

Hannah Bond



Honors Classes:

- ENGL 1023H Composition II
- PLSC 2803H Intro to Int'l Relations
- ENGL 2323H Surv American Lit Since Civil War

Graduation: Fall 2022

Section I

Community, Curiosity, and Diversity

The Honors Program both encourages and provides ample opportunities to be involved in community. This is both the general community and how we can contribute to the city's well-being as well as engage in activities with and for the community of our fellow students. The honors program has facilitated honors students supporting the general community with activities such as road clean-up and helping with food drives for the homeless shelters. They've also encouraged us to remain in community with each other, even during the pandemic they found ways for safe interactions such as meeting virtually to play a game together in real-time. Through these experiences, I have learned of the various ways I can engage to help those in need as well as ways I can engage with others to cultivate friendship and mutual support.

I personally maintained too large of a workload to participate in many of the activities hosted by the honors program. I worked in a management position at a preschool 50+ hours a week while maintaining full-time student hours as well. Almost all activities were scheduled during my time at work or during the few hours I had to get my school work done. However, I did always enjoy hearing how these activities went. Listening to everyone's unique perspectives and varying personalities has certainly allowed me to explore perspectives outside of my own. All of these things put together really helped me to move outside of my comfort zone. Even

though I wasn't able to participate in many activities hosted by the Honors Program, I took their ideas to apply in my local town on my own time. One way I did this was to start volunteering at Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS) of NWA. Though for the safety of the minor I have been assigned to mentor, I may not post any photos of this. The experience has been rewarding and has continued to both open my mind to diversity and other perspectives as well as cultivate my own curiosity about both others and the world around me.

Survived, Not Alive

By Hannah Bond- March 18, 2022

To Exist - for You is only Pleasure -
Forbid - though - that I Speak with Thought
Break your Illusion - Nay - break my Spirit
Steal - Return Broken - Forever Overwrought

Now Essence - trapped - in Puppet's Skin-
Dragging On - Though Stranded
Now Loathing - dreams - Plagued with Your Touch -
My face Lost - Yours Branded

A World of Dispart - One Incident, Two Lives -
The Result of a Silent War-
One Now a God - the Other a Whore-
Regardless of Who I Was - Before --

For I was Women - Now Child
For I was Spoken - Now Mute
For I was Sacred - Now Mild- Defiled
For I was Guide - Now Route

Though He was Man - Now, All the Same-
So - I - Must be who is to Blame.

Creative Writing Response of the
MidTerm for ENGL 2323H
Survey of American Literature.

Poem inspired by the writing of
Emily Dickinson

March 18, 2022

Section II

Continuing into a University

I have learned a lot during my two years at NWACC about how to manage my time, classes, and schoolwork. I've also broadened my perspectives by seeing how there is often more than one correct way to complete assignments, which mirrors the truth in everyday life that there are many different perspectives that could all be "right". The structure of the Honors Program classes has helped me feel more confident as I continue my degree at the University of Arkansas (UofA). I have found that the structure of these honors courses tends to have an emphasis on open discussions. For fully online only students, such as myself, this means plenty of discussion boards. In this way, you learn to think critically and not allow your answers to be based on first impressions alone. Additionally, they are safe environments where you feel that your voice can be heard, regardless of how different it may be from others. Though, the openness of the courses doesn't mean they are just as laid back academically. You're still held to high expectations, and given tools to be able to achieve academic excellence. These courses cultivate a learning environment of both great expectations without the stress of feeling that it is impossible to achieve. Therefore I was able to find confidence in my creativity and academic ability, learning that I really can make it through college if I desire to do so. In these ways, I feel considerably more prepared than I had coming into NWACC.

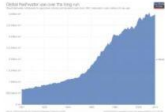
The honors community in general has also helped me with my confidence. I'm an untraditional student who had never thought I would make it to college. I grew up in a home where working was considered more important than school and was encouraged to focus on my job as a priority. So I worked full-time since I was 13 and left high school after only one semester. I still valued education so I was self-taught until I succeeded in obtaining my GED. Even so, college was expensive and I never thought it financially feasible to attend. It was my husband who, shortly after we got married, had encouraged me to attend. His support got me started, and the NWACC professors, counseling center, and honors program kept me going. I know that I will be able to bring everything I learned with me to the UofA to become the best student I am capable of being.

Are we doing enough to Combat the Global Water Crisis?

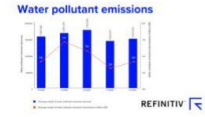
Before it's too late...

The Problem

- In 2008, it was estimated that the total global water resources were about 110,000 km³/year. Of that you have roughly 70,000 km³/year of green water - held in soil, and about 40,000 km³/year of blue water - held on our surface and in reservoirs¹. This is important to note so it can be compared to our global water footprint, which is the amount of water yearly globally required to meet our agriculture/ food and sanitation/ production service needs. The estimated current global water footprint is about 9 trillion tons/year, which is almost 300,000 tons of water a second².



- With the current trends of both water pollution and water global use increasing, we are sure to run out of freshwater. Many countries are currently already in scarcity situations, with many under stress.



- "By 2025, 1800 million people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two-thirds of the world population could be under stress conditions"³.



Current Action

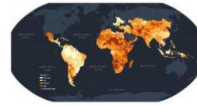
- The 'silent revolution' undertaken by millions of farmers without the control of government administrations has been to utilize the mass amount of groundwater that is otherwise not ignored rather than using water from water supply that is already in circulation. Groundwater should be utilized in public water supply, and many actors have started to take part in this change such as Italy, Mexico, India, North China, and California to name a few¹.

- The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 with the goal to, "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters," and its goals of making waters fishable and swimmable by 1983 and eliminating all pollutant discharges by 1985⁴.



Is it Enough?

- There has been a lot of action that has worked, such as the 'silent revolutions' intensive use of groundwater. However, many are still in the dark about these solutions and aren't even aware of our crisis. This is mainly due to what I think is a lack of our government making policies that guide us into doing what has already proven to work.
- Though the Clean Water Act has shown to have worked, it failed to meet its goals and still fall short. Not only that, but the EPA, which is supposed to be a huge supporter of helping lessen pollution, sought to pull away from the Clean Water Act all the while making no real progress in their own ambitions to clean water.
- The bottom line, water pollution is still on the rise. Right alongside the rise of water consumption.



Solutions

- First of all, we need more research and an accurate collection of current data of both the world's water supply and quality. This information will help all groups of people look for solutions, as well as identifying the root causes of our water pollution. Not only is this collection of reliable and current data important for teams dedicated to finding solutions, but for governments to be able to create evidence-based policies which can further mitigate the problem.
- Having accurate research will also aid in two other important solutions that work hand in hand, preventative measures and treatment. Policies can be implemented that will protect the clean water we do have and prevent further pollution. For things that can't be reasonably prevented, we can learn to treat them. The Clean Water Act has both of these goals in mind, though from previous information given we see how they have failed to meet their goal and a more aggressive approach is necessary.
- Though this isn't a viable solution for most people, I will say a huge step in saving both water and food resources is to be vegetarian. When talking about the yearly water supply needed per diet it is found that, "A vegetarian diet represents about 800 m³/year, whereas a red meat diet is equivalent to about 1,500 m³/year"¹. Since about 90% of water needed for survival is food, if the general global population were vegetarians we would lower the global water footprint substantially.
- Overall, the main thing is that we need to all work together and realize the severity of the situation so we can get serious about the global water crisis and approach it aggressively. Every individual can do their part, but it is each nation's responsibility to educate their citizens on what their part is. We are stronger together.

References

- ¹Lopez-Gunn, et al., 2008: *NRF*, 10.1111/j.1477-8947.2008.00200.x
- ²"Global Water Footprint", *The World Counts*
- ³"Water Scarcity", *UNDESA*
- ⁴Devine, 2019: *NRDC*



Section III

A Memory to Share...

Life still happens, whether you're a full-time student or not, the misfortunes of the world don't yield to anyone. There are multiple extremely hard things I've had to deal with alongside a full-time demanding job as well as being a full-time student. Among one of those things was the recent passing of a young close friend of mine whom I lost due to overdose. I had to miss a couple of my classes (including a test) to attend the funeral, and I'm glad that my professors were extremely kind and understanding of my situation. I'm almost certain that all professors would be accommodating to such a situation, but the way they went about approaching me during this hard time was quite commendable. The most noteworthy was what I had learned through that experience. I held myself up to such a high standard. I have always thought that I need to be absolutely perfect to deserve to be noticed, almost as if I needed to earn the right to exist within the perimeters of other's personal worlds. Once I joined the Honors Program I thought that was especially so, that you'd be held to a higher standard even above life situations or basic human emotions.

Though that's not what happened, time and time again at NWACC with professors, employees, and other students. Perhaps it was because I was already in an emotional and vulnerable place, but this single incident is what caused this sudden epiphany. Stuff happens, and that may mean you can't perform at your very best every single assignment, and that's okay. Being an honors student doesn't mean you have no room to mess up or get behind. We are all still just as human, and I loved learning that I was allowed to be as such even as a student. I'm sure most honors students come out having made friends, and I'm actually okay that I didn't. First of all, it really is my fault for not having attended more than a single event in the two years I had the opportunity to (though I really couldn't with my work schedule). But, more importantly, it's okay because I've learned that none of the other students nor the Honors Program advisor was holding me to these unspoken expectations that I had set for myself. The only person I had failed was me, and I would only continue to fail myself for as long as I set unrealistic goals and expectations for myself.

Insert Below:

Parody writing assignment for ENGL 1023H Composition II.

How to Survive a Day During the COVID Pandemic

Step 1: Wake up 5 minutes before your scheduled workday begins. Working from home means no real human interaction, therefore there's no need to be presentable. If you have any Zoom meetings that day all that's required is a dress shirt and brushed hair. No one can see the lower half of you on a webcam so feel free to pair your dress shirt with pajamas, sweatpants, or no pants at all!

Step 2: Grab a healthy snack for breakfast and drink your morning cup of coffee. Or wine and cake, that's good too. Also, snack throughout the day. No such thing as meals but simply food, always.

Step 3: Complete 2 hours' worth of work in 5 hours online as you struggle to use a whole new set of programs and online communication tools. When you have a question or need to collab with other employees on a project send an e-mail. Then another, and 57 e-mails later you've successfully learned how to download the correct program. In only 82 more e-mails you can learn how to actually use the program.

Step 4: It's time to take this opportunity of home time to reinvent yourself. Become a healthier you or learn something new. Collect your mail, including the abundance of packages received from the mass amount of online shopping you've undoubtedly done. You can "work-out" with the weights and yoga mat you've ordered and let sit in the closet after 5 minutes of motivation. Repeat with supplies bought for other hobbies.

Step 5: After giving up return to the cake and wine.

Step 6: For grocery shopping and other errands you may need to go outside for, be sure to take the essentials with you: non-cash payment, a gallon of homemade hand sanitizer that may or may not be effective, and a face mask. Don't have a face mask? Sure you do! Anything you can cover your nose and mouth with is now a face mask. That old shirt is now a face mask. Extra napkins from the drive-thru lying in your car, that's now a face mask too. As a final caution for being in public during the pandemic, don't cough. Coughing around others is quite a serious threat and means you want those around you to die. So no matter what, don't cough.

Step 7: Upon arriving home you'll need to burn your outfit, bathe in hand sanitizer, and drink wine for good measure. Then go to bed from anywhere between 7:30 pm to 4 am.

Congratulations! You've survived a day during the COVID pandemic. Make sure to repeat the above steps each day for the next 5 years as we all wonder if this pandemic will ever truly end.

Section IV

Advice for New Members

In light of everything I have already said, the best advice I can give to new members is to:

1- Make use of all the wonderful resources NWACC has to offer, such as the counseling and wellness center, disability resource center to request accommodations if needed, your professor's office hours to ask questions, and the librarians that can help you with their database to find specific academic resources for your research papers.

2- Set realistic goals and expectations for yourself, and if you ever fall short of those, still extend grace to yourself. You are more than a grade, more than a label "honors student", and your life should be filled with much more than worries and perfect grades. Excelling and pushing yourself is also important, and will help you with many different endeavors throughout life. Though you will never make it to those places if you're too busy looking down at yourself or in the past, wishing for a different outcome.