"Ideas that Change the World" Inspires Professor Bertone-Johnson's "Cursed?"

By: Emily Esten
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Professor Bertone-Johnson’s experience teaching “Ideas That Change the World,” a discussion based Honors seminar, gave her the inspiration to commission Cursed? The Biologic and Cultural Aspects of the Menstrual Cycle and Menstruation. In “Ideas That Change the World,” students are asked to develop their critical analysis skills as they examine ideas that have shaped our world: models of inquiry (i.e. Plato), science and technology (i.e. Rachel Carson), social thought and civic action (i.e. Mahatma Gandhi, W.E.B. DuBois), and the power of the arts (i.e. Orson Welles). Throughout the course, students are asked to think about their own transformative power.

Along with essays written by Bertone-Johnson's "Ideas" students, Cursed? includes original research conducted by her Graduate students, as well as her own personal research. In a testament to the spirit of “Ideas that Change the World,” Professor Bertone-Johnson recognized the potential to further social change through the combined efforts of all contributors. All editor proceeds will go to Girl’s Inc. of Holyoke.

“I couldn’t be more proud of this text. It represents a great deal of hard work by a talented group of scholars. Our goals for this book are to promote research to better understand the complexities of the menstrual cycle, and to normalize the experience of menstruation.”

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