

**FIRST YEAR SEMINARS
FALL 2020**

COURSE OFFERINGS AS OF 04/03/2020

CRN: 98252

**LOST CONTINENTS, ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS, AND MYSTERIOUS MOUNDBUILDERS:
PSEUDOSCIENCE, EPISTEMOLOGY AND THE HUMAN PAST**

Professor Paul Thacker, Department of Anthropology

The human past often is portrayed as full of mystery, with Moundbuilders, mummy curses, lost arks and refugees from Atlantis eluding discovery. This course explores these archaeological problems while critically examining how scientific archaeologists build knowledge about the past. Case studies including the peopling of the Americas, prehistoric cannibals, and the African civilization of Great Zimbabwe provide students with an opportunity to evaluate archaeological evidence and arguments of interpretations. Discussions about archaeological ethics demonstrate the social context of scientific archaeology and the politics of the past in the present.

MWF 1:00 – 1:50

Winston 124

Fall 2020

CRN: 98254

LIVING IN THE PAST

Professor Andrew Gurstelle, Department of Anthropology

This course introduces students to the basic principles of experimental archaeology, a branch of archaeological research that balances experimental data collection with embodied learning. Experimental archaeology investigates the past by recreating and testing ancient practices and technologies. These were fundamental to the survival of ancient cultures, but have since become archaic or obsolete in the modern era and have dropped out of our cultural consciousness. Experimental archaeology allows us to engage with ancient cultures by replicating their way of life—gaining a unique perspective on how people in the past lived.

TR 9:30 – 10:45

Carswell 018

Fall 2020

**The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled.
Registration is limited.**

CRN: 98200

DISCOVERING THE AVANT-GARDE

Professor Leigh Ann Hallberg, Department of Art

This seminar will explore the art, politics, and history of the avant-garde from the mid-19th century to 1930. The course will use readings, class discussion, collage and analysis of works of art to gain an understanding of the genesis, evolution, and influence of avant-garde movements including Expressionism, Cubism, and Dada.

TR 3:30 – 4:45

SFAC 103

Fall 2020

**The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled.
Registration is limited.**

CRN: 90868

DARWIN'S DECISIONS

Professor Susan Fahrbach, Department of Biology

The course has two complementary foci and a detour. The main goal is to explore the important professional and personal decisions that the scientist Charles Darwin made during his career and to introduce the idea of the scientist as a writer, using numerous examples from Darwin's writing (including scientific papers, books, autobiography, professional correspondence, personal correspondence, travelogues, and diaries). We will ask "how can understanding Darwin's decision-making process help us understand our own decisions better?" and "why was (and is) Darwin considered a 'good' writer?" The detour will explore a Wake Forest connection with Darwin (William Louis Poteat). This FYS should attract students interested in careers in science and/or the history of science and/or public controversies about science.

MW 12:30 – 1:45

Winston 221

Fall 2020

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 89751

THE BRAVE NEW WORLD OF BIOTECH

Professor Carole Gibson, Department of Biology

When Watson and Crick elucidated the structure of DNA, they turned the scientific world on end. Their discovery opened the door to the manipulation of genes. Today we are genetically modifying bacteria, animals and plants. The first genetically modified humans have been born. We have the technology to clone a human. We can create synthetic genes that can do things not designed by nature. In this course, we will examine modern biotechnologies, and consider whether the future they offer is exciting or frightening.

TR 11:00 – 12:15

Winston 221

Fall 2020

CRN: 96039

SCIENTISTS: BORN OR MADE?

Professor Christa Colyer, Department of Chemistry

Despite increased public awareness of global scientific issues such as climate change, epidemics, and genetic engineering, along with the popularization of science through television and the movies, there is still much mystery surrounding the role of the scientist in today's society. Is one born to be a scientist, or is it possible to cultivate the interest and skills necessary to succeed in this far-reaching profession? This seminar will expose students to the lives of scientists, past and present, thus revealing the traits and motivations that govern scientists' lives and work, while ferreting out stereotypes and popular misconceptions about who is/what makes a scientist. The importance of responsible conduct in science is emphasized as students identify, on a personal level, if they have the 'right stuff' and how the traits of scientists might lead to success in other professions or vocations.

TR 3:30 – 4:45

Salem 202

Fall 2020

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 97078

HOW HOT, FLAT AND CROWDED ARE WE?

Professor Abdessadek Lachgar, Department of Chemistry

Climate change, globalized economy, and a burgeoning population are urgent global issues. Dealing with the convergence and connection between these issues is perhaps one of the biggest challenges humanity has ever faced. This extremely difficult challenge requires recognition of the complex interrelationships between environmental, economic, and social forces; and reexamination of our relationships to technology, natural resources, natural science, human development and local and global politics. The US could become the world's leader in clean/green energy and inspire an ethic of conservation toward nature. This course provides students an opportunity to develop a better understanding of our earth's sustainability issues. It aims to excite students' intellectual curiosity and interest to help them develop their academic skills by critical reading, and fact checking information, assumptions, and proposals made by Thomas Friedman in his book "Hot, Flat and crowded 2.0: Why We Need a Green Revolution and how it can renew America.

TR 9:30 – 10:45

Salem 109

Fall 2020

CRN: 95015

NO GREATER GLORY: ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN ATHLETICS

Professor Amy Lather, Department of Classical Languages

From the founding of the Olympic games to gladiators in the arena, ancient Greeks and Romans were obsessed with athletic feats. Through analysis of a wide range of sources (literary, epigraphical, archaeological) spanning the 7th-century BCE Homeric world to the 3rd-century CE Roman empire, in this course we will investigate the world of athletics and athletic competition in ancient Greece and Rome.

WF 11:00 – 12:15

Tribble A303

Fall 2020

This course is reserved for first-year students who are interested in participating in a unique learning community inside and outside the classroom. Exploration of course topics and group participation in a limited number of co-curricular events will encourage a smooth transition to college life. Through these activities, we will cultivate relationships with one another and with the community around us, explore our individual strengths and common interests, and develop leadership skills. This group will live in the same residence hall.

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 97117

TRAGIC LOVE STORIES, ANCIENT AND MODERN

Professor Brian Warren, Department of Classical Languages

Two civilizations in particular have shaped our understanding of political life and civic responsibility in deep and profound ways: Greece and Rome. We are heavily indebted to the ancient world for our ideas about not only the structure and operation of government but also what it means for the individual to be a citizen and to act like one. This course will aid students in returning to the intellectual roots of our beliefs about citizenship. We will also investigate how classical history and literature influenced modern Western political thought, especially in the late medieval and early modern periods.

TR 9:30 – 10:45

Tribble A303

Fall 2020

CRN: 94973

BEWARE THE IDES, BEWARE THE HEMLOCK: ROLEPLAYING CRISIS IN ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME

Professor THM Gellar-Goad, Department of Classical Languages

The Thirty Tyrants have at long last been expelled from Athens, and now it is up to you and your closest friends and enemies to determine the future of the greatest city-state in the Mediterranean - and the future of the gadfly philosopher Socrates. The conspiracy of Catiline has been uncovered, and the fate of the conspirators and of Rome rests in your hands. Two decades later, the dictator Julius Caesar has been assassinated, and it falls upon you to maneuver through the wrangling in the Senate to decide what the People of Rome should do. You will play in three "Reacting to the Past" scenarios set in ancient Greece and Rome: you will become a stakeholder in these world-changing crises and you will fight, speak, study, sweet-talk, and coerce your way to power over your classmates, be they allies or adversaries. This course is suitable for all students of all kinds, interests, and backgrounds, and will offer fun, low-pressure opportunities to develop writing, public speaking, critical thinking, and persuasion skills. This is a service-learning course in which all students will spend time working with community partners to help address local needs and aid reflection on course material.

MWF 2:00 – 2:50

Tribble A303

Fall 2020

This course is reserved for first-year students who are interested in participating in a unique learning community inside and outside the classroom. Exploration of course topics and group participation in a limited number of co-curricular events will encourage a smooth transition to college life. Through these activities, we will cultivate relationships with one another and with the community around us, explore our individual strengths and common interests, and develop leadership skills. [This group will live in the same residence hall.](#)

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

THM has completed D.E.A.C. Allies and Safe Zone training, and he is excited to offer LGBTQ and ally students an advising group where they can receive both academic support as well as support around adjusting to college life, with a focus on LGBTQ inclusion.

CRN: 97071

COMMUNICATION, CULTURE AND SOUTH ASIA

Professor Ananda Mitra, Department of Communication

This course takes a critical look at the history, culture, politics and geography of South Asia with the goal of understanding how the people from that part of the world have an influence on global issues and how the cultures of South Asia are influenced by the process of globalization. The course requires occasional Sunday afternoon viewing of Bollywood movies.

MW 2:00 – 3:15

South Hall

Fall 2020

CRN: 96280

CITIZENSHIP AT WFU AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Professor Alessandra Von Burg, Department of Communication

The purpose of this course is to explore the history and theory of citizenship as a deliberative practice linked to the tradition of communication. In particular, we will focus on the development and practice of citizenship at Wake Forest University and in the surrounding community (mostly Winston-Salem). We will pay attention to the role of discourse, invention, and imagination in the making of citizens, as citizenship has evolved from limited roles in ancient Greece to accepted norms and rules at Wake and in the local community. The course will emphasize participatory and deliberative skills as part of the process in which communities such as Wake and the surrounding community are formed, and citizens emerge as members.

TR 11:00 – 12:15

South Hall

Fall 2020

CRN: 97336

GREAT AMERICAN SPEECHES

Professor John Llewellyn, Department of Communication

Public speeches are monuments to history and precursors of societal change. This class will read, closely examine and discuss a portion of the one hundred most significant American speeches of the 20th century. From the speech that American scholars of rhetoric voted the century's most significant – Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" address – to less well-known addresses, the class will explore the intersection of history, rhetoric and eloquence. Several books on presidential speech writing will also be read and discussed.

WF 12:30 – 1:45

Carswell 305

Fall 2020

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 98151

“THRIVE” CREATING A LIFE OF POSITIVE WELL-BEING

Professor Allison Forti, Department of Counseling

What makes people happy? Why do some people seem to thrive in life despite their challenging circumstances? This seminar course will seek to answer those questions and more, as students are introduced to the exciting world of strength-based wellness and positive psychology. Students will learn about relevant strength-based concepts including positive emotions, mindfulness, resilience, post-traumatic growth, optimism, positive health, among others. This course will offer the opportunity to engage in lively debate (e.g., Can money buy happiness?) and transformative experiences that, hopefully, will increase students' ability to thrive at Wake Forest University and beyond.

TR 12:30 – 1:45

TBA

Fall 2020

CRN: 98152

QUANTUM CHANGE: PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION PHENOMENON

Professor Mark Scholl, Department of Counseling

Does the self have a true center? What conditions and principles underlie quantum change, as opposed to change that is linear? Breaking bad, as opposed to breaking good? This seminar

focuses on the principles and theories of counseling and psychology underlying processes of quantum change. We will examine cases of quantum change from real life and in fiction, in writings and in movies. Students will design and implement a personal change plan.

TR 2:00 – 3:15

Carswell 208

Fall 2020

CRN: 98153

CREATIVITY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN AND SOCIETY

Professor Samuel Gladding, Department of Counseling

Creativity is prevalent in all societies and at different ages and stages of life. It is found in the arts, business, politics, athletics, science, and in everyday transactions. It can bring new and useful ways of working in the world as well as a different and positive perspective on a subject. Creativity changes and improves life. This seminar will examine the research literature on ways creativity is used in different domains and what it can contribute to individuals, groups, and society over the lifespan. It will also touch on the dark side of creativity.

TR 2:00 – 3:15

WakerSpace

Fall 2020

This course is reserved for first-year students who are interested in participating in a unique learning community inside and outside the classroom. Exploration of course topics and group participation in a limited number of co-curricular events will encourage a smooth transition to college life. Through these activities, we will cultivate relationships with one another and with the community around us, explore our individual strengths and common interests, and develop leadership skills. This group will live in the same residence hall.

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 98127

ENCOUNTERING THE OTHER: CHINA AND THE WEST

Professor Yaohua Shi, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

This is an interdisciplinary course drawing on history, literature, film, and art in order to examine the cultural contact, conflict, and confluence between China and the West. We will focus on key moments in the often troubled relations between the Celestial Kingdom and the West and explore the imaginings and misapprehensions of the Other in philosophical treatises, travel diaries, and pseudo-scientific articles and recent cross-cultural theoretical works by Chinese and Western writers. We will investigate the possibility of cultural confluence in the age of globalization through a reassessment of the career of Giuseppe Castiglione, who served under Qianlong Emperor in the 18th century.

TR 3:30 – 4:45

Carswell 014

Fall 2020

CRN: 97333

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

Professor Linda Nielsen, Department of Education

This course will examine the ways in which their parents' divorce affects children in our society. Students will debate and write about the various issues affecting children of divorce, such as: What

are the best living arrangements for children after divorce? How and why does divorce benefit some children while it damages others? What can parents do to minimize the impact of their divorce?

TR 2:00 – 3:15

Tribble A205

Fall 2020

CRN: 97990

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

Professor Linda Nielsen, Department of Education

This course will examine the ways in which their parents' divorce affects children in our society. Students will debate and write about the various issues affecting children of divorce, such as: What are the best living arrangements for children after divorce? How and why does divorce benefit some children while it damages others? What can parents do to minimize the impact of their divorce?

TR 3:30 – 4:45

Tribble A205

Fall 2020

CRN: 97147

PLAY IN PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL WORLDS: LEARNING FROM GAMES

Professor Ali Sakkal, Department of Education

Play, sports, and video games are often overlooked as legitimate contexts for genuine and authentic learning. This seminar is designed to help students develop a critical understanding of the complex relationship between play, culture, and learning. Through a discussion of readings, course assignments, and student investigations, we will take a close look at why some of these activities are routinely regarded as “educational,” by adults or by children, and why others are not.

TR 2:00 – 3:15

WakerSpace

Fall 2020

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 97092

AMERICAN ART IN ITS MANY CONTEXTS: THE COLLECTION AT REYNOLDA HOUSE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

Professor Barry Maine, Department of English

This first-year seminar will meet twice a week at Reynolda House Museum of American Art. The house itself and the collection of American art there will provide the focus for the seminar, as we attempt to interpret what is on display there in the context of American art history, and American literature and culture. We will begin by asking the following questions: What is a museum for? How did this one in particular come into being? What contexts are most useful in interpreting the paintings in the permanent collection, and in the American Photorealism exhibition?

TR 2:00 – 3:15

Reynolda House

Fall 2020

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 98186

LAW AND CULTURE

Professor Chris Brown, Department of English

From “The Wire” and The Hunger Games to the musical Hamilton and Beyonce’s “Formation” video, American culture in our new century takes up the law at nearly every turn. Writers and artists and cultural critics often turn to narrative to think about how we are shaped as legal actors. How do we, as readers of literary and popular culture, participate in and occasionally resist the law’s influence? In this course we will look at examples of the relationship between law and art across many genres – legal argument, statutes, literature, film, music, sculpture, poetry, drama – to think about the law both as it is and how we imagine it might be.

TR 9:30 – 10:45

Tribble A201

Fall 2020

CRN:

GLOBALIZATION AND CULTURE

Professor Omaar Hena, Department of English

Globalization may be the defining feature of the contemporary world and yet no one seems to agree on exactly what it means. For some, globalization brings the dream of cross-cultural connection and the founding of global civil society; but for others it spells the on-going nightmare of Western cultural imperialism and inter-ethnic conflict. Throughout the term, this course will question how globalization and world literature interact with one another. Does literature simply reflect globalization, at least as critics and scholars debate the term? Or do literature and cultural practices imagine and produce forms of globalization that are not accounted for in theory? And how might an emphasis on culture and cultural difference (race, class, gender, and sexuality) in an imaginative context change the way we think about, relate to, and live in our global era?

TBA

TBA

Fall 2020

CRN: 98187

LANDSCAPE IN IRISH LITERATURE

Professor Jeff Holdridge, Department of English

An examination of the aesthetics of landscape, how perceptions have been shaped by Irish history, and how they are reflected in Irish literature. The purpose of this course is to use the philosophy of the landscape (when and why we first began to look at nature, why we call a landscape beautiful, why sublime), as a lens through which to examine Irish culture, literature, art, architecture, folklore, and society since the 18th-century birth of aesthetics. The course will be divided into three historical periods: the Ascendancy Ireland of the 18th century, the Hidden and Absentee Ireland of the 19th century, and Revolutionary/Independent Ireland of the 20th century. Class time will be devoted primarily to discussion of topics based on assigned readings. An in-class presentation will be encouraged, and discussion will be 10% of the final grade. The pedagogical emphasis is on discussion of the reading material, drawing upon questions raised in class.

WF 12:30 – 1:45

Tribble A209

Fall 2020

CRN: 98267

LANGUAGES OF THE CAROLINAS

Professor Jon Smart, Department of English and the Writing Program

Participants in this seminar explore how language, identity, and place are all interrelated through examining the languages and dialects of North and South Carolina. In the course, we will explore differences in pronunciation and vocabulary, the history of languages spoken in the Carolinas, as well as the stories of the people who speak them. As part of the class, we collect and analyze language data first-hand and engage in critical discussion on issues relevant to local communities.

WF 9:30 – 10:45

Tribble A108

Fall 2020

This section of FYS 100 is being offered to international students whose native language is not English.

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 98268

DISCOURSE COMMUNITIES IN THE UNIVERSITY

Professor Jon Smart, Department of English and the Writing Program

In this seminar, students examine how discourse communities are created and sustained at a university. As part of the course, students will analyze how language is used across modes of communication (from speech to writing) in both academic and day-to-day situations. The seminar will address questions of how meaning and ideas are co-created in academic discourse as well as more pragmatic analyses of how work is conducted and negotiated by faculty, staff, and students on campus. Students in the course will meet and interact with a range of university programs in class and through extracurricular activities. These encounters will serve the primary purpose of providing students with material content for analyzing how these communities work and interact (and a secondary purpose of helping first-year students find avenues to join the university discourse communities that match their own interests/values).

WF 11:00 – 12:15

Tribble A108

Fall 2020

This section of FYS 100 is being offered to international students whose native language is not English.

CRN: 97072

THE MYSTERY OF QI: TRADITIONAL CHINESE PERSPECTIVES ON MIND, BODY, AND PERSONAL WELL-BEING

Professor Qiong Zhang, Department of History

In this seminar we will investigate the mystery of Qi, the putative vital energy which constituted the core of traditional Chinese understanding of the body and stood at the source of Chinese medicine and food culture, certain literary, artistic, and religious practices, and the martial arts.

TR 9:30 – 10:45

Tribble A104

Fall 2020

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 97495

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORIES IN THEATER, FILM, AND FICTION

Professor Jake Ruddiman, Department of History

Hamilton. Last of the Mohicans. Birth of a Nation. We will consider these and more as we analyze how stories about the American past are recreated and consumed in our present. Come listen, read, and watch the interplay between historical fact and fiction.

WF 9:30 – 10:45

Tribble A104

Fall 2020

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 98066

HISTORY OF SPORTS

Professor Sue Rupp, Department of History

This course examines the history of sports in the modern era, with a focus on Europe and the United States. We'll critically examine how sports has shaped and been shaped by broader historical changes, and what sports tells us about the meanings of nation, class, race and gender over time.

MW 12:30 – 1:45

Tribble A104

Fall 2020

CRN: 98288

INFORMATION, INFLUENCE, AND NEUTRALITY: EXAMINING OUR DIGITAL LIVES

Professor Amanda Kaufman, Z. Smith Reynolds Library

Professor Meghan Webb, Z. Smith Reynolds Library

The Digital Revolution has fundamentally shifted the way information is created, shared, and received. Despite spending an average of 11 hours a day consuming media, we rarely sit down to analyze the information we interact with on a daily basis. In this class, we will critically examine the political, social, and economic implications of the current information landscape, with special attention to how private companies and governments influence our interactions with information online. Students will also critically examine their own engagement with information and reflect on how they wish to interact with information, media, and news, particularly in the digital realm, going forward. Additionally, students will hone their research skills both using both library resources and the free web in order to become more critical information consumers.

TR 2:00 – 3:15

ZSR Library 477

Fall 2020

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled. Registration is limited.

CRN: 98363

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION ON THE INTERNET: THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT FAKE NEWS, JUNK SCIENCE AND FACT-CHECKING

Professor Rosalind Tedford, Z. Smith Reynolds Library

Professor Hu Womack, Z. Smith Reynolds Library

In an information landscape crawling with clickbait, claims of fake news, and dubious claims of expertise, it is sometimes hard to know where to go for news and what to believe when you get

there. But having an informed citizenry who are critical and careful consumers of information has never been more important to our country. This class will explore why people are susceptible to mis/disinformation, how it is spread, and how we as information consumers can critically evaluate what we see and hear every day. Through class assignments, discussions and a final research project on a real-world issue, students will become skilled in analyzing, recognizing and responding to mis/disinformation online.

TR 12:30 – 1:45

ZSR Library 476

Fall 2020

The professor for this class will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled.
Registration is limited.

CRN:

HOW TO THINK LIKE A LAWYER

Professor Wilson Parker, Wake Forest School of Law

What is Justice? What is “The Rule of Law”? How does its presence (or absence) affect society? How do lawyers contribute to the creation and maintenance of a just society? This course challenges you to think about thinking. It first introduces students to epistemology and then covers the major schools of Jurisprudence from Classical Greece to contemporary America. Major goals of the course are to learn the basics of the history of Western political theory, learn how legal analysis falls into various jurisprudential schools, and learn how the surface debate over the application of legal rules in a given case in fact masks far deeper debates about the nature of law. In addition to reading the primary texts, we will read cases that illustrate these conflicts. The course will have one major paper that students work on throughout the semester and short weekly assignments. In addition to weekly readings from Christie and Martin, Jurisprudence, Text and Readings on the Philosophy of Law, 3rd Ed., there will be a weekly film that students will view outside of class that addresses the issues being covered.

TBD

TBD

Fall 2020

CRN: 98128

MATHEMATICAL PUZZLES AND GAMES

Professor Sarah Mason, Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Professor Sarah Raynor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

This is a hands-on seminar in which students will use mathematical structures to solve puzzles and play games with the underlying goal of improving critical thinking and logical reasoning skills. Students will work together to develop problem-solving strategies that are applicable to many areas of life such as financial planning, collaborations, leadership, and negotiations. This course will also include an outreach component designed to help foster an excitement and enthusiasm among local high school students for the playful, creative, and strategic aspects of mathematics.

WF 11:00 – 12:15

Manchester 245

Fall 2020

CRN: 98247

EXPLORING COMMUNICATION IN THE FINE ARTS

Professor Louis Goldstein, Department of Music

In this interdisciplinary seminar you get to go to plays, attend musical performances, read literature, and view art shows. These will provide the focus for class discussions exploring the communicative

power of the fine arts. We will investigate artistic expressions in music, theater, literature, cinema, and the plastic arts, asking how thoughts and feelings are translated into communicable forms of expression. What do the fine arts tell us that normal, expository language does not? How do sound and sight communicate emotions and meanings that go beyond verbal description, reasoning, and argument? Why are there different arts? We will examine opposing viewpoints and center on how they react when they are rubbed together. Discussions and written assignments will concentrate on the formulation and expression of a personal point of view. The only prerequisite: an open mind.

TR 2:00 – 3:15

SFAC M308

Fall 2020

CRN: 98249

WAGNER'S RING OF THE NIBELUNG

Professor David Levy, Department of Music

This seminar will explore one of the great epics of Western culture. Conceived as a "Prelude and Three Days," the four operas that comprise Richard Wagner's Ring cycle (Das Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried, and Götterdämmerung) consumed more than a quarter century of the composer's creative life. Readers of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings* will immediately recognize that these books follow the same format. Similarly, the ongoing Star Wars films form a continuous narrative, as does the popular HBO series, *Game of Thrones*. Wagner's Ring adapted strands of medieval German, Norse, and Icelandic mythology in order to tell a compelling story of power, greed, treachery, and redemption that speaks as powerfully to modern sensibilities as it did to its first audience in 1876. Interpreted variously as creation myth, critique of capitalism, nationalistic tract, and source for racial theories, the Ring has had profound implications for the subsequent development of art, music, philosophy, and politics. The seminar will explore this richly-textured work through study of its text (in translation), video recordings, and audio recordings. Reading knowledge of music or German is not required. Additional readings will reflect cross-disciplinary approaches to the work, and will include, among others, excerpts from the *Nibelungenlied*, the Norse Eddas, including the *Saga of the Volsungs*. Readings from additional authors, including Wagner's own prose works will include Arthur Schopenhauer, Friedrich Nietzsche, Julian Young, and others.

TR 9:30 – 10:45

SFAC M308

Fall 2020

CRN: 98105

PHILOSOPHY OF WAR

Professor Clark Thompson, Department of Philosophy

Philosophy of War is a study of the implications of moral theory for the determination of when war is morally permissible and of how war is to be conducted if it is to be waged in a morally acceptable way. We shall examine whether just war theory can offer acceptable guidance in making these determinations. We shall ask whether the provisions of international law governing warfare, as well as the rules of warfare adopted by the military forces of the United States, are morally acceptable, and whether various military actions (e.g., the bombing of cities to weaken civilian morale) violate such provisions and rules.

MW 5:00 – 6:15

Tribble A201

Fall 2020

CRN: 98106

IDEA OF AMERICA

Professor Adam Kadlac, Department of Philosophy

The goal of the course is to engage in philosophical reflection on several key points in American history—Independence, Constitution, Civil War, and Civil Rights—with the aim of answering the question: “What does it mean to be an American?”

TR 11:00 – 12:15

Tribble A304

Fall 2020

CRN: 98199

THE WORLD’S MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE: USING SEMI-BIG DATA TO DECIDE THE ORIGINS OF INFLUENCE

Professor Jed Macosko, Department of Physics

Who has influenced our world? Who influences it now? Is it possible to use the principles of Big Data to discover the Who’s-Who in each field? In this class, we will explore a new website that attempts to do exactly that, and we will draw our own conclusions about how successful it is. Using this website as a springboard, we will use inquiry and analysis to find the top influencers in each sphere. Students will choose academic disciplines that interest them and present their findings on people who have influenced those fields. Students will also read the writings and speeches of these influencers. Throughout the class, we will examine the benefits and dangers of Big Data and of collective knowledge repositories such as Wikipedia.

TR 11:00 – 12:15

Olin 102

Fall 2020

This course is reserved for first-year students who are interested in participating in a unique learning community inside and outside the classroom. Exploration of course topics and group participation in a limited number of co-curricular events will encourage a smooth transition to college life. Through these activities, we will cultivate relationships with one another and with the community around us, explore our individual strengths and common interests, and develop leadership skills. [This group will live in the same residence hall.](#)

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CRN: 97388

THE GEOPOLITICS OF JAMES BOND

Professor Thomas Brister, Department of Politics and International Studies

This seminar examines the evolutions of post-war international politics through the lens of the ‘spy film’ genre as a way of educating students to the global context in which world politics evolves. The course will address such issues as Cold War rivalry, the era of détente, emerging non-traditional security threats like terrorism, the drug trade, proliferations of weapons of mass destruction, the role of intelligence agencies, and ‘new enemies’ in the post-Cold War era. More serious readings will provide the background for assessing and understanding reality versus fantasy in the popular cultural representations of global politics.

MWF 9:00 – 9:50

Kirby B01B

Fall 2020

CRN: 98134

PSYCHOLOGY OF INEQUALITY

Professor Shannon Brady, Department of Psychology

Income inequality has been described as the defining issue of our time. This course will provide an overview of the state of income inequality in America and then engage students in a distinctly psychological perspective on the issue, through the examination of both personal experiences (nonfiction and fiction) and psychological research. The course will also help students build skills related to locating, understanding, and responding to social science research.

TR 11:00 – 12:15

Greene 160

Fall 2020

CRN: 98135

WHO AM I? A SOCIOCULTURAL APPROACH TO SELF AND IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT

Professor Lisa Kiang, Department of Psychology

Understanding who we are is a fundamental aspect of human nature. How do we become who we are? What obstacles do we face in asserting our self and identities? How do our personal, social, and cultural identities fit with the rest of society? This course will tackle these issues by examining theoretical and cultural perspectives on self and identity, as well as scientific research regarding self and identity development. Memoirs, popular fiction, and films will be used to enhance comprehension.

TR 12:30 – 1:45

Greene 310

Fall 2020

CRN: 98136

MINDS AND MACHINES

Professor Anthony Sali, Department of Psychology

Minds and Machines: Can a machine possess a mind? Scholars from diverse fields have long debated this question. Today, companies employ sophisticated techniques to track our interests and are developing devices that will allow communication between human brains and machines. We will discuss historical perspectives on artificial intelligence as well as state of the art research from the field of cognitive neuroscience on consciousness. Throughout, we will consider the ethical implications of a world in which machines could someday have minds.

TR 12:30 – 1:45

Greene 312

Fall 2020

CRN: 97114

JERUSALEM THE HOLY

Professor Leann Pace, Department for the Study of Religions

An interdisciplinary approach to the study of the significance of Jerusalem, particularly with regard to the complexity of competing religious claims to the city's sanctity and the implications these have for a peaceful resolution of Jerusalem's current status.

TR 9:30 – 10:45

Wingate 206

Fall 2020

CRN: 98170

DON'T CALL ME CRAZY! A JOURNEY INTO WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH IN FICTION AND FILM

Professor Silvia Tiboni-Craft, Department of Spanish and Italian

For centuries women have been portrayed by male authors in literature and by larger society as prone to neurotic diseases such as depression, anxiety and hysteria. Italian writer Giovanni Papini called the 19th century the "century of neurosis" and the impact of neurosis on women's lives and bodies in particular appears frequently in literature. From novels, short stories, contemporary films and newspaper articles written between the end of the 19th century to the modern day, this course aims to understand how such disease is represented in the Italian context and beyond. Using ideas from narrative medicine we will study how stories of disease have been used to attack women but also how women use the written word as therapy to heal through storytelling. Through analysis and digital projects, we will explore how women use their voices to denounce the pain of being marginalized by a patriarchal society that called them "crazy."

TR 12:30 – 1:45

Greene 320

Fall 2020

CRN: 98171

MORE THAN TOROS AND FLAMENCO: CONFRONTING SPANISH STEREOTYPES THROUGH FILM AND LITERATURE

Professor Bruce Jackson, Department of Spanish and Italian

With English speakers in mind, this course acquaints students with a panoramic introduction to some of the most representative literary and visual representations of Spain from the late 18th to the 21st century. The seminar allows students to critically and intellectually reflect on, analyze, and evaluate a culture and society outside of their own, bringing learners to pose and consider bigger questions such as social anxieties and injustice. To this end, the learner not only gains knowledge concerning the implications that inspired the cultural representations that they will study, but also academic skills of success in writing, speaking, reading, as well as observing.

TR 12:30 – 1:45

Greene 251

Fall 2020

CRN: 98142

BORDER CROSSINGS: CREATIVITY IN THE MIX AND THE MARGINS

Professor Lynn Book, Department of Theatre and Dance

This course is for adventurers, interlopers, thieves and the just plain curious. Venture into unknown and sometimes unruly territories on the frontiers of creativity. Here we will chart the incredible cross-fertilizations that have occurred over the last several years between and betwixt fields, ideas and cultures. We will stake out our research from the perspective of the Arts: Visual Arts, Theatre, Dance, Music, Creative Writing and more, learning how these fields have dramatically metamorphosed, yielding new forms in the mix of disciplines and in the margins between them. Video art, Spoken Word, Installation, Internet and Performance Art will be just some of the hybrid forms of art that we will experience. As we learn about these new forms that blur boundaries between the arts, we'll also take a look at how other areas such as science and politics impact and influence the arts and vice versa. The course will examine how defining characteristics about art are being shaped, limited or encouraged by social, cultural and technological contexts.

TR 12:30 – 1:45

SFAC 134

Fall 2020

CRN: 98144

THEATRE ALIVE!

Professor Sharon Andrews, Department of Theatre and Dance

Theatre Alive! will examine the process of creating, and the artistic choices involved in, the University Theatre's productions of *How I Learned to Drive* by Paula Vogel and *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. We will also study several other plays by Pulitzer Prize winning dramatists Vogel and Miller. Student participation will include discussion, written reviews, oral presentations, and scene performances.

TR 11:00 – 12:15

SFAC 214

Fall 2020

CRN: 98145

THROUGH YOUR LENS

Professor Bruce Jackson, Department of Spanish and Italian
Professor Qiaona Yu, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures
Professor Sharon Andrews, Department of Theatre and Dance

Are your vision and perception actually 20/20? What influences how “accurately” you perceive the world? Is complete accuracy realistic? What guides your judgements and perceptions as you watch a series or film, read a novel, talk with your classmates, rate your professors? In this course we will examine how we interpret the world, as well as identify, explore, and challenge perceptions from a variety of perspectives in language, film, theater, and literature.

TR 3:30 – 4:45

SFAC 208

Fall 2020

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