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**University organises course for students**

Students in Qatar University’s Honours Programme have participated in a series of classes conducted by experts in communication, writing, and literary studies from two renowned US-based universities.

Georgetown University associate professor of Italian and French Literature Dr Serafina Hager and California State University professor of Communication Studies Dr Mohamed Auwal spent one semester with 18 honours students.

The students were schooled in literary analysis, research, writing, critical thinking, and communication and presentation skills.

“We are aiming to develop students with a thirst for academic challenge and lifelong learning,” Dr Hager said while explaining that they were able to hone their intellectual curiosity and enquiring minds through research and analytical assignments.

The course is stringently focused on students developing their own critical analysis instead of relying on the Internet, she added.

“In the presentations and public speaking exercises, we could see that the students have gained tremendously from what they had learned during the semester. They were able to stand in front of a roomful of people and engage and interact with them with confidence and maturity,” Dr Auwal said.

The Honours Programme director Dr Ahmed Ibrahim stated that attracting educators such as Dr Hager and Dr Auwal are crucial to fulfilling objectives.

“The experts provided a highly-intellectual environment for exceptional students to explore and achieve their full potential,” he added.

QU vice-president and chief academic officer Dr Sheikha Jabor al-Thani maintained that the varsity is providing resources so that honours students will have a rich experience that would inform their later career and academic choices.

“We match them with very talented people who can identify their strengths and weaknesses and guide them towards excellence,” she said.

Biomedical Sciences student Omayma Abdulla al-Saie recalled that the classes provided the honours students with the opportunity to interact with their peers across all disciplines.

“The classes also helped us to appreciate how each of us is committed to working towards our aims and goals and how important the tools we are learning will help us achieve them,” he added.

Financial management student Sulaiman Alhaidar observed that he learnt skills and techniques such as reasoning, public speaking, writing and self-motivation.

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