FIRST YEAR SEMINARS
FALL 2013

***NEW***
CRN: 90826
GENDER AND NATION: SOUTH ASIA THROUGH FILM
Assistant Professor Sandya Hewamanne, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies

This course focuses on how films play a significant role in negotiating, constructing, and reproducing popular notions of gender and nation. The class will view and explore popular Bollywood style movies and Art House movies from South Asia and focus mainly on gender, sexuality and nation. Students will analyze how mainstream notions of nation, gender, sexuality, family values, social hierarchies and social change in South Asia are shaped at the intersection of visual imagery, audience, and political economic context. The course will also explore alternative images that challenge and subvert mainstream visual knowledge production. The overall goal is to critically evaluate how films create, perpetuate, and reproduce “South Asian” cultures for western, native and diasporic audiences.

MW 11:30 – 12:15 pm        Tribble A4        Fall 2013

***NEW***
CRN: 90825
VIOLENCE AND IMAGES
Visiting Assistant Professor Andrew Finegold, Department of Art

While both violence and images are universal aspects of human civilization, attitudes towards each have varied greatly across time and space. Moreover, these two fields of cultural expression are often deeply entangled in complex and not immediately apparent ways. Utilizing case studies taken from diverse cultures and time periods, this course will explore the presence of violence in the content, production, collection, and destruction of images. Topics to be considered include the roles played by images in the legitimization or condemnation of violence, the affectivity of violent images as an inducement to religious piety or socialized behavior, the making and collecting of images as forms of violence, and the perpetration of violence against images.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am        Scales 103        Fall 2013

***NEW***
CRN: 90834
VIOLENCE AND IMAGES
Visiting Assistant Professor Andrew Finegold, Department of Art

While both violence and images are universal aspects of human civilization, attitudes towards each have varied greatly across time and space. Moreover, these two fields of cultural expression are often deeply entangled in complex and not immediately apparent ways. Utilizing case studies taken from diverse cultures and time periods, this course will explore the presence of violence in the content, production, collection, and destruction of images. Topics to be considered include the roles played by images in the legitimization or condemnation of violence, the affectivity of violent
images as an inducement to religious piety or socialized behavior, the making and collecting of images as forms of violence, and the perpetration of violence against images.

TR 3:30 – 4:45 pm Scales 103 Fall 2013

CRN: 90575
SAVE THE WORLD IN ONE CLICK: HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIANISM IN THE FACEBOOK ERA
Assistant Professor Karin Friederic, Department of Anthropology

Humanitarianism and human rights activism are growing forms of action to alleviate social problems in our contemporary world. Young people, in particular, are inundated by appeals to participate in charitable efforts through social media networks. Through ethnographic case studies, this seminar will investigate the uses, significance, and limitations of such campaigns that harness human rights discourse in a variety of humanitarian initiatives. This course gives students the critical tools to study these campaigns and interventions as a political process with an array of diverse cultural actors and often unexpected outcomes.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm Manchester 017 Fall 2013

CRN: 86853
DISCOVERING THE AVANT-GARDE
Senior Lecturer LeighAnn Hallberg, Department of Art

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

MW 9:30 – 10:45 am Scales 103 Fall 2013

CRN: 90782
YOUR GENES, YOUR CHOICES
Teacher-Scholar Postdoctoral Fellow Cheryl Burrell, Department of Biology

From Star Trek and Star Wars to Contact, science fiction permeates popular culture. How much “science” is there in science fiction? We will consider alien life as depicted in books, television and movies, using biological principles to inform us as to what aliens might really look like, and why movies and television so often get it wrong. Students will design biologically realistic aliens and incorporate them into creative writing.

TR 12:30 -1:45pm Winston 233 3H Fall 2013
CREATION OF DARWIN'S THEORY OF EVOLUTION
Professor Gerald Esch, Department of Biology

The objective of the course is to investigate: (1) Pre-Darwinian ideas regarding evolution; (2) creationism (and intelligent design); (3) the Darwinian theory of evolution; (4) Mendelian genetics and its role in the development of neo-Darwinian thinking; (5) the discovery of meiosis; (6) the condensation of Darwin/Mendel/meiosis ideas into the neo-Darwinian theory and genes/genetics by Walter Sutton in the early twentieth century; and (7) final development of the neo-Darwinian theory.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am  Winston 221  Fall 2013

CITIZENSHIP: ANCIENT AND MODERN
Lecturer Brian Warren, Department of Classical Languages

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

MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm  Tribble A301  Fall 2013

COMMUNICATION, CULTURE AND SOUTH ASIA
Professor Ananda Mitra, Department of Communication

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

MW 12:30 – 1:45 pm  Carswell 111  Fall 2013

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE
Assistant Professor Ron Von Burg, Department of Communication / Humanities

Expressions of Love: Humans use “love” to describe relationships with people, animals, objects, art, knowledge, activities, self, and the divine. In each case, the meanings of “love” and its associations vary. This course explores the concept of “love” from rhetorical, cultural, social and philosophical perspectives to uncover love’s complex meaning in all walks of life.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm  Carswell 301  Fall 2013
In Economics in Sports, students will learn to use various tools of economics analysis to study questions from the sports world. Supply and demand analysis, game theory, and expected value techniques will be used to analyze issues like the formation of leagues, the public financing of stadiums, the measuring player performance, the strategies employed by competitors in different sports, the impact of technology on performance and strategy, and the effect that league rules regarding salary structure have on competition. Students will be expected to be willing to learn to use data in order to reach conclusions about various questions they will face. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to use economic modeling techniques to think more deeply about issues related to the sporting world and beyond.

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am Carswell 118 Fall 2013

CRN: 86884
THINKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT SIX GREAT IDEAS
Professor Joseph Milner, Department of Education

This seminar is devoted to understanding Mortimer Adler’s Six Great Ideas: Truth, Goodness, Beauty, Liberty, Equality, and Justice which he explains thoroughly in everyday language. In addition, the seminar explores related literary and other texts to further clarify Adler’s ideas. It also asks students to bring to class related artifacts from contemporary discourse to help clarify their personal understanding.

MW 12:30 – 1:45 pm Tribble A207 Fall 2013

CRN: 86863
CHILDREN OF DIVORCE
Professor Linda Nielsen, Department of Education

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

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm Tribble A205 Fall 2013

CRN: 86883
CREATIVITY, IMPERFECTION, AND THE NOW
Lecturer Eric Ekstrand, Department of English

In this seminar we will try to figure out what creativity is and how to train in it. In addition to writing, reading and discussing often, we will engage in a variety of creative projects, as well as learn and work with a basic, secular meditation practice. The practical goal of this course is to learn in ways other than those that are purely analytical (social, emotional, improvisatory, narrative, moral,
imaginative, physical, humorous, etc.) and to understand why this might be a value broadly. The professor of this class will serve as lower-division adviser to students who enroll.

WF 9:30 – 10:45 am    LIBR 427    Fall 2013

CRN: 90758
FOLKLORE AND MYTH IN IRISH LITERATURE
Associate Professor Jefferson Holdridge, Department of English

An examination of how folklore and mythology was used by 19th-century Irish writers as a mode of national consciousness and a means for cultural as well as political independence. The course will also examine how these uses were contested and explored by later writers.

WF 12:30 – 1:45 pm    Tribble A203    Fall 2013

CRN: 90763
MIND & BODY: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE
Professor Jack Rejeski, Department of Health and Exercise Science

The primary aim of this first year seminar is to explore contemporary research on mind-body interactions and selected health behaviors in the realm of chronic disease and physical disability. Special emphasis is placed on neuroscience and clinical research related to the relaxation response, mindfulness, and the therapeutic benefits of meditation. The course covers four main themes: (1) stress and disease, (2) how training the mind can change the brain, (3) the origin and treatment of obesity, and (4) the nature and public health threat of functional decline in aging.

TR 8:00 – 9:15 am    GYM Room 21    Fall 2013

CRN: 90764
EXPLORATIONS IN TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE
Associate Professor Gary Miller, Department of Health and Exercise Science

This team-taught course introduces the rationale and imperative for clinical and translational science, which seeks to hasten the progress of scientific discovery into healthcare practice. Emphasis will be placed on research pertaining to health aging, with faculty from the Reynolda and Bowman Gray campuses presenting topics in their specific areas of expertise. Faculty will assign readings and questions pertaining to their topic the week prior to their presentation. Students will turn in writing responses on the first day for each topic (Wednesday), with group presentations the following class period.

TR 3:30 – 4:45 pm    GYM Room 21    Fall 2013
If you had some land, a few friends and followers, and a vision of a new society that lived up to all your highest spiritual ideals, what kind of community would you build? This course explores several religious groups in 19th century America and their efforts to create “religious utopias.” We explore how they answered basic questions that all societies face: How should men and women relate to each other? How should children be raised? What is the nature of work and how should it be rewarded? What kind of buildings does a society need, and how should they be designed and arranged? What is the place of education, arts, and music in a good society? Who has the authority to interpret and defend a religious ideal, and what should be done when others disagree? We then turn these questions toward contemporary American society and ask what we can learn from the successes and failures, hopes and dreams, of religious utopias.

W 3:00 – 5:30 pm  Tribble A104  Fall 2013

This course investigates the history of the hipster in American life. It uses a number of cultural artifacts in diverse formats — such as film, literature, songs, advertisements, and visual art — to reveal how the many predecessors of the present-day hipster critiqued American mainstream culture during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As we analyze how counterculture critiques shaped U.S. social history, we will collectively assess the tensions in the United States over the composition of American identities. We will garner a greater understanding of the fears and anxieties with American life including the ways in which consumerism and counterculture have combined in our present moment to produce the image of the hipster.

MWF 1:00 – 1:50 pm  Tribble A103  Fall 2013

This seminar is a study of codes and code breaking throughout history. It will contain both historical topics and mathematical topics that are relevant to making and breaking codes; hence the content of the course is a fifty-fifty split between history and mathematics. Historical and cultural topics will include early Muslim cultures, Mary Queen of Scots and the Babington plot, the Zimmermann Telegram and WWI, the breaking of the German and Japanese coding machines and WWII (this will be a major topic), and privacy and commerce in the Internet age. Mathematical topics will include random numbers, modular arithmetic, some statistical ideas, and the number theory necessary to understand modern public key cryptosystems.

MWF 2:00 – 3:15 pm  Manchester 124  Fall 2013
MUSIC AND THE AMERICAN DREAM
Senior Lecturer Patricia Dixon, Department of Music

The American Dream is at the heart of the United States identity as a nation. In this seminar we will examine how the American Dream is a constantly emerging concept that is reformulated in our culture as we experience change and transition. We will study how musical narratives inform us of these transitions, how they challenge the ideals of the Dream, how they reformulate the concept to debase the myth and or expose the truth.

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm  SFAC M307  Fall 2013

THE FINE ARTS: RESERVOIR OF EMOTIONS (“IT’S ALIVE!”)
Professor Louis Goldstein, Department of Music

This seminar is an exploration of the communicative power of the fine arts. Why are there different arts? How do sound and sight communicate emotions and meanings that go beyond verbal description, reasoning, and argument? How are thoughts and feelings translated into communicable forms of expression? Live concerts and plays, art shows, literary readings, and films will provide the focus for class discussions and written assignments, which will emphasize the formulation and expression of a personal point of view.

TR 2:00 – 3:15  Scales M308  Fall 2013

DEATH
Assistant Professor Emily Austin, Department of Philosophy

Given that we will all someday die, it seems reasonable to spend at least a little time thinking about it in a structured manner. In this class, we will examine the topic of death from philosophical, historical, and sociological perspectives. Philosophical questions will include: is death always bad, and if so, what makes it bad? Are we immortal, and should we even desire immortality? Does death give life meaning, or rob it of meaning? Historical topics will include the rise of the hospital and the invention of the undertaker after the Civil War, both of which drastically changed the way Americans die and grieve. Since some sociologists think that Americans are the most death-denying culture in the history of the world, it might be interesting to determine whether they have a case. The instructor encourages you to not be turned away by the darkness of the topic, since she thinks it really will be fun and intellectually rewarding.

MW 12:30 – 1:45 pm  Tribble A307  Fall 2013
HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE
Professor Earl Crow, Department of Philosophy

A philosophical and historical examination of civil disobedience as a moral option. The students will read the writings of Thomas Aquinas, Henry Davis Thoreau, Martin Luther King, Jr., Daniel Berrigan, and other appropriate articles and authors and explore civil disobedience from Biblical time, through the Middle Ages, to the Modern era. Emphasis will be placed on Research and reading, critical thought, oral presentations, and class discussions. Students will develop and defend philosophical positions.

MW 2:00 – 3:30 pm Wingate 209 Fall 2013

POWER AND THE U.S. ELECTRICAL GRID
Lecturer Jack Dostal, Department of Physics

The U.S. electrical grid harnesses the energy output of many different sources, (coal, hydro, nuclear, wind, solar, etc.) and delivers electrical power to the nation in real time. A functional, robust system for delivery of electrical power is critical to our daily lives; without it our lives would be turned upside down. Grid failure could occur due to general system failure, natural events, terrorism, or even a simple inability to meet increasing demand.

Students in this seminar will learn about the history and nature of our power grid and some of its underlying physics, study different types of power generation that tie into the grid, investigate alternative systems in other countries, and engage in discussion and writing about issues relevant to the present day and to the future of such systems.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am Greene 106 Fall 2013

UNDERSTANDING STUFF: MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY HEADING INTO THE NEW MILLENIUM?
Professor Richard T. Williams, Department of Physics

Epochs of human progress have been labeled by the mastery of a new material enabling a major change of culture: Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, and industrial (steel and carbon) age, for example. We are on the cusp of mastering new materials for information technology, transportation, energy, frightful weapons, and genomics – or is it the other way around? As a species, we are suddenly in a position of being able to change the planet and change ourselves. Is that good or bad? What is the materials science that puts you in this position? How can you use it well?

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am Olin 102 Fall 2013
CRN: 90759  
**CHALLENGES TO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY**  
Senior Lecturer Yomi Durotoye, Department of Politics and International Affairs

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.

W 3:30 – 6:00 pm  
Tribble A309  
Fall 2013

CRN: 90761  
**THE COLD WAR AND VIETNAM**  
Professor Matthew Cullinan, Department of Politics and International Affairs

The Vietnam War profoundly influenced American politics, culture, foreign policy and military strategy from the 1960s on. For many, the war has been viewed as a “fools-errand.” Yet, the lead up to American intervention can be understood best when situated clearly within the stream of United States policy during the period. Vietnam was not so much an anomaly as it was the logical end of a Cold War policy of containment. With an exploration of the Cold War context, we can set a framework for understanding Vietnam. We will delve into the military, diplomatic, policy, political and social environments that shaped the war in Vietnam. Our goal is to come to an understanding of how a small Southeast Asian country became the focal point for a conflict whose symbolism and legacy, along with the reality of the war on the ground, had such a longstanding impact on the United States.

W 3:00 – 5:30 pm  
Tribble A 305  
Fall 2013

CRN: 90764  
**GANDHI**  
Professor Charles H. Kennedy, Department of Politics and International Affairs

This seminar explores in detail the life, teachings and method of nonviolent coercion (Satyagraha) practiced and advocated by Mohandas K. Gandhi. The course starts with a detailed exploration of interpretations of Gandhi’s life including Stanley Wolpert’s biography Gandhi’s Passion. It also explores Gandhi’s religious thought, the psychological underpinnings of that thought, and throughout focuses on his role as political activist. Students will also be assigned materials from Gandhi’s own voluminous writings found in his Autobiography, Hind Swaraj, and in Louis Fischer’s edited volume. Armed with this background students will be directed into at least one of the following directions: 1) towards a more detailed treatment of one of the themes mentioned above; 2) towards an applied version of the Gandhian method as it applies to later proponents of nonviolent coercion (e.g., Martin Luther King); and/or 3) towards the organization of an original, albeit usually mock, satyagraha campaign (group project) directed at a student-defined local target. In any case, the findings of the student’s research or activist experience will then be shared with the other seminar participants.

TR 4:00 – 6:30 pm  
Tribble A302  
Fall 2013
CRN: 90736
WHO AM I? A SOCIOCULTURAL APPROACH TO SELF AND IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT
Associate Professor Lisa Kiang, Department of Psychology

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

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm  Greene 312  Fall 2013

CRN: 90735
THE PSYCHOLOGY OF ART
Professor Jim Schirillo, Department of Psychology

The Psychology of Art will take an interdisciplinary approach and explore what draws us to the aesthetics of painting, sculpture and architecture. It will expose students to a number of psychological theories, both current and historical, across multiple domains. These interpretations will include readings from psychoanalysis, personality development, cognitive psychology, social psychology, biopsychology, symbolic-cultural psychology, transcendental psychology, and visual perspective psychology.

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 am  Greene 312  Fall 2013

CRN: 86861
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.

MW 12:30 – 1:45 pm  Wingate 206  Fall 2013

CRN: 89750
CONTEMPLATIVE TRADITIONS: PAST & PRESENT
Professor Ulrike Wiethaus, Department of Religion

This First Year Seminar focuses on the ways that different cultures and religious traditions have developed contemplative practices throughout history. Special emphasis will be placed on the healing aspects of contemplation (personal, social, environmental), its potential for productive inter-religious dialogue, and its role in building sustainable community activism.

MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm  Wingate 210  Fall 2013
ALGERIA AT WAR ON FILM
Associate Professor Judy Kem, Department of Romance Languages

A discussion and debate of eight films (in English or subtitled in English) that portray the still-controversial Algerian War of Independence and the more recent Algerian Civil War and how Islamic ideals, the 132-year French colonial domination of Algeria, censorship, torture, and terrorism played major roles in both conflicts. We will also discuss short reading selections on both conflicts.

Students of French [intermediate-level or higher] may also enroll in a 1.5-hour Languages Across the Curriculum component, FRH 196. Contact Professor Judy Kem for more information.

This seminar was formerly known as: Real to Reel: Cinematic Representations of the Algerian War of Independence (1954-1962) and the Algerian Civil War (1991-2000)

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm  Greene 513  Fall 2013

PARIS: FROM DEPARTMENT STORES TO MYSTERY STORIES
Associate Professor Kendall Tarte, Department of Romance Languages

This course will explore stories and images of Paris, from the rise of the city as a consumer paradise in the nineteenth century to the lives of its multiethnic youth today. We will draw on novels, short stories, and paintings to examine a variety of depictions of the places and people of that city. To orient our discussions, we will focus on the artistic qualities of these texts and on the social and political concerns their language and form convey. Our discovery of real and imaginary Paris will focus on such topics as transformations of the urban landscape, ethnicity and identity, Parisian mysteries and realities, and ways of looking at the city.

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

This group will live in the same residence hall and will form a first-year advising group, with Professor Tarte as their faculty adviser. Registration is limited and is by application only. Applications will be emailed to students in early-to-mid June.

MWF 1:00–1:50 pm  TBA  Fall 2013

CRUEL ART will explore different forms of art that purposefully challenge or confront the viewer/audience/reader’s perception of events and meanings as well as the form and function of art (with recognition of the relationship to popular culture and social norms and desires to effect...
social and philosophical change). The professor of this class will serve as lower-division adviser to students who enroll.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am        SFAC 214        Fall 2013

CRN: 89458
WHY DO PEOPLE LAUGH
Professor Cynthia Gendrich, Department of Theatre & Dance

We will spend the semester engaging this question from multiple perspectives—literary, artistic, philosophical, psychological, and physiological. We’ll familiarize ourselves with the historical debates about laughter; and we’ll read (and write about) novels, plays, and essays, discussing, disagreeing, and—hopefully—laughing. The professor of this class will serve as lower-division adviser to students who enroll.

MWF 11:00 – 12:15 pm        SFAC 208        Fall 2013

CRN: 86880
FRAMED: LOOKING AT THE MOVING BODY ON SCREEN
Associate Professor Christina Soriano, Department of Theatre & Dance

FRAMED:  Looking at the Moving Body on Screen will examine the various ways a moving (and often dancing) body is positioned in many different types of films and videos. Topics that will be raised both orally and in written work include: how does the moving body communicate differently on screen vs. in a live performance? How/why is the framed, moving body sometimes deconstructed in our view? What is voyeurism? How does the camera have a personality? Within the worlds of silent films featuring subjects like Charlie Chaplin, to the movie musical with stars like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, to contemporary Hollywood films, to music videos, to dances made specifically for the camera, this course will decode, decipher and evaluate the power of the moving body on screen. The professor of this class will serve as lower-division adviser to students who enroll.

T 6:00 – 9:00 pm        SFAC 102        Fall 2013