

A Palette of Subjects

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I see subjects in life, from math to philosophy, as colors of various wavelengths. All the knowledge in the world is a deep, velvety black, in which all of the colors are absorbed. In such sense, subjects do not always verbally talk to one another, but nonverbally communicate.

Calculus, a royal blue, absorbs knowledge from history, a rich red, about the long standing feud between Newton and Leibniz which led to the $f'(x)$ and dx/dy notations. The sunny yellow of art contributes a profound understanding of the beauty that is graphs and shapes and diagrams, intrinsic to the subject of Calculus. Focus a little less on art in math, and the color reflected becomes the turquoise color of algebra, as geometry may not be as important. Science, an earthy green, speaks through data and numbers. The green, an vital component of the blue, gives the context for the reflected math. Vice versa, math remains vital to the understanding of science. To not understand algebra means to not understand chemistry. And so, the subjects have unspoken communication between one another as the subjects speak through one another. Calculus would not be the royal blue it is without the red of history, the yellow of art, the green of science, and the rest of the color palette. The precisely exact absorption of subjects yields a new subject.

Many believe that the purple of theology and green of science are non-complementary. However, these people could not be more wrong. Theology encourages science. For how could science, a series of man-discovered laws, seem to perfectly describe something as complicated as the world. How could such system be created without a greater hand creating it? Theology tells science to not forget the mystery of life and the mystery of the very being of science. Science encourages not the theology, but the laws of a theology, to adapt and change as our understanding of the world around us changes. Science offers the visible proof that a specific law

may need to change or be updated while theology offers up the invisible proof that science is dependent on. Science and theology both hold the awe of world. Sitting in biology, I cannot wrap my head around the idea that elements like carbon and nitrogen can be structured to form a being capable of consciousness and growth. Sitting in church, I cannot wrap my head around the idea that God would grace humanity with His universe as a home, filled with such beauty and mystery. Together, purple and green bloom, not unlike a flower in nature.

My favorite colors are teal and deep violet. Teal, the combination of math and science, simply makes sense. Science is still called science when you calculate for the numerical molar mass of gold. Math is still called math when you solve a story problem about the rate of reproductive growth of otters. But combining two subjects corresponds to the loud, visible conversations between the colors. Teal is a beautiful color, the calming hue comprised of rates of change in products and the derivative of $y=\sin x$. Not ugly like the history of woodworking, a muddy brown, but clear, just like my sentiments about the subjects of math and science. And deep purple, the color I learned to love, is the violet of theology, my faith, and my morals, mixed with the reddish color of government. Violet urges the red to consider ethical solutions in forming public policy. The resulting tint symbolizes the antithesis of corruption.

Deep purple applied to life may manifest itself in the issue of borders in southern United States. Fundamentally, I believe in the protecting of our borders. However, fundamentally I also believe in the dignity of humans. Policies and laws voice what moral standards the population believe in. When policies like the asylum ban and ideas like the wall arise, my religious convictions arise in protest. Earlier this year, I traveled down with a group to the border. The most important outcome of this trip was finally being able to put faces to a faceless group called “immigrants”. Humanizing a seemingly impersonal issue further compels my political side to

support policies that prioritize the dignity and safety of humans before the safety of our borders. Theology tells politics what ideals should be implemented through law. Government attempts to create a plan that can be executed in life. Because of the necessity of conversation between theology and government, purple is a vital color.

The bright red of history and the orange of English pair with each other perfectly, too. Without the voice of English's writing, history would continue to be passed down in the oral tradition and might not be preserved. Without the previous knowledge of history, English would not be able to effectively examine current issues with previous knowledge. History is proof of humanity's past mistakes and triumphs. English ensures that all of humanity listens to history.

My goals for life combine the blue of math, green of science, purple of theology, and red of government into a grand, complicated aspiration. Teal persuades me to pursue a STEM based profession, while recently, my newly acquired taste for deep purple of theology coaxes me to modify whatever profession I pursue in a way to ensure it contributes to the common good.

All subjects, like all colors, heavily depend on each other. To disregard one subject as unimportant invalidates the importance of all subjects. The conversation between classes remains highly invaluable. When people fail to see the beauty of other subjects, they create a plain, monotone swatch of one color. When these people fail to see the interconnectedness of all categories of knowledge, life remains a blank canvas, for as without the absorption of varying colors, only white light appears.

Just as colors can complement one another, various classes complement one another. This interconnectedness expresses itself through discourse. When humanity recognizes the interconnectedness of classes, we bring more harmony and beauty into this world.