

# FIRST YEAR SEMINARS

Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

CRN: 85753

## **THE POWER OF MYTH IN AMERICAN LIFE**

Professor James Bryant, Program in American Ethnic Studies

The term myth is often used to describe a fantastic fable about origins—the making of a natural landmark, the early formation of a group’s identity, or the background to a hero’s historic feats. Believing in myth is thought to give individuals a sacred connection to something greater than themselves. This seminar will begin with a review of some of the historical literature on the roles of myths in religions and societies. The conversations will then turn to whether and how myths structure our understandings of family, race and ethnicity, sports, politics, and popular culture in American life. In addition to outlining the major scholarly debates surrounding the concept of myth, and exploring how it illuminates five areas of our everyday lives, students will learn to recognize the social roles assigned to them and others through myth.

Fall 2008

Carswell 014

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

CRN: 85754

## **SKIN DEEP? HUMAN BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Professor Ellen Miller, Department of Anthropology

This seminar explores current issues in human biological diversity, with special emphasis given to the interface between biology and culture. An array of topics relevant to living with others in a modern global community is discussed. Many of the issues analyzed feature prominently in our daily lives. Sample topics include aspects of race, human adaptation to extreme conditions, sex and gender, humans and genetic research, and the nature of human equality. This class satisfies a service learning component.

Fall 2008

Carswell 107

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

CRN: 85755

## **MUSLIMS LIKE US: WESTERN CONVERTS TO ISLAM**

Professor John Schaefer, Department of Anthropology

In this seminar we examine four texts that tell us stories of “Muslims like us”—the numerous Europeans and Americans who have converted to Islam. We will learn about the social contexts of four authors that have enabled radically different conceptions of both Islam and the West. Two of the authors were born Jewish in Eastern Europe; one was a novelist and a monarchist, while the other, an Islamic scholar, was politically progressive. Two were born Christian in the United States; one was a militant black activist, and the other is an anarchist and a punk. Through the experiences of these writers, we will explore how Muslims might be more “like us” than we thought they were, and how Islam has influenced American history and identity.

Fall 2008

Wingate 201

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN:

**LOST CONTINENTS, ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS AND MYSTERIOUS MOUNDBUILDERS:  
PSEUDOSCIENCE, EPISTEMOLOGY AND THE SCIENCE OF 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 interpretation. Discussions about archaeological ethics demonstrate the social context of scientific archaeology and the politics of the past in the present.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN:

**PAINTING/PHOTOGRAPHY: AN EXPLORATION OF IMAGES**

Professor John Curley, Department of Art

When the painter Paul Delaroche first saw a daguerreotype (an early photographic process) in 1839, he is reported to have exclaimed, "From today, painting is dead." Of course, his pronouncement was premature, but it does indicate the complex interchange between painting and photography that continues to haunt both mediums. On the surface, the mediums seem vastly different: photography is widely considered mechanically objective, and painting generally occupies the opposite position – something hand-made and thus inherently subjective. This seminar will question these assumptions whether in considering photographers who strive to have their prints compete artistically with painting or those painters who attempt to mimic the effects and realism of photography. In the process of the semester, students will explore the slippery divide between visual fact and fiction.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85756

**CSI: DEATH OF THE AVANT-GARDE**

Professor Leigh Ann Hallberg, Department of Art

This seminar will investigate the political, cultural, and aesthetic shifts that have left the visual avant-garde DOA. How did this radical movement become eviscerated? We will examine the corpse and theorize as to the persons, institutions, and historical moments responsible.

Fall 2008

SFAC 103

MW 4:00 – 5:15 pm

CRN:

**THE BIOLOGY OF THE MIND**

Professor Carole Browne, Department of Biology

Professor Clifford Zeyl, Department of Biology

Molecular biologists and psychologists are assembling an increasingly detailed picture of thought, moods, mental states, and mental illness. Pharmaceutical solutions to psychiatric disorders are proliferating, while drug abuse remains a part of American culture. We will become familiar and comfortable with what is known about the molecular and cellular basis of all these phenomena. We will also consider more personal and artistic descriptions of mental states, and try to connect molecular biology with psychology and with the way we experience our minds. The underlying question driving this course will be whether or not biology can describe the mind, healthy or disordered. Can molecules explain consciousness?

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN:

**NATURE vs. NURTURE: 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.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85757

**THE GREAT NEGLECTED DISEASES OF MANKIND**

Professor Raymond Kuhn, Department of Biology

There are a number of diseases that affect humans and their domestic animals and can be devastating to people in developing countries. These diseases are not well known in developed countries but some are now being found in the U.S. due to immigration from endemic areas. These diseases, their impact and implications for the future will be examined and discussed.

Fall 2008

Winston 221

TR 12:00 - 1:15pm

CRN:

**WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN RARELY MAKE (SCIENTIFIC) HISTORY**

Professor Rebecca Alexander, Department of Chemistry

With women earning more than half of bachelors' degrees and almost half of doctoral degrees, why are they still under-represented among the upper ranks of scientists? For example, the Nobel Prize, which marks the pinnacle of success for a scientist, was won by approximately 500 men but only 10 women in the past century. In this course, students will review sociological perspectives on women in science, study women who have made significant contributions in their fields, and work with girls in public school science classes. This service-learning course includes at least 10 contact hours outside the classroom.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85758

**THE ANALYTICAL METHODS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES**

Professor Bradley 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 2008

Salem 210

TR 4:00 – 5:15 pm

CRN: 85759

**SEEKING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY RESOURCES**

Professor Dilip Kondepudi, Department of Chemistry

This seminar will focus on critical analysis of the current global energy usage and the sustainability of the sources that provide the energy. It will then address the quest for sustainable energy resources, the role of technology, innovation and public policy. Students will be required to participate in intellectually rigorous discussions, make presentation in class and submit written reports on the options they think are the best.

Fall 2008

Salem 210

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

CRN: 14903

**MEDIA LITERACY AND SERVICE LEARNING**

Professor Mary Dalton, Department of Communication

Media informs almost every aspect of our lives. This course will teach students how to read and evaluate visual media. Wake Forest students will work as volunteers with local elementary and middle school students enrolled in an after school program and will develop a workshop to help them become more critical consumers of media. In addition to class discussions on assigned readings and screenings and the service learning component of the course, this seminar will include several writing assignments of various lengths.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85760

**COMMUNICATION, CULTURE AND INDIA (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 (*correct spelling*) movies.

Fall 2008

Carswell 305

MWF 9:00 -9:50 am

CRN:

**THE ART OF PERSUASION**

Professor Margaret Zulick, Department of Communication

The basic shape and form of argument practiced today in law, politics and other speech occasions was first invented and taught as long ago as ancient Greece and Rome. But when one studies persuasion as an art, does it become an art of truth or lies? Through role play and direct imitation as well as reading, writing and discussion, we will learn the techniques practiced by the great Greek and Roman teachers and arguers. At the same time we will entertain an equally ancient controversy, still relevant today, over the ethical dilemma embodied in the phrase “the art of persuasion.”

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85761

**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, and music. Students will learn beginning-level digital processing techniques, they will read and discuss works that explore creativity and digitally-produced art, and they will write papers on related subjects.

Fall 2008

Manchester 017

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

CRN:

**LIFE IN THE DIGITAL AGE: THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

Professor Brian Kell, Department of Computer Science

The pervasive rise of digital technologies – including personal computers, the Internet and Web, digital media, and increasingly ubiquitous digital devices – is transforming society in ways both expected and unforeseen, both positive and negative. As citizens of this digital society, we all can benefit from understanding better the expanding roles of these technologies in our lives. This course will focus on the interface between digital technologies and society, including social, legal, ethical, commercial, environmental, and other issues surrounding computers, computer networks and other digital technologies.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85762

**CREATIVITY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN AND SOCIETY**

Professor Sam Gladding, Department of Counseling

This seminar will explore the nature of creativity and how creativity develops across the lifespan and in society. Students will read seminal works on creativity as well as discuss and write about how creativity is manifested in various domains. At the end of the semester, students will develop a “positive creative project.”

Fall 2008

Tribble A105

TR 9:30 – 10:15 am

CRN:

**MAPPING PATHS AND CREATIVE PROCESSES:  
THE WORLDS OF SPACE, COGNITION AND EXPERIENCE**

Professor David Phillips, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

This seminar will explore the ways in which we create maps to understand, interpret, and define places, pathways and space, and will use mapping techniques in unconventional ways to graphically represent what happens in the creative process when an individual is artistically and intellectually engaged. With the goal of creating techniques to map and develop graphic representations of creativity, we will draw from the fields of geography, architecture, performance studies, anthropology, cognitive psychology, and creativity studies. Observing professionals at work in their laboratories, studios, and on stage will allow us to examine up close the process of moving from an idea to material action and expression, and to observe and record the experiences, interactions and discoveries that fuel creativity. Participants will use interviews, video documentation, pictorial and mapping techniques to help us define and understand these processes.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85763

**ENCOUNTERING THE OTHER:  
CULTURAL CONTACT, CONFLICT AND CONFLUENCE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE WEST**

Professor Yaohua Shi, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

This is a multidisciplinary course on the encounter between China and the West from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present. It draws on history, literature, film, and art in order to examine the cultural contact, conflict, and confluence between the two civilizations.

Fall 2008

Carswell 118

MWF 2:00 – 2:50 pm

CRN: 85764

**ENTREPRENEURS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**

Professor Robert Whaples, Department of Economics

This seminar will examine the motives, strategies and impacts of entrepreneurs in the past, as a way to understand the challenges facing entrepreneurs of today. It will cast a wide historical net, taking a broad view of entrepreneurship – including entrepreneurs in business, finance and the policy arena, as well as those involved in social, religious and labor movements. The approach will blend biography with a broader view of the economy and society of each period and theories about entrepreneurship.

Fall 2008

Carswell 118

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

CRN: 85765

**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 arrangements for shared parenting after divorce? How and why does divorce benefit some children? In what ways can schools better meet the needs of children of divorce? What damaging messages do children get from the media about divorced parents?

Fall 2008

Tribble A205

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN: 85766

**IN-AUTHENTIC, ABNORMAL AND QUEER: SOCIAL VALUES IN ART, LITERATURE AND FILM**

Professor Dean Franco, Department of English

This is a course which investigates the relationship between social concepts of race, gender, and sexuality oriented around the body, and the naturalization of those concepts into what we call “normal.” We will read literature and cultural criticism, view several films, and conduct intensive debate and discussion in order to think critically about the source and meaning of American social values of embodied racial authenticity, and gender and sexual normalcy. Students will write two short essays and give a class presentation, culminating in a final, longer paper. Students will also conduct “field research” on their own performance of social norms.

Fall 2008

Tribble A201

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 am

CRN:

**METAMORPHOSES**

Professor Miriam Jacobson, Department of English

Stories of strange and magical bodily transformation have been part of Western art and literature since the ancient Greco-Roman world. In his lengthy poem the *Metamorphoses*, Ovid describes women and men becoming birds, plants, trees, and monsters. This text will serve as the basis for a semester-long exploration and interrogation of physical, emotional, and social transformation in fiction, poetry, painting, sculpture, music, and film, beginning with classical mythology and ending with contemporary cinema.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN

**THE TRADITIONS OF COMEDY AND TRAGEDY**

Professor Scott Klein, Department of English

This seminar will examine dramatic comedies and tragedies from four periods – ancient Greece, Elizabethan England, 17th century France, and late 19th and 20th century Europe - in search of the ways in which cultural ideas of “the tragic” and “the comic” have changed over the centuries, and (perhaps more surprisingly) remained consistent. Readings will include a comedy and a tragedy from the Attic Greek Theater, a comedy and a tragedy by Shakespeare, a comedy by Moliere and a tragedy by Racine, and a series of plays from late 19th and 20th century Europe where the distinctions between the genres are alternatively preserved and questioned. Course requirements will include active participation in discussion, two 1,500 word essays, one 2,000 word essay and two oral reports of 15 minutes apiece.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN:

**THE LAW AND LITERATURE**

Professor Tom McGohey, Department of English

Nothing says more about a culture than its laws. The law reveals how we see ourselves, what we value, and our relationship to authority. In this course, we will read a variety of literary works and debate what they teach us about such issues as crime and punishment, justice and morality, security and freedom, free speech, and forbidden knowledge, among others. You need not be an aspiring lawyer to participate in this course. It is intended as an examination of some of the timeless ethical and legal issues that people have debated for as long as there have been laws.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85767

**COMMERCIAL LIFE: ENTERPRISE, REPRESENTATION AND PHILOSOPHY**

Professor Rekha Rosha, Department of English

This course examines literary narratives and their role in conferring value on the objects(s) of narration, with and for the reader. Central questions for the course include: What is the relationship among values – financial, aesthetic, and moral – and how are these values and these relationships formed? Do we need books and films to teach us how to behave as entrepreneurs, consumers, producers? Do different kinds of representations of character traits and material goods influence our own desires for these qualities and things in significantly different ways? Do cultural artifacts transmit the creative characteristics necessary to economic innovation and productivity? If so, does economic productivity then depend on artistic representation?

Fall 2008

Tribble A201

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am

CRN:

**WIDE OPEN SPACES:**

**THE AMERICAN FRONTIER AND THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY**

Professor Alyssa Howards, 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.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85768

**THE LIFE AND WORKS OF MARTIN LUTHER IN CONTEXT**

Professor Larry West, Department of German and Russian

The course will examine contemporary social, political, and religious conditions in Germany, the formative events of Luther's life, his most important writings, translation of the Bible, anti-Semitic views, and confrontations with Rome, papal representatives, Humanists, and radical social groups.

Fall 2008

Greene 341

MW 3:00 – 4:15 pm

CRN: 85769

**THE GREAT DEPRESSION THROUGH THE EYES OF AMERICAN NOVELISTS**

Professor Simone Caron, Department of History

This seminar will examine how writers employed their novels to critique the response of government officials to the dire economic situation Americans faced. We will analyze John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, Sinclair Lewis's *It Can't Happen Here*, Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead*, Robert Penn Warren's *All the Kings Men* and Richard Wright's *Native Son*.

Fall 2008

Tribble A104

Friday 2:00 – 4:30 pm

CRN: 85770

**HERODOTUS: FATHER OF HISTORY, FATHER OF LIES**

Professor Jeffrey Lerner, Department of History

Herodotus, whether as the father of history or the father of lies, speaks to us through the richness of his stories, the delight of his literary style, his open-mindedness and his passionately intelligent curiosity. The *Histories* offer a sweeping ethnographic investigation of the conflict between Greece and Persia in the fifth century. This confrontation between the massive, wealthy, multiethnic empire of Persia and the fractious Greeks had immeasurable impact on the history of the Greeks themselves and continues to serve as a basis of modern discussions of what freedom, nationalism, and identity mean.

Fall 2008

Tribble A305

Wednesday 2:00 – 4:30 pm

CRN: 85771

**IMAGES OF IMMIGRANTS AT ELLIS ISLAND, DISNEYLAND AND OLD SALEM VILLAGE**

Professor Charles McGraw, Professor of History

Join an on-line and on-site tour of our immigrant heritage as it has been presented at historical sites, museums, and even amusement parks. How much truth can one find in the representations of the “American melting pot” at these venues, and how different were the experiences of our immigrant forebears from more recent arrivals? This course explores the political, financial, and professional pressures that have shaped some of the most prominent displays of the nation’s immigrant past, including Ellis Island and Disneyland. Students will reconcile these concerns by crafting exhibition proposals that would allow Old Salem Museums and Gardens to reflect accurately the changing face of immigration in Winston-Salem.

Fall 2008

Tribble A104

Monday 2:00 – 4:30 pm

CRN:

CRN:

**WORLD WAR II: MEMORY AND MEANING**

Professor Susan Rupp, Department of History

This seminar will explore the ways in which contemporaries and succeeding generations ascribed meaning to the Second World War. It includes discussion of the experiences of the various combatants, life on the home front, visual representations of the war, and the Holocaust. We also will consider how the war's meaning has been contested over time, and will examine questions regarding responsibility, complicity, and definitions of victims and perpetrators.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85772

**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 2008

Tribble A104

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

CRN:

**VISUALIZING EMPIRE (c. 1600 to the present)**

Professor Stephen Vella, Department of History

How did a small island nation on the periphery of Eurasia rise to become the greatest imperial power the world had ever seen? What did its rulers and its subject peoples across the globe think of the British Empire as it evolved over time? To answer these and other questions, this course will turn to the works of art that this vast empire generated. Along the way, students will learn to interpret visual culture (paintings, maps, architecture, museums, photography, etc.) as part of the craft of history and come to appreciate the immensely diverse world that was the British Empire.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85773

**THE DIRT ON DEVELOPMENT:  
ENTREPRENEURIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACHES  
TO SOLVING THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS**

Professor Emily Wakild, Department of History

Have you ever wondered how some individuals make a big difference? In this course, we will examine what strategies these difference-makers use to solve the world's problems and investigate how they can be applied elsewhere. To do so, we will analyze and debate problems of development regarding disease, hunger, finance, sustainability, and environmental change in various areas of the world including our own community.

Fall 2008

Tribble A305

TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm

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 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN:

**THE *BIDUNGSROMAN* IN LITERATURE: SEARCH FOR THE SELF**

Professor Tom Phillips, Department of Humanities

Through the lens of prose fiction participants will study the pattern in literature known as the *bildungsroman* or novel of development. Over the course of the semester, as students read various interpretations of the form, class members will write their own mini-*bildungsromane* to share with their colleagues. Requirements: active participation, journal writing, and two medium papers in addition to the larger final creative assignment. Texts: J. W. von Goethe, selections from *Wilhelm Meister*; Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*; Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure*; D. H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*; James Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*; Richard Wright, *Black Boy*; Mordecai Richler, *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85774

CRN: 85775

### **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 2008 Taylor 124 (student lounge area) TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

Fall 2008 Taylor 124 (student lounge area) TR 3:00 – 4:15 pm

CRN: 85776

### **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.

Fall 2008 Manchester 245 MWF 12:00 – 12:50 pm

CRN: 85777

### **SONGS 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.” 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 of protest songs in the Americas from the mid-1960s to the 1980s?
- How is music of protest like today?
- How has the world wide net changed political activism around the world?

Students will be challenged to discuss topics such as, citizenship, leadership and activism, music and politics, religion and secularism, and strategies for global change.

Fall 2008 SFAC M306 TR 3:00 – 4:15 pm

CRN: 85825

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.

Fall 2008

SFAC M308

TR 3:00 – 4:15 pm

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85778

**THE WORLD OF OPERA**

Professor Peter Kairoff, Department of Music

Opera is a hybrid art form that combines acting, singing, orchestral music and stagecraft, to create a thrilling and expressive spectacle. The most profound human experiences and emotions are presented in ways that have moved audiences to laughter and tears for centuries. Masterpieces by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini and others will be discussed in light of historical, social and musical context. No previous musical knowledge is required.

Fall 2008

SFAC M308

TR 8:00 – 9:15 am

CRN:

**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.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN:

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ETHICS**

Professor Adrian Bardon, Department of Philosophy

There are rapidly developing ethical and social issues of considerable importance involving digital media, communication, the internet, and the World Wide Web. This course will focus on the development of critical reasoning, oral presentation, and writing skills in the context of a discussion of issues related to privacy, security, intellectual property rights, free speech, and the global information community. Class discussion and student presentations will be emphasized.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85779

**TRUTH, REALITY, AND OBJECTIVITY: PHILOSOPHICAL THEMES IN PHYSICS**

Professor Ralph Kennedy, Department of Philosophy

Professor Daniel 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 2008

Tribble A307

TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm

CRN:

**INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, MORAL CHOICE AND THE LAW**

Professor Win-Chiat Lee, Department of Philosophy

An introduction to philosophical thinking about the problem of moral choice in private and public life through the discussion of specific issues such as lying, 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.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

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 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85827

**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.

Fall 2008

Tribble A201

TR 4:30 – 5:45 pm

CRN:

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

Professor Jed Macosko, Department of Physics

In this entrepreneurially-geared 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 2009

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 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85781

**CHALLENGES TO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY**

Professor Yomi Durotoye, Department of Political Science

This seminar will provide students with the ability to view and analyze global issues from a variety of methodological perspectives. We will explore the ways by which we identify, define, describe and explain all sorts of differences and the mechanisms by which people try to negotiate their differences in the world at large. We will use these insights to explore familiar global issues such as ethnicity and racism, gender, globalization and economic inequality, the environment, population growth and migration, human rights, and international security.

Fall 2008

Tribble A 303

Wednesday 3:00 – 5:30 pm

CRN: 85782

**IS MORAL PHILOSOPHY OF ANY PRACTICAL USE?**

Professor David Weinstein, Department of Political Science

This seminar will explore whether modern moral philosophy can *really* help resolve important moral dilemmas. While modern moral philosophy comes in several varieties, two varieties have tended to dominate Anglo-American ethics for some time, namely Kantianism and utilitarianism. The seminar's first month will be devoted to reading and discussing Kant's *Prolegomena to the Metaphysics of Morals* and Mill's *Utilitarianism*. Much of the remainder of the semester will be devoted to applying Kantianism and utilitarianism to topical moral issues and dilemmas. Sometimes their solutions to these dilemmas will converge but more often they will diverge. These issues will include four of global concern and scope: just war including the unintentional killing of noncombatants, terrorism, world poverty and AIDS. The final week of the seminar will explore the implications of our semester's readings and discussion for the larger issue of whether or not morality is, in the final analysis, objective or subjective.

Fall 2008

Tribble C 316

Wednesday 3:00 – 5:30 pm

CRN: 85783

**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.

Fall 2008

Greene 310

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN:

**WE CAN, BUT *SHOULD* WE?**

**ETHICAL QUESTIONS AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

Professor Wayne Pratt, Department of Psychology

Although bioethics is currently receiving well-deserved attention, much of the popular discourse on the popular discourse often reduces to emotional diatribe, rather than objective ethical dialogue. This course will direct the student to critically examine ethical issues in science, from the treatment of humans and animals in research to what the ethical implications of cloning may be. Coursework will emphasize in-class discussions and the development of written argument on contemporary issues at the boundary between contemporary science and ethical thought.

Spring 2009

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 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85784

**GENIUS: EVIL OR EINSTEIN?**

Professor Cecilia Solano, Department of Psychology

The popular image of genius usually paints them as either benign persons blessed with almost magical cognitive abilities (Einstein) or as people with major personality difficulties and an overwhelming ambition to dominate the world (Dr. Evil). In both cases, the person is seen as being “apart” from the rest of humanity. This course is designed to examine popular images and to consider as well the nature of “true” genius.

Fall 2008

Greene 312

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

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 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85785

**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 2008

Wingate 206

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am

CRN: 85786

**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 2008

Wingate 206

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

CRN: 85787

**VOCATION OF HEALING**

Professor Ulrike Wiethaus, Department of Religion

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 2008

Wingate 206

TR 8:00 – 9:15 am

CRN: 85788

**GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ**

Professor Mary Friedman, Professor of Romance Languages

This seminar is an exploration of the literary art of contemporary Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Through intensive discussion of Garcia Marquez's most important narratives, journalistic writings and films, participants will follow the evolution of this Nobel Prize-winning writer from his beginnings as a reporter and realistic writer to his maturity as Latin America's foremost magical realist. By examining the politics, history and literary traditions that impinged on Garcia Marquez, the class will work towards an understanding of the society to which his works give voice, and an appreciation of Garcia Marquez's impact on his literary world. **(LAC component in Spanish available.)**

Fall 2008

Greene 513

MWF 1:00 – 1:50 pm

CRN: 85789

**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 (LAC) component in Spanish available.)

Fall 2008

Greene 236

TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm

CRN: 85790

**ADVENTURE AND HUMOR IN *DON QUIXOTE***

Professor Mike Fulton, Department of Romance Languages

Cervantes' *Don Quixote* was immensely popular when it was written and is widely known today as well. However, Cervantes' contemporaries considered his book to be simple satire, whereas today the work is considered a masterpiece. Which is more accurate? This course will explore the connection between the humorous adventures that attracted 17th century readers and the social commentary that modern critics see in the novel. (Learning Across the Curriculum (LAC) component in Spanish available.)

Fall 2008

Greene 513

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am

CRN: 85791

**THE SOCIAL LIFE OF IMAGES**

Professor Kim Babon, Department of Sociology

Images surround us; some might say they saturate our lives. The internet, television, fine art, film, photography, graphic design, and advertising present us with amusement, diversion, inspiration, and are often used to convey important information. This course is designed to critically address how images relate to social life by studying how images are produced, how they may be used to analyze society, and how we rely upon them to convey information. In this class we will not only analyze existing images, we will create our own through digital photography assignments.

Fall 2008

Greene 245

TR 9:30 – 10:45 pm

CRN: 85792

**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.

Fall 2008

Carswell 204

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN: 85793

**SOCIAL MEDICINE AND MEDICALIZED SOCIETY:  
HEALTH POLICY FROM A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Professor Rebecca Matteo, Department of Sociology

The upcoming Presidential Election will undoubtedly include an emphasis on health care reform. This course aims to explore the potential for major changes to the United States' health care system in a *practical* way through the employment of a sociological perspective. The focus includes understanding "health and illness" as *social* issues and the institutional response to health care needs, both of which are enhanced through international comparison.

Fall 2008

Carswell 302

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN: 85794

**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 2008

Davis 123 (student lounge area)

Monday 3:00 – 5:30 pm

CRN: 85795

**SOCIOLOGY OF VOCATION**

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, 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), and family.

Fall 2008

Carswell 018

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

CRN:

**PLAYWRITING: THE CREATIVE PROCESS:  
WHERE DID THAT IDEA COME FROM?**

Professor Sharon Andrews, Department of Theatre and Dance

After initially exploring what creativity “is” the class will examine plays and playwrights and investigate the creative process of playwriting through readings, dramatic writing exercises, and individually conducted interviews with practicing contemporary playwrights.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA

CRN: 85828

**DECIPHERING THE BULLS AND THE BEARS:  
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF STOCKS AND OPTIONS**

Professor Jonathan Christman, Department of Theatre and Dance

The financial markets are exciting and a source of wealth, but markets can also be confusing and frightening to individual traders in stocks and options. The internet now provides traders with real time information that allows minute-by-minute analysis of price trends in markets. This FYS introduces the tools and techniques of technical analysis, a method of investing based on computerized analysis of price patterns. In this class, students will use professional charting software and learn to interpret real time market data. Students will critically examine the wealth of available financial information and develop strategies for evaluating conflicting information. The tensions between technical analysis and traditional fundamental analysis, which involves in-depth analysis of a company’s strengths and weaknesses, will also be explored.

Skills developed in this course will be directly applicable to many disciplines, including economics, political science, mathematics, history, and business. After taking this course, the student will be able to see beyond the daily stock market headlines to understand the global significance of commodities and currencies. This course will also help interested students identify a personal investment portfolio style.

Fall 2008

SFAC M308

TR 12:00 – 1:15 pm

CRN: 85796

**THEATRE ALIVE!**

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

Theatre Alive! will follow the process of creating the University Theatre's production of *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage. We will also examine several other dramas written by African-American women. Student participation will include discussion, scene performances, written reviews, oral presentations, and creative projects.

Fall 2008

SFAC 208

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

CRN:

**FRAMED: LOOKING AT THE MOVING BODY ON SCREEN**

Professor Christina Soriano, Department of Theatre and Dance

This seminar will examine the various ways a moving (and often dancing) body is positioned in many different types of films and videos. This course will span the work of silent film stars like Charlie Chaplin, to the movie musical with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, to box office hits like *Saturday Night Fever* and *Flashdance*, to music videos by many hip hop and contemporary music favorites, and dances made specifically for the camera in dance-film communities in the U.S. and abroad. Topics that will be raised in discussion and written work include: how does the movement body communicate differently on screen versus a live performance? How/why is the framed, moving body sometimes deconstructed in our view? What is voyeurism? Does the camera have a personality? Together we will decode, decipher and evaluate the power of the moving body on the screen.

Spring 2009

TBA

TBA