

Areté April 2008
Honors Alcohol class starts a buzz
Kendrick Bryan
Areté staff writer

It is not uncommon to hear about stories regarding alcohol on a college campus. However, the setting of the stories has changed recently. Many of the tales are about Honors History 341: A Cultural History of Alcohol. The class is instructed by Dr. Andrew McMichael and Dr. Rodney King.

According to the class description, the course explores “both the history and science of beer and brewing through lectures, readings, and lab work.” McMichael has instructed a version of the class before, but this is the first time the class has incorporated brewing.

Twenty students are enrolled this semester, and all had to be 21 years of age before they could register.

“It’s been a lot of fun,” McMichael said, “I’ve enjoyed learning about the biology involved.”

The class meets weekly on Wednesdays from 1:50 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. in Thompson Complex Central Wing. McMichael teaches the history of the beer while King teaches the science aspect.

“The Honors College, the Biology Department, and the History Department have been very supportive,” McMichael added.

According to McMichael, many students have expressed interest in enrolling in future offerings of the course, and he is working with others to offer another section of the class in the near future.

“Honors students are serious about the class and the studies,” McMichael concluded, “They are what make the class fun.”

The class consists of a midterm exam, a final exam, a final project, and a home brewing, tasting, and reflection log. During the week of final exams, students enrolled in the course will give presentations about personal beer recipes.

Students will receive History 340 and Biology 475 credits for completing the course.