

FIRST YEAR SEMINARS

Fall 2007 – Spring 2008

CRN: 84646

RACE, ETHNICITY AND THE LAW

Professor Muriel Beth Hopkins, Program in American Ethnic Studies

This seminar will explore the racial patterns in the evolution of American Law. We will examine a compendium of landmark legal decisions that involve racial issues and the socio-legal impact of the American legal process upon African-American citizens. The cases are derived from the Supreme Court Digest which gives the factual background, the holdings, and the reasons for the decision in each case. We will discuss the erosion of American law through governmental inaction and creative judicial interpretation. Moreover, we will question the fairness of cases that may have restricted the constitutional rights of the minority population in America.

In conclusion, the goal of this course is to use the historical method to evoke analytical thought in light of the historical context of the cases; assess the status of civil rights in America; and project future trends in the judicial system with respect to the law as a cure for discrimination.

Fall 2007

Collins 007

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN: 84647

UNDER THE BLACK FLAG: THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF PIRACY

Professor Eric Bowne, Department of Anthropology

Aarrgh! Sign aboard you scurvy dogs and learn all about the myth and reality of piracy. Did pirates really bury treasure and make people walk the plank? Are there still pirates operating today and if so, where? Who did pirates terrorize and what did they steal? Did pirates have international, multi-ethnic crews that practiced a form of democracy on the otherwise autocratic high seas? You mates will learn the answers to all of these questions and many more, as well as learn about the lives of some of the most famous pirates, including North Carolina's own Blackbeard and the female pirates Anne Bonny and Mary Reade. The course will include readings, lectures, movies, and a possible field trip to the coast.

Fall 2007

Tribble A305

TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm

CRN:

ARTISTS INVENTING MARKETS

Professor Bernadine Barnes, Department of Art

While we naturally think of visual artists as the epitome of creativity, we do not often think of them as successful entrepreneurs—people who not only had innovative ideas, but who created new ways to put their ideas before the public in a meaningful way. In this First Year Seminar, we will explore notions of creativity from the Renaissance to the nineteenth century. We will then concentrate on particular artists (such as Raphael, Rembrandt, Courbet, and Cassatt) as we discover how individual artists worked within—and broke through—limitations to their creativity, and how they found ways to let their ideas and inventions be known to a broader public. Finally we will compare the experiences of these historic artists to artists of our own time.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84648

FALLEN WOMEN AND FINE ART: THE AESTHETICS OF COMMERCIAL SEX

Professor Elizabeth Howie, Department of Art

Many of the Impressionist paintings of the 19th century, such as those featuring lovely young women dancing in dappled sunlight with charming men, actually represent scenes relating to prostitution. Women engaged in the commercial sex trade have been the subject of art for centuries; what does it mean to show these women from the underworld in the spaces of fine art? How is the prostitute identified and/or made different in visual art, and how do we read these women's bodies as portrayed by male artists? In the First Year Seminar, we will examine art and writing pertaining to prostitution from the 19th century to present, in terms of urbanization, colonization, and the changing status of women.

Fall 2007

SFAC 103

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN:

SACRED SPACES

Professor Harry Titus, Department of Art

The seminar will examine the architectural character and associated decoration of a series of religious sanctuaries: a classical temple, a Christian church, a Shinto shrine, Buddhist caves and an Islamic mosque. Participants will discuss and write about issues related to the design, patronage, construction, staffing, and maintenance of the structures. The goal of the class is an increased appreciation of the aims of religious groups in physically defining a sacred space.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84649

BIOINFORMATICS FOR BEGINNERS

Professor Susan E. Fahrbach, Department of Biology

Why do animals such as honey bees and humans do what they do? How do genes and environment interact to control behavior? The developing field of bioinformatics provides new approaches to long-standing questions in biology. This course will provide a hands-on introduction to the use of computer-based bioinformatics tools. Within a framework provided by social insect biology, students will conduct original *in silico* experiments and share their writing about the results of their analyses with their classmates and, in some cases, with the developers of the software tools they use. Students will gain experience in the generation of hypotheses and creative use of computer-based bioinformatics tools while honing their essay-writing skills.

Fall 2007

Winston 221

TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm

CRN: 84650

THE BLACK BOX IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Professor Raymond Kuhn, Department of Biology

This seminar will explore how major discoveries were made by persons who used observation, intuition and creativity in the absence of knowledge of the scientific basis of their discoveries.

Fall 2007

Winston 233

TR 12:00 - 1:15pm

CRN - Fall: 84651

CRN - Spring:

THE ART OF THE DEAL: LEARNING TO NEGOTIATE EFFECTIVELY

Professor Ben King, Calloway School of Business and Accountancy

We negotiate every day. For example, we negotiate with parents, roommates, potential employers, and merchants. Moreover, the ability to negotiate is an important skill for leaders in our global community. This course will explore the strategy and psychology of effective negotiations. Through role plays and case studies of negotiations, first year students will hone valuable negotiation proficiencies while exploring this subject in the broader context of our global market place.

Fall 2007	Kirby B01A	TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm
Spring 2008	TBA	TBA

CRN:

SCIENTISTS: BORN OR MADE?

Professor Christa Colyer, Department of Chemistry

Despite increased media coverage of issues such as global warming, and the popularization of science through television shows such as “CSI,” 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? In the broadest sense, this seminar will expose students to the lives of scientists, past and present, thus revealing the true traits and motivations that govern scientists’ lives and work, as opposed to the stereotypes that we might otherwise be familiar with. Finally, students will identify, on a personal level, if they have the ‘right stuff’ and how the traits of scientists might also be those necessary to succeed in other professions or vocations.

Spring 2008	TBA	TBA
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CRN: 84652

THE ANALYTICAL METHODS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Professor Brad Jones, Department of Chemistry

The novels and short stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will be used as a guide for the development of the scientific skills of observation, deduction and reporting. Holmes’ analytical method and Dr. Watson’s flair for the report will be used as models for the experimentalist’s laboratory notebook. Several of Holmes’ techniques will be reproduced as group experiments: deductions from a common object, the identification of pipe tobaccos, and the preparation of a seven percent solution, to name a few. Students will submit anonymously their own short story written in Doyle’s style, and these will be critically analyzed in a group setting.

Fall 2007	Salem 210	TR 4:00 – 5:15 pm
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CRN: 84653

WHAT YOU EAT

Professor Angela King, Department of Chemistry

Do you know where your food comes from? Mad cow disease and tainted spinach crisis highlight our need for safe and healthy food. Could modern agricultural practices be putting the health of our “Fast Food Nation” at risk? The goal of the First Year Seminar is to help students realize the complex interactions between food production and handling, safety and availability, environmental impact and related social and economic issues. Corporate farming employs some environmentally questionable practices, but so-called factory farms produce most of the food in our nation. Would switching to smaller scale, sustainable agriculture increase the prevalence of hunger in our society? How do minimum wage and price per pound of agriculture products affect farmers, food processing workers, and consumers buying the final product? If, as the saying goes, you are what you eat, then you should enjoy learning the true value of the food you consume through service learning and course work.

Fall 2007

Salem 210

TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm

CRN:

EGYPT: CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION, CENTER OF ARAB-MUSLIM CULTURE

Professor Darlene May, Department of Classical Languages

Egypt, a 60-centuries-old cradle of ancient civilization, is the birthplace of agriculture, the art of government, and monotheism. Historically a melting pot of many conquering peoples—Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Turks, French, and English—as well as a crossroads for the Semitic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—it is now the political, religious, educational, literary, artistic, and entertainment center of the Arabic-speaking world.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

BODY IMAGE AND COMMUNICATION

Professor Steven Giles, Department of Communication

The purpose of this course is twofold: 1) To understand better how peers and media influence one's sense of body satisfaction and image; and 2) to learn theoretical approaches to improving body image and preventing eating problems.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

GREAT AMERICAN SPEECHES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

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.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84654

NEGATIVE CAMPAIGNING: CONTROVERSY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Professor Allan Loudon, Department of Communication

This seminar examines political advertising: spots, direct mail, and media coverage. The class challenges “conventional wisdom” of pundits and media that negative advertising undermines democracy. Questions, such as “Do negative ads/campaigns affect voter turnout/cynicism?” are examined via advertising artifacts, research findings, and constitutional realities. Corollary topics such as democratic participation, bipartisanship, and governance come into play.

Fall 2007

Carswell 305

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

CRN - Fall: 84655

CRN – Spring:

CREATIVE DISCOVERY IN DIGITAL ART FORMS

Professor Jennifer Burg, Department of Computer Science

This course allows students to explore the creative possibilities of interactive multimedia and computer-generated art, photography, music, and literary expression. Students will learn beginning-level digital processing techniques, they will read and discuss essays and poems considering creativity, art, and technology, and they will write papers on related subjects.

Fall 2007

Manchester 017

MWF 1:00 – 1:50 am

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84656

DIGITAL-VISUAL LITERACY

Professor Robert Evans, Department of Education

First year students will be challenged to place themselves in the continuum, which stretches from the Age of Oral Communication to the Digital-Visual Age. They will examine how print and electronic media have already affected their conceptualization of knowledge and develop strategies to make decisions, particularly during their years at Wake Forest, about what mix of information sources they intend to use in the future. Each student will critically examine television and the Internet as a source of educational, political, and religious information, with analyses, both in and out-of-class, of specific programs and sites which may have contributed to their current world view. Through discussion, writing, producing their own Web-sites and the production of a visual essay using multi-media, they will examine and debate the merits and liabilities of information sources. After completing the seminar, first year students will have a clearer view of how the epistemological biases of various sources of information have shaped their understanding of the world and have a greater sense of control over their future consumption of all media.

Fall 2007

Tribble A11

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN:

ARTISTS MAKING IT NEW

Professor Andrew Ettin, Department of English

How do artistic pioneers forge a new "language" for their medium, developing expressive forms that suit their ideas as their work ventures into new realms of experience? How can collaborative efforts among pioneering creative artists produce great works? We will examine such questions through the creativity of some artistic pioneers of the 20th century in various art forms, probably including Mahler and Stravinsky in music; Picasso, Matisse and Chagall in visual arts; Kafka and Woolf in literature; Balanchine, Martha Graham and Merce Cunningham in dance; Eisenstein in cinema; Imogen Cunningham in photography; Gaudi and Frank Lloyd Wright in architecture. We will read what these artists said and wrote about their aesthetics and creative process, in addition to studying the artistic works themselves.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

MIGRATION, CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTER, AND GLOBALIZATION IN WORLD LITERATURE

Professor Omaar Hena, Department of English

There is nothing new about the movement of peoples from one part of the world to another and the consequent crossing of cultures. In the past twenty years or so, however, the speed and intensity of what we now call globalization has significantly changed the ways cultural groups, formerly seen as separate, distinct, and nationally contained, have come into contact with one another and how they in turn conceive of and represent themselves in new, cross-cultural, transnational and global contexts.

This class will explore how literature represents the difficult, dislocating, and defamiliarizing experience of migration in the age of globalization. We will read a wide array of texts (novels, poems, plays, autobiographical non-fiction, travelogue, and film) written from several different cultural locations (Ireland, South Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Australia, and East Asia, by and large from outside the U.S. and Britain). Throughout our journey, we will keep in mind *overlapping* (or shared) and *disjunctive* (or separate) effects of migration and cross-cultural encounter in the texts we study. We will also keep a close eye on the specific historical, cultural, political, and aesthetic contexts that make their mark on the texts we study. Above all we will ask how literature and literary language mold, negotiate, question, contest, critique, and sometimes altogether subvert received ideas about migration and globalization in contemporary culture. Writers may include V.S. Naipaul, Wole Soyinka, Derek Walcott, Salman Rushdie, Michelle Cliff, Leila Ahmed, and Jane Alison.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

AMERICAN ART IN ITS MANY CONTEXTS:

THE COLLECTION AT REYNOLDA HOUSE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

Professor Barry Maine, Department of English, Director of Interdisciplinary Honors Program

This First Year Seminar will meet twice a week at the 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 art history, architectural history, American culture, American literature, and museum culture. What is a museum for and how did this one in particular come into being? What contexts are most useful in understanding the paintings in the collection? These are just a few of the questions we will be considering. Students enrolled in this seminar will 1) enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the past and present life of an American art museum, with guided tours, gallery talks, special events, and interactions with the museum staff; 2) read American literary classics that correlate well with paintings in the museum's collection; 3) discuss their reactions to a wide variety of art works and special events at the museum; and 4) write a series of papers on topics assigned by the instructor.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

OTHERWORDS: THE MONSTROUS AND THE MEANING OF THE HUMAN

Professor Gale Sigal, Department of English

Monsters, dragons, aliens, Frankenstein: throughout the course of human history, there has been a fascination, almost an obsession, with monsters – wandering creatures of the night, ghosts lurking in old houses, vampires stalking unsuspecting children and adults. Among the most fascinating and compelling stories that have been passed down from generation to generation and continue to engage us are works that have revolved around the marvelous realms of the otherworld and the monstrous characters to be found there. Giants, trolls and fairies, Grendel and Circe, goblins and gargoyles are all creations that have inspired writers, artists, and thinkers since ancient times.

This course focuses on how presentations of the otherworld and of the monstrous reflect and comment on cultural ideologies; they also reveal how individual artistic genius reflects those same cultural ideologies. Although removed from “real life,” the fantastical or frightening visions we shall study provides access to a variety of historical ideas, social constructs, cultural patterns, and spiritual themes. Through exploration of the otherworlds in literature, art and some films, students will explore the historical traditions of the marvelous and the monstrous.

We will be seeking to discover the role monsters play in our consciousness; what niche do they fill? The complex relationship between “normality” and “monstrosity” and the creation, role and destruction of “the monster” will be investigated in this course, in part, in order to reveal what it means to be human. We will investigate what ways the monster helps humanity define itself. Through vigorous discussion, concentrated thinking, energetic writing and dynamic oral presentations, we will examine how the conventions of the otherworld have become integral to our own popular culture.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

MELANCHOLY ANDROIDS: ON EMOTION AND ARTIFICIAL HUMANOIDS

Professor Eric Wilson, Department of English

What makes Pinocchio sad? In this course, a study of the psychological impulses behind the creation of artificial humans, we will ask this question and many others. We will focus on several kinds of androids—puppets, golems, automatons, robots, cyborgs, and artificial intelligences—as they appear in myth, religion, literature, and film. We will wonder about relationships between mind and matter, freedom and fate, organism and mechanism. We will brood over the strange possibilities, such as the idea that machines might be more human than humans and the notion that some humans are really machines. Our texts will include Heinrich von Kleist’s “The Marionette Theater,” Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, Philip K. Dick’s *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, and Victoria Nelson’s *The Secret Life of Puppets*. Films will include Fritz Lang’s *Metropolis*, Ridley Scott’s *Blade Runner*, Paul Verhoeven’s *Robocop*, and Steven Spielberg’s *A.I.* Requirements will include several short essays, a longer research essay, and oral reports.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84657

WIDE OPEN SPACES:

THE AMERICAN FRONTIER AND THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY

Professor Alyssa Lonner, Department of German and Russian

What does it really mean to be American, and what do cowboys have to do with it? Through fictional and non-fictional accounts of the American frontier, we will investigate how our distinctive history of settlement and Westward expansion contributed to the formation of an American culture, and how this past continues to influence our self-perception as Americans. Assignments will include texts by James Fenimore Cooper, Willa Cather, and Laura Ingalls Wilder, as well as discussions of art, country music, and classic western films.

Fall 2007

Greene 340

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

CRN: 84658

BIOMECHANICS: MECHANICAL DESIGNS FOR LIVING AND LOCOMOTION

Professor Anthony Marsh, Department of Health and Exercise Science

A shell, a bird's feather, a spider's web, a human femur, the sleek design of a dolphin and the remarkable anatomy of the kangaroo are classic designs optimized for their respective function. This is the fundamental basis of biomechanics: the study of the mechanics and other physical aspects of living organisms and their parts, e.g., the effects of forces that act on limbs, the aerodynamics of bird and insect flight, the hydrodynamics of swimming in fish, and locomotion from individual cells to whole organisms. Topics such as these will be discussed using directed readings, scientific articles, and the Internet. Critical thinking will be emphasized and assignments will include brief written assignments, practical laboratory experiences, and brief oral presentations.

Fall 2007

Reynolds Gym 209

Wednesday 4:00 – 6:30 pm

CRN - Fall: 84659

CRN - Spring:

**TAKING SIDES: CLASHING VIEWS ON
CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN HEALTH AND SOCIETY**

Professor Joseph Seay, Department of Health and Exercise Science

This course will address many of the controversial health issues facing contemporary society by studying both sides of these issues. Examples of topics include: Ethics of Human Cloning, Tobacco Advertising and Teen Smoking, Gun Control as a Public Health Issue, Validity of the Gulf War Syndrome, Risks of Silicone Breast Implants, Spirituality and Disease, Partial Birth Abortion, Limiting Health Care in the Elderly, and Ethics of Physician-Assisted Suicide. These topics will be debated from both sides using directed readings and the Internet as sources. Critical thinking will be emphasized and assignments will include written papers, oral presentations, class discussion, and debates.

Fall 2007

Reynolds Gym 210

TR 9:30 - 10:45 am

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84660

NO ORDINARY TIME:

THE EXPERIENCE OF COMBATANTS AND CIVILIANS DURING WORLD WAR II

Professor James Barefield, Department of History

The seminar will divide its time between the military course of the war and life on the home front. Its focus throughout will be on how the war changed people's lives in the various countries involved. Besides the common reading from histories and diaries, students will create two autobiographies – one American, one non-American – which explore the individual experience of the characters over the course of the war.

Fall 2007

Tribble A104

TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm

CRN:

THE TWO RECONSTRUCTIONS: CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA

Professor Paul Escott, Department of History

This seminar will examine and compare two periods in which the rights of African-Americans were at the top of the nation's agenda: reconstruction after the Civil War and the modern civil rights movement. Students will search for patterns, similarities and differences, and a deeper understanding of the dynamics of racial progress in America.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84672

CRN: 84661

AMERICAN MANHOOD

Professor Anders Greenspan, Department of History

This class will examine the issues of manhood and masculinity as they affected men in the United States from the middle part of the nineteenth century through World War II. We will examine the ways in which perceptions of masculinity shaped the ways that men behaved and the ideals that they held. We will examine the roles of men in war – with particular attention to the U.S. Civil War and World War II – as well as examining men in their everyday working lives. We will also examine visions of ideal manhood, and how the changing nature of American society affected perceptions of masculinity. We will read a variety of primary and secondary works to help better our understanding of American manhood. Class assignments will comprise book reviews, a research paper and a take-home final exam.

Fall 2007

Tribble A104

TR 9:30 – 10:45 pm

Fall 2007

Tribble A104

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN: 84662

FALLOUT SHELTERS AND THE COLD WAR: WEAPON, PROPAGANDA, OR SURVIVAL TECHNIQUE

Professor J. Edwin Hendricks, Department of History

Thousands of Americans either built fallout shelters or provided secure places in their homes during the 1950s and 60s to provide refuge in the event of nuclear attack. Public shelters were located, marked, and stocked with survival necessities. The Soviet Union made similar provisions for surviving a nuclear holocaust. Shelters provided more realistic options for survival than the civil defense evacuation policies first proposed as a response to nuclear war. Even into the 1960s, official statements on the dangers of nuclear fallout greatly underestimated the real threat. Most shelters provided limited protection as well as inadequate food, water and ventilation for the length of stay necessary to avoid damage in the case of severe radiation. But individuals who built shelters, and many who supported them, believed shelters were the nation's best hope should the Cold War turn radioactive. Or did they? There are reasons to believe that the governmental push for fallout shelters was at least as much a diplomatic weapon as a survival technique. Comparisons with the present war on terrorism and the Homeland Security programs will be explored. Texts, periodicals, movies, documents, artifacts, interviews and web sites will provide material for oral and written reports and a class web project.

Fall 2007

Collins Seminar Room 007

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

CRN: 84663

IMAGE OF WEALTH AND POVERTY IN U.S. CULTURE

Professor J. Howell Smith, Department of History

In the first decades after World War II, the economic promise of the U.S. was that prosperity would grow so much that poverty could be abolished without lessening the prosperity of those who had money. By 2007 that optimism had faded, and the statement that “The poor you will have with you always” has become more prevalent.

The seminar will study what Americans have said about who should be wealthy and who should be poor. What are the burdens of being identified as rich or poor? How have we depicted the rich and the poor in art and literature? Is there any reason a person should give away power and prestige? By what right does a community take money from the rich and give it to the poor—as in graduated income tax? What is the function and nature of philanthropy and volunteerism? Do the wealthy and the poor need each other?

Short weekly projects or papers and one extended project or paper, which we will all critique, will guide discussions of what Americans in the past and present believed about the meaning of being wealthy or being poor. When admiration of wealth and respect for volunteerism and charity come in conflict, what do the sparks of the collision illuminate about us?

Fall 2007

Collins Seminar Room 008

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

CRN:

GLOBAL WEALTH AND POVERTY

Professor Sarah Watts, Department of History

This course provides a brief history of globalization, one which addresses the disparities of wealth and poverty within and between nations and which analyzes the processes and events leading to the current modern world system. Our primary goal is to understand why, with so much global productivity and wealth-creation, the gaps between rich and poor states widen at an increasing rate. We will learn the conceptual categories of meaning through which one “thinks” the world using methods of analysis from a broad range of disciplines including economic geography, urban sociology, international political economy, development economics, and postcolonial anthropology.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

THEMES AND METHODS IN MAKING MOVIES

Professor Candyce Leonard, Program in Humanities

If you are interested in a serious study of film that entails learning to write, research and reflect on the movies we watch, then this class is for you. Our work with film includes examining the methods of creating and representing the image (camera angles, camera shots, lighting, etc.), and we will investigate the inherent political, cultural, and social discourses that movies possess. All films are viewed outside of class as part of your homework.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84664

POLITICS AND THE ARTS

Professor Robert Utley, Jr., Program in Humanities

The seminar will engage students in a careful investigation of the relationship between art, especially dramatic and literary art, and public life. Exemplary literary texts will be studied to understand the central importance which the public realm frequently plays in great art and the profound manner in which artists portray the character of political life. Classic works of literary criticism will be read to supplement and deepen the consideration of the literary texts. Representative authors may include Sophocles, Aristotle, Shakespeare, Machiavelli, Moliere, Rousseau and Twain.

Fall 2007

Collins Seminar Room 007

TR 3:00 – 4:15 pm

CRN: 84665

VOCATION OF HEALING

Professor Ulrike Wiethaus, Program in Humanities

The seminar will explore the vocation of healing through processes of self-actualization and personal growth as students become more perceptive of communal and individual realities of pain, suffering, and healing. We will work to develop a cross-cultural paradigm of the healing journey, in which a commitment to health and healing can become a part of any vocation, and can perhaps even be perceived to be the deepest layer of vocation as such.

Fall 2007

Tribble A207

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN - Fall: 84666

CRN - Spring:

CHALLENGES TO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Professor Yomi Durotoye, Program in International Studies

This seminar will provide students with the ability to view and analyze global issues from a variety of cultural and methodological perspectives. We will explore the meaning of cultural diversity, ways by which we identify, describe, and define differences, and mechanisms by which people try to negotiate their differences in the world at large. We will use these bases to explore global issues such as ethnicity and racism, feminism and gender, the international economic system, international security and environmental politics and choices.

Fall 2007	Tribble A 308	MW 3:00 – 4:15 pm
Spring 2008	TBA	TBA

CRN:

THE MATHEMATICS OF VOTING

Professor Jason Parsley, Department of Mathematics

Voting and its quagmires have heavily influenced politics in the 21st century. In this course, students will examine the foundations behind voting, be it for political candidates or for toppings on a pizza. One striking result quickly encountered is *Arrow's Impossibility Theorem*: except for a dictatorship, any voting system among three or more persons must inevitably fail one of a few natural criteria, which one would expect to hold in any election. We will examine the strengths and weaknesses of several voting systems, including (1) majority rule, (2) a Borda count method (similar to many sports polls), (3) instant runoff voting, which several states (including North Carolina) and municipalities have recently adopted. We will also study the Electoral College and other examples of weighted voting systems. Much of our data will typically be taken from the ongoing primaries. Students will work directly with exit-polling data and predict outcomes of these races; one course project will analyze the accuracy of their projections. Some readings will address the current debate regarding electronic voting machines. Students will explore a voting topic in greater depth for a final project.

Spring 2008	TBA	TBA
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CRN: 84667

MUSIC OF PROTEST

Professor Patricia Dixon, Department of Music

Throughout this seminar, students will become better acquainted with the political and social conditions that have led to the creation of a body of songs labeled “protest songs” in the Americas. Students will address such questions as:

- What constitutes a protest song in a given historical time and place?
- Who are the singers and poets of songs of protest?
- What is the role of the artist in periods of political polarization and turmoil?
- What were the political issues in protest songs in the America’s from the mid-1960s to the 1980s?
- Do we have protest songs today and how does mass media cover them?
- The role of mega-events in the world.

Fall 2007	SFAC M308	TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm
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CRN:

COMMUNICATION AND THE FINE ARTS

Professor Louis Goldstein, Department of Music

This interdisciplinary seminar will explore the question: why are there different arts? How do the various fine arts communicate emotions and thought? Experiences at live events and art shows will provide the focus for written assignments, which will include personal reactions, traditional discourse, and experimental prose and poetry. We will explore artistic expressions in music, theater, literature, cinema, the plastic arts, and the Internet, asking how thoughts and feelings are translated into communicable forms of expression. Prerequisite: an open mind.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

THE MUSICAL THEATER OF STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Professor David Hagy, Department of Music

Students will read about and explore Stephen Sondheim's contributions to the Broadway stage. Twelve to fourteen of his shows will be watched, read, listened to and examined with regard to tradition, creativity, and the ever-changing theatrical expectations of the public. Presentations, discussions and papers will compare his goals, methods of working, and achievements throughout his life as well as to other major figures of the Broadway musical theater stage. Musical or theatrical background not required but encouraged.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84668

WAGNER'S RING: ITS SYMBOLS AND MEANINGS

Professor David Levy, Department of Music

Did you ever wonder where Tolkien got his idea for an all-powerful ring? 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 life. Adapted from strands of medieval German, Norse, and Icelandic mythology, the *Ring* tells 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, politics, and popular culture. 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, *The Nibelungenlied*, *The Saga of the Volsungs*, and authors such as Ernest Newman, Robert Donington, George Bernard Shaw, Friedrich Nietzsche, Michael Ewans, Jacques Barzun, Deryck Cooke, and others.

Fall 2007

SFAC M308

TR 3:00 – 4:15 pm

CRN:

MOVIES AND METAPHYSICS

Professor Stavroula Glezakos, Department of Philosophy

This seminar will introduce students to several issues in contemporary metaphysics, including causation, freedom, the self, and the appearance-reality distinction. We will read classic and contemporary writings by philosophers, as well as view movies, in which these and other philosophical themes are explored.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84669

TRUTH, REALITY, AND OBJECTIVITY: PHILOSOPHICAL THEMES IN PHYSICS

Professor Ralph Kennedy, Department of Philosophy

Professor Dany Kim-Shapiro, Department of Physics

Is all truth relative, contingent on social and historical factors? Does it make sense to speak of what is "real", independently of what anybody says or thinks? Is objectivity ever a reasonable goal? We will consider these philosophical questions with reference to natural science generally and quantum mechanics in particular, a field which poses acute challenges for traditional understandings of reality and objectivity.

Fall 2007

Tribble A307

TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm

CRN: 84670

MORAL CHOICE, INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND THE LAW

Professor Win-Chiat Lee, Department of Philosophy

This course is an introduction to philosophical thinking about the problem of moral choice in private and public life through the discussion of specific issues such as sex, drugs, abortion, euthanasia and civil disobedience. The problem of the legitimate use of coercive force by the state in moral matters will be emphasized. Readings are mostly from contemporary sources with some discussions of court opinions.

Fall 2007

Tribble B313

MW 3:00 – 4:15 pm

CRN:

GOD

Professor Christian Miller, Department of Philosophy

Is it rational to believe in the existence of God, understood as an all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving being? Do features of the natural world entitle us to believe in the existence of such a being? How are we to understand the claims that God is omnipotent and perfectly good? Can we reconcile human freedom with divine foreknowledge, and the existence of evil with God's perfect goodness? Are divine commands the source of the moral rightness of acts?

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

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.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

HARNESSING LIFE'S MOLECULAR MACHINES: FROM AIDS TESTS TO HYDROGEN CARS

Professor Jed Macosko, Department of Physics

In this First Year Seminar students will explore the submicroscopic resources found inside living cells: tiny machines made up of amino acids and DNA. These molecular machines undergird every living system and nearly all biotechnological devices and methods. The goal of this class will be to learn how these machines perform their manifold functions and how biotechnologists harness them to make useful innovations. After culling ideas from Wake Forest University professors and off-campus entrepreneurs, students will draft proposals that leverage those ideas in order to create value. Particular emphasis will be placed on the value of “appropriate technology”—inexpensive AIDS tests for developing countries, for example—and on energy conscious technology, such as hydrogen producing molecular machines.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

POLITICS AND IDENTITY

Professor Michaëlle Browers, Department of Political Science

This seminar will explore how works from a wide variety of genres—including film, literature, theatre, history and political theory—identify, articulate and even produce identities, and the modes these works propose for engaging difference. We will investigate the character identity takes—particularly nationality, religion, gender, ethnicity, race, sexuality and class—as well as ways in which identity informs political norms, structures and practices.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

DEBATING CAPITALISM

Professor David Coates, Department of Political Science

An introduction to some of the core debates on the nature, desirability and potentiality of capitalism. Students will be introduced to competing definitions of capitalism, to competing claims about the desirability and strengths of various models of capitalism, and to competing claims about the effects of those models on different societies, social groups and environments.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL: THE GLOBALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL PASTIME

Professor Charles Kennedy, Department of Political Science

This seminar explores aspects of professional baseball in a multidisciplinary manner. The course will trace the history of the development of professional baseball in the United States, Latin America and Japan. Students will also confront other relevant issues including: ethnicity and race, globalization; and legal issues concerning performance-enhancing drugs, union activities, and federal anti-trust legislation. Students will be required to write several short papers on relevant topics and to participate actively in classroom discussion.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

Professor Terry Blumenthal, Department of Psychology

Students will learn about the symptoms of several neurological disorders, with special attention paid to the physiological mechanisms underlying these disorders. The course will include exams, term papers, and oral presentations, to learn more about the way in which patients learn to live with their disorder.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

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.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

PSYCHOLOGICAL UTOPIAS

Professor James Schirillo, Department of Psychology

Utopias focus on actualizing potential social states given preconceived notions of the capacities and limitations of human nature. Students will read several literary utopian novels and related critiques that explore how to improve human society given the psychological constraints of human nature.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

LIFE PERSPECTIVES

Professor Eric Stone, Department of Psychology

The purpose of this course is to investigate various thoughts, research, and philosophies on how we can best live our lives. To this end, we will consider both traditional Western ideas as well as a range of less traditional perspectives (such as Eastern religions). To the extent possible, the focus will not be on abstract concepts, such as the “meaning of life,” but instead on more tangible recommendations on how to live. In so doing, the hope is that we can apply these ideas to how we approach our own lives, and get a better sense of how we fit into the world in which we live.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84671

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN BEHAVIOR: IT’S NOT ALL ABOUT BEING “MEAN”

Professor Jane Williams, Department of Psychology

How do we know what we know about human behavior? This course will explore different ways of gaining understanding about behavior including: examining measures of the “mean” or central tendency, learning and performing observational techniques in natural environments, reading and analyzing narratives and biographies, exploring human behavior in photography and art, and examining the effects of self-perception on the interpretation of others’ behavior. The class will analyze the pros and cons of different approaches and will include experiential activities as well as papers and class discussions.

Fall 2007

Greene 310

TR 3:00 – 4:15 pm

CRN

SEEING WITH A NATIVE EYE: POSSIBILITIES FOR MUTUAL RESPECT AND COLLABORATION

Professor Stephen Boyd, Department of Religion

Students will examine key aspects of the historical relationship between Native Americans and Europeans, images of Native Peoples produced by Europeans and their impact, and the recent re-emergence of Native cultural traditions. In addition, we will explore a model of intercultural understanding and collaboration, with attention to the relationship between the San Carlos Arizona Apache Reservation and groups of Natives and Europeans in North Carolina and beyond.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84673

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES ON WAR AND PEACE

Professor Earl Crow, Department of Religion

The study of Christian Perspectives on War and Peace will include a survey of attitudes beginning with the early post-New Testament church, through the era of Constantine, the Middle Ages crusades, to modern Christian thought. Attention will be given to divergent views: Holy Wars, The Concept of Just Wars, and Christian Pacifism. Selected works by a wide-range of theologians and philosophers will be studied.

Fall 2007

Wingate 209

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84674

FINDING THE GOOD (OR THE BEST) IN DISASTERS

Professor Kenneth Hoglund, Department of Religion

Disasters present unique cases for life-or-death decisions. But such decisions may have been made many steps earlier both in how preparations were made for a disaster, and how professionals and volunteers are trained to make such decisions in the face of an incident. This seminar looks at the complexity of a disaster (using Hurricane Katrina as a paradigm), the ways best practices are implemented to respond to a disaster, and what the ethical role of a citizen is in the face of disasters. As a part of the seminar, students are certified as qualified volunteers to respond to a local disaster.

Fall 2007

Wingate 206

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

CRN: 84675

SURPRISING SPIRITUALITY: POPULAR CULTURE AND CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS LIFE

Professor Lynn S. Neal, Department of Religion

From Christian romance novels to Simpson spirituality to the myth-making of professional wrestling, this course investigates the relationship between popular culture products and the religious lives of their devotees. Throughout the semester, we will be questioning how popular culture is influencing individual spirituality, religious vitality, and American culture.

Fall 2007

Wingate 206

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 am

CRN:

TALES OF MYSTERY AND IMAGINATION

Professor Elizabeth Anthony, Department of Romance Languages

Through analyses and discussion of selected tales of mystery and imagination this seminar seeks to challenge our assumptions and our modes of perception. The texts under consideration invite us to probe beyond perceived events. They require us to become careful and attentive readers as we assume the role of detective, judge or psychoanalyst. We will consider the choices authors make when constructing tales of mad scientists, scorned lovers, and supernatural events. Reading will include works by Robert Louis Stevenson, HG Wells, Edgar Allan Poe and Guy de Maupassant. Films include works by Hitchcock, Wilder, and Clouzot.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84676

US LATINO LITERATURE IN THE TIME OF GLOBALIZATION

Professor Karina Bautista, Department of Romance Languages

In this seminar, students will analyze and gain further knowledge of and appreciation for current key themes, significant literary works, and other artistic expressions used by Latinos to narrate their experience in the United States. In order to gain awareness of the influences of Latino cultures throughout the history of this country, we will take time to explore the literary antecedents that shaped contemporary Latino writers and other artists. Our purpose is to recognize, study and debate the thematic elements (assimilation, conversion, bi-lingualism, cultural identity, cultural isolation, border culture, race, gender, class, nationalism, colonialism, etc.) that have emerged from Chicanos, Cubans, Dominicans, Puerto Ricans and recent Latin American migrations into and within the United States.

Fall 2007

Greene 513

MWF 1:00 – 1:50 pm

CRN: 84677

SURREALISM: LORCA, DALI, BUÑEL

Professor Candelas Gala, Department of Romance Languages

Through the analytical exploration of Lorca's writing, Dalí's paintings and Buñuel's films, this seminar will study the dominant cultural trends of the twentieth century (art for art's sake, avant-garde and surrealism, and social and political commitment in art) and their historical context, from the roaring twenties through the Spanish Civil War – as prelude to the Second World War – and the post-war period. (Learning Across the Curriculum component in Spanish available.)

Fall 2007

Greene 513

TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm

CRN:

FROM IMAGINATION TO IMAGE:

REPRESENTATIONS OF EUROPEAN-AMERICAN ENCOUNTERS FROM 1492 TO 1992

Professor Kathryn Mayers, Department of Romance Languages

Throughout the five hundred years since the Age of Discovery, Europeans and Americans have been fascinated by encounters between different cultures. This fascination is apparent in a rich tradition of artworks about the encounter between the "Old" and "New" Worlds, including written accounts by European and Indigenous participants in the contact, dramas and testimonies by their descendants, pictographs and engravings by artists among them, and cinematic reenactments by film makers of the twentieth century. In this course, we will draw on texts from the Age of Discovery to the present. The objective of this course is to examine the ways in which authors use the topic of the encounter to define or redefine their own individual and collective identities.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN:

RETIREMENT MIGRATION IN AMERICA

Professor Charles Longino, Department of Sociology

Moving is something freshmen experience keenly, not only geographically and socially, but also emotionally, with its highs and lows. Geographers, demographers, economists, sociologists, and gerontologists have explored the various types, features and meanings of migration. A life course perspective will frame our examination of some of the factors that limit or encourage geographical mobility, particularly among the young and the old, thus demonstrating the liberal arts ideal of understanding how and why different people think and make decisions in different ways. The course will feature computer tip talks, web page construction, interviews with parents and grandparents, annotated lists of important Internet sites, portfolio development, and, of course, reading and writing.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84678

THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK

Professor Jeffrey Rosenthal, Department of Sociology

This course examines the various facets of work, especially the changes that many claim are transforming the workplace. Issues such as perceptions of work, motivation, gender, work and family issues will be discussed. We shall also examine the way technology is transforming the workplace, and the changing nature of employment relations.

Fall 2007

Carswell 204

TR 3:00 – 4:15 pm

CRN:

UNDERSTANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Professor Jeffrey Rosenthal, Department of Sociology

This course will seek to explain entrepreneurship from a sociological perspective. It will examine such topics as history of entrepreneurship, conditions for entrepreneurship, and social entrepreneurship.

Spring 2008

TBA

TBA

CRN: 84679

CRN: 84686

SOCIOLOGY OF VOCATIONS

Professor David Yamane, Department of Sociology

This seminar addresses a central problem individuals face in modern society: how to live productive and meaningful lives. Through intensive reading, extensive writing, daily reflection, interviewing, discussion, and debate, students will: (a) think about what it means to have a vocation in modern society; (b) begin to discern what their personal vocations could be; and (c) understand how the culture and social structure of modern society create constraints on our attempts to conceptualize and realize our vocations. We will examine these constraints in three areas of social life – education, work (especially the professions), family, and conclude by considering the connection between individual vocation and concern for the broader world (Pro Humanitate).

Fall 2007

Carswell 018

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am

Fall 2007

Carswell 018

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

CRN: 84680

THEATRE ALIVE!

Professor J. K. Curry, Department of Theatre and Dance

Theatre Alive! will follow the process of creating the University Theatre's productions of *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell and *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose. We will also examine several other "courtroom dramas," plays built around the conflict and suspense of jury trials. Student participation will include discussion, scene performances, written reviews, oral presentations, and creative projects.

Fall 2007

SFAC 208

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

CRN: 84681

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHOREOGRAPHERS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Professor Nina Lucas, Department of Theatre and Dance

This course takes an in-depth look at the choreographic style of African Americans in the 20th century, their contributions to ballet, modern jazz, and theatrical dance in America and experiences.

Fall 2007

SFAC 09

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am