art and I can't find it anywhere.

We have everybody have a chance to chime in on their fictional place they'd like Heather

and Steven gave having i don't

know i was the target so you know Jim over a little bit that's also a room. I'm just

thinking of Naples because I've been reading about the new Ferrante novel. Okay, that's not

that's not fictional yeah it is

in there and it wasn't.

It's, it's, it's fiction, the novels are fiction, of the version of Naples. In the novel

Naples. In the novel. I would like to

urge the United States is not. Ah.

Yeah, well, Hogwarts Honestly, I was thinking maybe Narnia. That's

a good one very good one. I'm afraid the time has come for us to save by Jeff, Dave, Stephen.

Have a good weekend, Mara.

See ya.

Jim

Arive merci

Heather, bye bye

Beth

Dan

Bye everybody. And now these words - you can email ask the professor at ATP at UD mercy.edu or visit the Ask the professor Facebook page. Ask the professor is transcribed in the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and education at the University of Detroit Mercy's McNichols campus. We're produced and directed by Michael Jayson and Brian Maisonville, and our executive producer is Professor Jason Roche. Till next time, I'm your host Matt Mio.