

ATP 2122 - transcript

Announcer

0:02

The University of Detroit Mercy presents another brand new episode of Ask The professor. Today's program was recorded using zoom video conferencing technology.

Speaker 1

0:20

The university tower chimes ringing another session of Ask The professor the show in which you match wits with the 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. Coming to you live from the reddest Japanese maple in the neighborhood. It's Professor Heather Hill.

Hello, one and all.

your your glasses make this like perfect contrast with the tree in the background. It's like it's wonderful.

Speaker 2

0:50

Well, as I was saying earlier, I tend to keep a pair of reading glasses all around the house different repairs. So

Speaker 1

0:56

we know you wear those to protect your civilian identity like Clark Kent. Okay.

Speaker 2

1:03

Well, based upon some of the things I've been saying in front of the TV lately,



1:09

don't tell us.

Speaker 1

1:12

Well, it looks to me like you and we'll get tomorrow here in just a moment. But you're enjoying this for the next few days. Just absolutely gorgeous, beautiful, beautiful. From the inside of her home library. It's Professor Beth Oljar,

Beth Oljar

1:27

my home office. Yes, indeed. Speaking of which, if I don't get a new pair of glasses, I no longer will be able to read the stephanus numbers for Plato. And that really is kind of hard when you want to cite a passage in Plato, because that's the way you do it. So my glasses are so bad now that if I don't get another if I don't get a new pair, I'm never going to be able to cite Plato again.

Speaker 1

1:54

My suggestion is that you just sit tight for like another 1214 months in our new school of optometry will take care of stem to stern.

Beth Oljar

2:03

We're gonna have a school of optometry. Oh, yeah.

2:06

The Nova camp right.

Beth Oljar

2:07

I figured it was for other health professions or nursing or whatever, because

Speaker 1

2:11

optometry and graduate nursing. That's right. I've decided to call the no by campus campus north, because my glasses

Beth Oljar

2:19

are really expensive because my prescription is really it's several 100 even when I get cheap frames, which I always do. It's at least \$300 for me to get a pair of glasses.

Speaker 1

2:31

Well, like I said, you could just wait for it to become a part of your utmp contract.

Beth Oljar

2:37

And the hell with citing Plato in the meantime.

Speaker 1

2:44

I promise if you need any Plato sided just smoosh the page up against the camera. I'll read it for you get one of those page magnifiers bath

Beth Oljar

2:53

it sits on top of the page it makes it big. Oh, usually I just take my glasses off and hold the page the inch from my face.

Speaker 1

3:02

am the German Shepherd read it for you? Oh my god. We are also joined today by Professor Mara Livezey, also in the outside world. Yeah.

Speaker 2

3:14

Absolutely am and I've never had a site Plato not once my entire life



3:19

well, but played with Plato. Some



3:22

of us live the good way.

Speaker 2

3:25

have a lot of experience and Plato just not bad Plato.



3:30

So how were How was the weather in your neighborhood?

Speaker 2

3:34

It's warm. I'm wearing a sweater dress today. And I regret that because I was dressed for my basement. Not for the outside world. Of course.

Speaker 1

3:42

Speaking of Professor hills point about glasses in every room. I feel like I at this point left sport coats in every room of my house except for the restroom. And yeah, I totally understand that completely. Professors Dave Chow is here. Pleasure to be here. As always. I don't need to ask him what the weather's like. He's literally just a few 100 feet away from me. Well, it's not too bad. I can't complain. So it could be worse. Now I want to know what's going on with that. backhoe or that construction equipment. two doors down from you. I was just gonna ask. Yeah, apparently the demolition of that duplex on the corner is gonna be imminent. Really? I think they were just waiting for the election to get settled and then they were gonna take the house. I mean, I swear we have more construction equipment in our neighborhood than you know. Unlike most major cities, it seems like no, it's true. It's very true. Unreal. Berkeley Berkeley a city on the grow. Construction city I mean, geez. Any construction happening over by you professor Dan Maggio? No, it's been pretty quiet. Okay, let's go nothing really going on. Aside from construction. I am well work as a as always as busy And looking forward to a nice weekend. I think I'm going to take advantage of my Zoo membership and go to the zoo. And just kind of get my miles and my walking miles in and see the animals that are not in out and hiding inside because every time I go there all, I don't know napping or insipid gearing the animals do. No, but this is a great place. The membership is cheap. And you get to walk around you get your miles in. It's great viewing and it's great exercise. I love it.

Beth Oljar

5:33

I have not been to the Detroit zoo.

Speaker 1

5:35

But the penguin exhibit is close, which is very disappointing. That's all it is. Yeah,



5:39

we'll go Yes, we'll go. Okay.

Speaker 1

5:42

Yes, it's often not many folks who didn't grow up around here would know that the Detroit zoo is a 365, essentially 365 days a year kind of zoo. My buddies and I used to go on random days off from high school during the winter, and then attempt to find each other because if there was snow on the ground, it's like old school pioneer like trail hunting, because you can see everybody's footprints, because they

don't have enough, you know, resources to actually clear the snow. So you can go and just wander around. It's actually quite nice when people aren't there. It's very peaceful.

Beth Oljar

6:18

Yes, play Pathfinder,

Speaker 1

6:20

you and the polar bears. Hey, man, did you um, actually I just attended a state sale. They actually had a lot of the old Detroit Zoo exhibits in there for sale. Really, which was interesting. The Apes are her her on base sign some of the dinosauria stuff. They had these huge ribs for sale, huh? Yeah, just all the old Detroit Zoo signage. I'm like, Oh, it's neat. But where am I gonna put this? Yeah, no need, but where would you put it? I wouldn't.

Speaker 2

6:50

I don't know if it's quarantine or just me. But that activity of trying to find people in the snow following tracks sounds like the most fun. It's a lot of fun.

Speaker 1

7:01

turbulent time we called the early 90s. That's all Professor Jim Tubbs is here with us today. Hello. Hello. How are you doing? Jim?



7:09

Very well, how

Speaker 1

7:10

about you? I'm pretty good. You know, considering this and that. The other it's? Well, folks, I tell you what, this is a program you can send us questions regarding anything if you stumped the panel, you win

a prize, you can send us the questions in a number of ways you can email us at ATP at UT mercy that edu. You can find us on Facebook and Instagram or listen on your favorite smart speaker by asking it to play ask the professor at University of Detroit mercy. Well, I'm not going to sugarcoat it professors. I've got a set of questions here that I've been working on for a couple weeks. Here's a minute What am I doing? You're blind is a bet you need a German Shepherd.

Beth Oljar

7:52

JACK got it. Just hold a copy of Plato though.

Speaker 1

7:58

All right, final it Plato to it. The dog is reading Plato to you.



8:05

Fine, fine,



8:06

I guess glasses, glasses on the dog.

Speaker 1

8:10

So I've been working on a set of questions that may actually stretch out over a couple shows, I hope I have a feeling that you're really going to enjoy them. The title is eponymous rules. So these are different things that have been named after people from all over the liberal arts and science and everything. And some of them are light hearted. And some of them are a little more technical. But let's just see what we can do with them. I give you the overarching blessing of the clue, which is that I put these together from a list that I found, which essentially comes in alphabetical order. So think of the first letter of the last correct answer and you'll be able to sort of narrow things down relatively quickly. That also means of course, we're going to start with a actons dictum. Have you ever heard of actons dictum? You have Oh, yes, it is power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. That's right. Nice little line for the record of actants dictum is great people are almost always bad people. That is the last line that covers a lot of ground is all I'm going to say.

Beth Oljar

9:22

Well, there's a reason Plato thought you should give political power to the people who want at least



9:27

right.



9:29

Trust the

Speaker 1

9:29

philosopher kings. Yes, that's right. See, that's how they

Beth Oljar

9:34

was right about that. But yes.

Speaker 1

9:38

And that's how they ended Game of Thrones, which is why the ending sucked. control to the brand who wanted it at least Sorry, I'll be ranting about that. But the wisest so Plato would have approved you he was the one he was wise. Enough wise, this is appropriate.

Speaker 2

9:58

That was by far the best part. The last season

Speaker 1

10:02

was a lot less blood in that. Yeah. So listen to Andy and Bill's law. When a computer chip is released, new software will be released to use up all of its power within a year. Do you think you can guess who either Andy or Bill are Bill Gates? Yeah, yeah. Bill Gates is the bill. Andy is Andy Grove, who at the time was CEO of Intel, the chip maker o

Beth Oljar

10:32

town. That's where Intel is headquartered. Beaverton, Oregon.

Speaker 1

10:37

About this one. upward buoyant force exerted on a body immersed in a fluid, whether fully or partially submerged is equal to the weight of the fluid that the body displaces. That's named after Archimedes. Archimedes. Yes. It's Archimedes principle. Oh, okay. Gotcha. Very good. All right. I'm pretty sure this is a softball, but it's still kind of fun. The first of these three is that a robot may not injure a human being or through inaction allow a human being to become to harm

Beth Oljar

11:14

loss. Robot dynamics from from

Speaker 1

11:17

Isaac Asimov's robot. Yeah, it's Asimov's three laws. So the first one is a robot can't hurt a human. The second one is a robot must do what? obey? obey the human except for when it violates the first law? Yeah. And the last thing is the robot must protect

11:37

human life

11:39

humans,

Speaker 1

11:40

its own existence, as long as it doesn't violate rule number one, or Rule number two, so many rules



11:48

about this whole thing?

Speaker 1

11:50

How do you How was a mistake, he was a violation, it was a deviation. He was a deviation for sure. I blew a fuse somewhere.



12:00

But that is a great, that's a very good movie.

Speaker 1

12:03

I'm looking in Professor Livezey's direction on this one, the empirical relationship of the absorption of light to the properties of the material through which the light is traveling. What is this law, beers law, beers law, that's right. Sometimes called the beer Lambert law, we're getting better. You know that it would probably make all of you very happy to hear that we had a big time speaker in the Department of Chemistry back in September, who referred to Watson Crick, Franklin, pairing of DNA. Good the longer say Watson Crick pairing of DNA anymore. So

Beth Oljar

12:40

I take it to here to four unrecognized female scientists. Yes.

Speaker 1

12:44

Franklin. Mm, whose data was stolen? Basically, liberated? Yeah, well, they borrowed the pictures that she had created the images. So Benford law. Bedford's law states, passion is inversely proportional to the amount of what?



13:06

Here's a hint intelligence

Speaker 1

13:07

interest chocolate. I feel like I have to give you partial credit, Mara, the real information available so yeah, that's basically we're disproving that date.



13:23

With no actual information.

Speaker 1

13:27

No, no, Jim, passion is inverse. inverse. Okay, okay. Yeah. Yeah. This election for sure. Oh, yeah. So the more you know, the less passionate you are. Right, right.

Announcer

You're listening to a special edition of Ask The professor in which each of the professor's participating in this recording session. We're 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.

I know you've heard this one before, but just maybe not in this way better bridges law better bridges law says. Any headline which ends in a question mark?



14:23

Is that a good headline?

Speaker 1

14:25

Yeah, it what I'm thinking if it bleeds, it leads, I mean, no, any headline which ends in a question mark is immediately answered as No.



14:37

Okay. Oh,

Speaker 1

14:38

is Beth old jar leaving Detroit mercy. No, no, no national enquirer? because everything's No.



14:48

You should try it. I remember learning that in high school. We're on the

Beth Oljar

14:50

truth of that question, but

Speaker 1

14:52

we shall see. Try it for any headline You see, that ends in a question mark. It's pretty hilarious because it's just trying to get you to click right. I mean, Yeah. Ah, here we go. Let's too bad. We don't have any of our biology members here today. brickfields law brookfields law says the female not the male determines all the conditions of what?



15:15

Shopping, mating

Beth Oljar

15:17

for Earth. Something really? Everything is innately female until



15:26

mailman messes it up. Yeah,

Beth Oljar

15:29

mail insert. Mostly it's like leaving



15:31

the toilet seat up.

Beth Oljar

15:32

Simone de Beauvoir didn't we do this quite a long time ago.

Speaker 1

15:35

You know what it says a strictly speaking because I feel like I've got to give it to you. The female, not the male determines all the conditions of the family. The corollary is where the female can derive no benefit from association with the male. No Association takes place. That is true in all realms of the animal world.

Beth Oljar

15:55

Except when you humans, reinforcing the



15:59

male comes in



16:01

the offspring. That is very funny. Okay, how about

Beth Oljar

16:08

marriage because men wanted to leave their property to children that they were confident where there's exactly



16:15

yeah, well, that was kind of enshrined in the Roman Empire.

Speaker 1

16:19

How about see if you've been paying attention to your, like forensic shows and things like that? That's your clue on this one?

Beth Oljar

16:26

Well, parts brings

Speaker 1

16:28

up getting close caspers dictum caspers dictum of forensics says the ratio of a time a body takes to fully putrefy is different for different substances. So the substances are air, water and earth. How quickly does a human body putrefy when compared by ratio in air water and earth? smell? Okay.

Beth Oljar

16:55

Oh fastest in the earth? I are in the water. I would



16:59

you need numbers?

Speaker 1

17:00

No, no, they are whole numbers less than 10. And Beth has it right Earth is actually the quickest of the fastest right? I thought. Waters last I'd say waters last. No according to Casper.

Speaker 2

17:16

Air should be last Yeah, you're on for six.

Speaker 1

17:20

The air water Earth ratio is one to two to eight. So we close. Right? Eight times faster. So air is four times faster than water. Air is twice as fast as water slower, one to two to eight. It does have to do with the microbes or bacteria that are in each of those mediums. That's not true. If it's very very cold water. That is also true. The body's washing up from like ancient times and Lake Superior right Jim? anytime and

Lake Superior, but the bacteria that live in a water are to a certain extent anaerobic and that changes the ratio of how quickly a body can be composed. Yeah. So the lesson is I better you bury my bodies in the earth I mean those those hermetically sealed caskets that they sell I made the joke I mean that that's so stupid, because then the anaerobes will get you if aerobic bacteria will



18:24

will.

Speaker 1

18:25

Right right. Hey, when you hear the term, Cassini's law see a SSIN I and it applies to astronomy what the Cassini study what is Cassini's law concern



18:38

ours right



18:38

Jeff would notice non

Speaker 2

18:42

recurring asteroids or something,

Speaker 1

18:47

immediately approached the heavenly bodies. It's just the haven't mentioned the one heavenly body that Cassini's law corresponds to the sun, black holes. The moon, yes, not. As we always say on this show, the only planet whose moon does not have a name except for we call it the capital M. Cassini's law provide a compact description of the motion of the moon. The moon does not spin on an axis it just stays the same all the time. The Dark Side of the Moon is always the dark side of the moon

19:23

and forever one of the best albums of the 1970s.

Speaker 1

19:27

Yes, absolutely. I bet. At least a few of you could recognize the phrasing of Chekhov's gun. Chekhov's gun is a writing utensil. Figuratively speaking Do you know what it is? I'm thinking Star Trek's checkoff, Ron checkoff, right, check. Oh,



19:44

is it our Tom check off?

Speaker 1

19:46

I believe it does it. Chekhov's gun would be used by somebody writing a story. It's most often sadly, in modern times used to describe a story treatment or a screenplay or the book for a person What Why is it so important? I thought this one was more common, I guess it states that non essential elements of any story cannot appear in the published form of the work, like, get all the stuff on the side out, every single role has to push the story forward. Otherwise,

Beth Oljar

20:21

editors principle,

Speaker 1

20:22

gotcha. Here's one that I know you all know, to some extent, who formulated these three laws. When a distinguished but elderly scientist states something is possible. He or she is almost certainly right. And when he or she states that something is impossible, they are almost always wrong. Martin venuto. Nice. There's a second law that was just the first one, the only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them to the impossible. And the one that I think that you all have heard in some form or another The third one is any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from

magic. wrote those was, was that a science fiction writer Carl Sagan? Was it Bradbury wasn't Bradbury wasn't Sagan, but you're on the right track. Oh,



21:20

again.

Speaker 1

21:22

Heather already mentioned how. Arthur C. Clarke. Oh, Mark, it was Clark. Clark's laws, yes. Let's try again here in inverse square law, indicating the magnitude and direction of electrostatic forces. Basically, the physics version of opposites attract



21:46

this column's law.

21:48

Who loves law. That's right. Yeah, whoo. That's awesome.

21:54

I knew that.

21:58

I knew that.

22:00

Even with bad glasses. You knew that.

Now. It's in an article that I used to teach him so I can't you know,

Speaker 1

22:06

that's awesome. I think it's great that you have yet to mention a Paula Abdul's music video from the late 80s as well opposites attract, oh, the animated one. Love that one. This is wonderful. This is absolutely wonderful. In the long, long run of the Dilbert comic strip, of course, making Front Of course. Dilbert actually has a principle the Dilbert principle states, the most ineffective workers are systematically moved to the place where they do the least damage. Where is that?

Beth Oljar

22:41

upper management?

Speaker 1

22:43

Yeah, that's right. Absolutely. Very well, that you didn't even none of you even hesitate. It's

Beth Oljar

22:51

a girl version of what Marx means by the alienation of labor. I mean, you really couldn't imagine. At least the notion of cubicle world is a good characterization of what he means by that.

Speaker 1

23:03

Yep. So this is the one that gave birth to our list here because I was reading up after a couple years of hearing about the Dunning Kruger effect. Do you know what the Dunning Kruger effect is? We all are affected by it sooner or later. It's a maxim from psychology.

I heard it recently. I can't recall it right now.

There was a cartoon I was watching recently, not like a kid's cartoon, but something else. And the children were attending Dunning Kruger High School, and it made me laugh out loud, named on this principle. It's a cognitive bias in which unskilled individuals suffer from illusory superiority. So you read one article and you feel like you're an expert in the subject. Okay.

Beth Oljar

23:51

This is like the entire premise of Socrates. Whoa, okay. I'm not kidding, right.



23:58

Oh, you're on the right track, because false

Beth Oljar

24:00

claims to knowledge and

Speaker 1

24:03

knowledge is a dangerous thing. That's right. It is called being a freshman. That's also

Beth Oljar

24:09

like every time you hear but does it drive you absolutely mad when you are watching the news? And some politician says or anybody else? I'm not a scientist, but I'm now gonna proclaim about that which I just confessed not to know how the world works.

Speaker 1

24:28

The bias is a measurable thing, attributed to a complete metacognitive inability to the unskilled to judge their skills. It makes perfect sense based on what you said Beth?

Beth Oljar

24:40

describing students.

Speaker 1

24:43

Yep. All right. One more before we have to call it quits for this week. Gauls galls law ga LL. galls law says, a complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from one

Beth Oljar

25:01

Nothing, something that didn't work.

Speaker 1

25:03

Actually, I like in action, it had to start with a simple idea. And also, what is the idea, but nothing is the beginning of all of that, as far as I'm concerned. But so yeah, that's pretty good. Very, very nice. While you all did, really well, I've got a couple more of these that we can maybe hack at at our next show. But I think the time has come for us to talk about ask the professor favorites. Oh, as my little sister used to say, What is your favorite thing that you found at a garage or a state sale?

25:39

Wow.

Speaker 1

25:40

Oh, did anybody find a copy of the declaration? Not yet. I'm still looking. Okay. For me, it was I have friends who work in the state sale business. So I've always got them scouring for me, you know, the pre sales. So I always find strange Tiki mugs and things like that. So I've got a few little gems that if I wasn't first in line, it'd be gone. That's also my mugs. My version of this is very, very boring. Just all year long. All I'm looking for is more Halloween decorations. And every once in a while I'll find something that is

clearly vintage like 1940s and I tend to not display those. I just saved them and someday they'll be worth something. It was a small chest of drawers. It's early American style. But it's it's oak. Very nice. Nice.

Beth Oljar

26:34

I think the thing I got from you and Steven that wonderful. It's that mesh cookware for the grills. So this is like a basically a big mesh basket pan thing. Oh, you can imagine everything in

26:50

so they don't fall through the. Yeah.

Speaker 2

26:52

That's pretty much good. Last dining room table set was a garage sale find and I refinished it but now it's gone because it doesn't fit in our house. Oh,



27:03

no. Give it a good life.



27:06

We did.



27:08

How are you Heather?

Speaker 2

27:09

There is a private home that sells a bunch of hostas every year and Royal Oak,



27:18

aka talpa.



27:19

Yeah, you know where it is right.



27:21

Exactly. We drive by it all the time.



27:23

I consider that a yard sale. literal yard sale.

27:28

I'm afraid panelists. It's time for us to say goodbye, Jim. Good bye. Bye. Hey, see you

Beth Oljar

27:39

later,

Now these words

you can email ask the professor at ATP at UT mercy.edu or visit the Ask the professor Facebook page to ask the professor is transcribed. The Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and education at the University of Detroit Mercy's Nichols campus were 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.