

FIRST YEAR SEMINARS SPRING 2014

CRN: 18927

POVERTY ACROSS RACE, GENDER, AND SPACE

Lecturer Sherriann Lawson Clark, Department of Anthropology

This seminar explores poverty by examining its historical, political, cultural, and geographical contexts. We address several questions such as: What is poverty? What are the causes and consequences of poverty? How do different groups experience poverty? What are the intersections of race, gender, and poverty? Where is poverty located? How do public policies shape the lives of children and families? Students will address these questions and others throughout the semester.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Carswell 018

Spring 2014

CRN: 19870

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, commemoration, 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; images endowed with the agency to cause or inspire violence; and the perpetration of violence against images through both vandalism and institutionalized iconoclasm.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Scales 103

Spring 2014

CRN: 19878

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, has been won by approximately 500 men but only 16 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, which will take place on 7 Tuesdays from 2:00 - 3:15 pm at Northwest Middle School. Transportation will be provided.

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Salem 210

Spring 2014

CRN: 15996

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.

TR 5:00 – 6:15 pm

Salem 210

Spring 2014

CRN: 19871

THINK LIKE A DOCTOR

Professor Mark Welker, Department of Chemistry

This seminar-based course will be discussion based around a series of medicine related readings and will be co-taught by Dr. Mark Welker, a chemistry professor and Dr. Patrick Ober, a professor of internal medicine at WFUSM. This course will encourage students to creatively and critically think through a range of medical mysteries and other readings related to medicine. Interactive forums will be provided for discussions of topics ranging from Good Samaritan laws to use of electronic medical records. Science majors and non-science majors alike will find this class to be an interesting exploration of curiosity, truthfulness, humility, and morality in medicine.

TR 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Salem 210

Spring 2014

CRN: 16933

CRN: 19886

CITIZENSHIP: ANCIENT AND MODERN

Lecturer Brian Warren, Departments of Classical Languages and Humanities

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

Spring 2014

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Tribble A301

Spring 2014

CRN: 19988

CHILDREN AND MEDIA RESEARCH

Associate Professor Marina Krcmar, Department of Communication

This course will examine the use of media by children and effects of these media on them. Many forms of media will be studied from older forms such as music and television to newer media such as social networking sites. Where appropriate, research and theories concerning child and adolescent development will be considered.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Carswell 305

Spring 2014

CRN: 19987

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. Several books on presidential speech writing will also be read and discussed.

WF 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Carswell 005

Spring 2014

CRN: 19989

THE LOOKING-GLASS SELF: EXPLORING COMMUNICATION AND IDENTITY

Lecturer Dee Oseroff-Varnell, Department of Communication

What is identity? Is it stable, or does it develop and change over time? What is communication? How does communication relate to identity? In this class we will examine these basic questions by starting with a variety of readings to build a framework from which to discuss identity construction and communication. Through reading, discussing, reflecting, and writing, students will examine communication factors that contribute to and result from a variety of planned and unplanned turning points in individuals' lives.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Carswell 301

Spring 2014

CRN: 18925

"LOCATING CHINA: STORIES OF SITE AND CITY"

Assistant Professor Andrew Rodekohl, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

This course explores the some of the most famous landmarks and cities of China through the stories that are take place there. We will traverse time and space as we look at the legends and myths of the Great Wall and West Lake, the revolutionary stage of Tiananmen Square, and the urban tales of Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Taipei. The

interdisciplinary approach through historical document, folktale, fiction, and film will reveal the constantly changing notions of “China” and multiply the perspectives of Chinese culture and history.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Carswell 014

Spring 2014

CRN: 19991

ECONOMICS IN SPORTS

Visiting Assistant Professor Todd McFall, Department of Economics

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

Kirby 108

Spring 2014

CRN: 19993

SPORTS, CULTURE, AND GEOGRAPHY

Associate Professor Adam Friedman, Department of Education

The seminar will examine the interconnectedness of sports, culture, and geography, and the influence each has on one another. There will be a worldwide focus, as the geography and culture of North America, South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and Oceania will be covered through such sports as soccer, baseball, basketball, American football, auto racing, cycling, boxing, hockey, cricket, and rugby, at both the amateur and professional level. Historical and contemporary events and trends will be addressed, and students will be expected to develop and defend arguments on different topics in both oral and written form.

WF 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Tribble B216

Spring 2014

CRN: 19995

CREATIVITY, IMPERFECTION, AND THE NOW

Assistant Teaching Professor Eric Ekstrand

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.

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Tribble A208

Spring 2014

CRN: 19994

MAKING LIGHT OF THE DARK AGES

Professor Gillian Overing, Department of English

What was happening in England and Europe in the so-called “Dark Ages?” This course is an introduction to the literature, history and philosophy of that period before Chaucer and Shakespeare that no one seems to know much about, but where a great deal of artistic and intellectual interest was happening. We will read a variety of works from Anglo-Saxon and Viking cultures, and build a focus on the 10th century – the approach of the first millennium. These early transitional cultures shed light on some important and current questions: how we evaluate civilization as “progress,” how crises and redefinitions of religious practices have political meaning, how gender roles are defined and changed, and how these early societies both create and deal with violence and persecution. We will also look at some contemporary versions of early medieval texts and concepts, examining modern counterparts to the heroes, outlaws, monsters and saints of the “Dark Ages.”

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Tribble A203

Spring 2014

CRN: 18950

“FAIRY TALES: GRIMM, DISNEY, AND BEYOND”

Associate Professor Alyssa Howards, Department of German and Russian

Aside from their role in inspiring Disney Films, what good are fairy tales, and why should adults care about them? This course explores the universal origins of the Grimm fairy tales, their importance to the formation of German identity, and their continued influence in film and television manifestations. Special attention will be given to the social history of both classic and modern fairy tales, including their embedded representations of gender roles, sexuality, and violence.

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 am

Greene 338

Spring 2014

CRN: 19984

NATURE, ENVIRONMENTS, AND PLACE IN AMERICAN THOUGHT

Assistant Professor Lisa Blee, Department of History

How have Americans constructed ideas of nature, attached values to certain environments, and invested meaning in particular places? We will consider how Americans in the past and today conceive of divisions between the natural and man-made, wilderness and civilization, and material reality and human consciousness. This seminar involves reading about and contemplating environmental thought and change, visiting off-campus sites where people have shaped and represented nature, and actively creating new place-stories by blogging and mapping.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Tribble A104

Spring 2014

CRN: 19981

SELF AND IDENTITY IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Teacher-Scholar Postdoctoral Fellow Leann Pace, Department of History

From the way we dress, to our hairstyles, what and how we eat, where we live, and via our Facebook statuses, we work every day to develop and communicate our self-identity to the larger world. This course will examine how people in the ancient Mediterranean world did exactly the same thing. From ancient Egyptian wig hairstyles to Herodotus's depiction of the Persians, famously interpreted in the movie 300, the course will provide students with access to primary sources that inform our understanding of how ancient people understood the concept of "self" and personal identity. Students will have the on identity—which may variously mirror or diverge from those evident in antiquity—as a means of considering these concepts as we encounter them in their ancient context.

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Tribble A104

Spring 2014

CRN: 19983

WORLD WAR II: MEMORY AND MEANING

Associate Professor Susan Rupp, Department of History

This seminar is *not* designed to provide a comprehensive, general history of the Second World War, but instead focuses on the meaning imparted to the war by those who lived through it as well as subsequent generations. The course begins with a consideration of the war as experienced and recalled by contemporaries, including the distinctive experiences of soldiers in battle, those on the home front, and perpetrators and victims of the Holocaust. In the latter weeks of the semester, we will examine the ways in which the war has been understood in the nearly seventy years since its conclusion. These sources, taken together, may contribute to a greater appreciation of the war's varied and contested meanings.

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

Tribble A104

Spring 2014

CRN: 19982

The GREAT WAR AND THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD

Professor Chuck Thomas, Department of History

This course examines the First World War in its broader context. The seminar will of necessity devote attention to the military course of the war, but will concentrate more heavily on its diplomatic origins, its effect on the social and economic circumstances of belligerent nations, the reactions of cultural and literary figures to the experience of war, the effect of the war on the lives of ordinary Europeans and non-Europeans, and the long shadow that the war cast over the rest of the twentieth century. The course abounds in critical issues that require critical thinking and analysis of arguments. Students will prepare three individual position papers for classroom discussion and, in consultation with the professor, will prepare a ten to twelve page research paper on a topic of their choosing.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Tribble B116

Spring 2014

CRN: 14921

COMMUNICATION AND THE FINE ARTS

Professor Louis Goldstein, Department of Music

This seminar is an exploration of the communicative power of the fine arts. 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. 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? Prerequisite: an open mind.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm

SFAC M308

Spring 2014

CRN: 19996

PHILOSOPHY GOES TO THE MOVIES

Associate Professor Adrian Bardon

Many excellent films have been built around interesting philosophical issues and tough philosophical questions. This course uses film, in conjunction with targeted readings, to inspire discussion and debate of a variety of classic philosophical issues such as moral responsibility, personal identity, the metaphysics of time travel, artificial intelligence, drugs, abortion, religious belief, race, economic justice, and immigration. Students will do individual short essays and work in groups to lead discussion. ****Some classes will go beyond the scheduled time due to the length of movie being viewed****

WF 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Tribble A307

Spring 2014

CRN: 19997

PHILOSOPHY OF WAR

Associate Teaching Professor Clark Thompson, Department of Philosophy

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

MW 5:00 – 6:15 pm

Tribble A307

Spring 2014

CRN: 19998

ON ART AND RELIGION

Associate Professor Patrick Toner, Department of Philosophy

Over the last several centuries, religion has been on the decline in the West. Art has often been seen as a promising replacement. In various ways, and to varying degrees, this apotheosis of art has been defended by such people as Goethe, Beethoven, Shelley, Blake, Mussorgsky, and Clive Bell. This seminar shall ask what art is, how we ought to understand it, whether art could replace religion, whether religion might need replacing, how the arts do or should relate to religion (particularly Christianity), and many other such questions.

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

Tribble A307

Spring 2014

CRN: 18968

THE POLITICS OF TECHNOLOGY AND VIOLENCE

Teacher/Scholar Postdoctoral Fellow Jack Amoureux, Department of Politics and International Affairs

In this seminar we will compare historical and contemporary cases of the emergence and use of new weapons technology, along with the ethical, legal, and political questions that have been raised in efforts to regulate or prohibit them. We will begin with the earliest chemical and biological weapons of ancient warfare and continue through the contemporary technologies of nuclear weapons, drones, cyber-weapons, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). We will pay special attention to issues of legitimacy, power, norms, and international law, and we will consider factors (e.g., the modern bureaucracy, decision-making) that influence how weapons technology is managed. We will also compare the use of weapons that are violently coercive to the coercive 'weapons' of non-violent action.

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Kirby B04

Spring 2014

CRN: 14930

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.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am

Greene 312

Spring 2014

CRN: 14917

CRN: 19999

THE NATURE OF GENIUS

Associate 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.

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

Greene 310

Spring 2014

MWF 12:00 – 12:50 pm

Greene 310

Spring 2014

CRN: 19985

FINDING THE GOOD (OR AT LEAST 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, 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. A primary concern is how ethics are applied in a societal context, and what it means to be a citizen in a community dealing with a disaster. One unique aspect to the seminar is the incorporation of participation of local officials tasked with response to disasters.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Wingate 206

Spring 2014

CRN: 18944

“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.

MWF 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Greene 513

Spring 2014

CRN: 20000

DEBATING CAPITALISM

Professor David Coates, Department of Sociology

An introduction to some of the core debates on the nature, desirability and potential 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 the global environment.

TBA 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Kirby TBA

Spring 2014

CRN: 20003

THEATER ALIVE!

Associate Professor, Sharon Andrews, Department of Theatre and Dance

Theatre Alive! will follow the process, production and the artistic choices involved in mounting the University Theatre's productions; Doubt by John Patrick Shanley and Sonnets For An Old Century by Jose Rivera. The course will explore how a production team comes to understand and agree on the ideas and values inherent in a play script and then how these ideas and values are communicated from the stage. This will be an active engagement course with lively discussions and creative presentations.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm

SFAC 214

Spring 2014

CRN: 20001

CRUEL ART: LITERATURE, THEATRE, VISUAL ART, AND FILM

Senior Lecturer, John Friedenber, Department of Theatre and Dance

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).

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm

SFAC 214

Spring 2014

CRN: 20002

DOCUMENTARY FILM AS A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Associate Professor, Woodrow Hood, Department of Theatre and Dance

"Documentary Film as a Catalyst for Social Change" is introduction to the art of documentary filmmaking. Through engaging readings, intense discussions, creative film projects, and watching some eye-opening films, this course will develop critical, analytical, and creative thinking skills. Ultimately, we seek to come to some insights into the connections between truth/reality and perspective/viewpoint.

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am

Carswell 302

Spring 2014

CRN: 20004

GENDER AND NATION: SOUTH ASIA THROUGH FILM

Assistant Professor Sandya Hewamanne, Department of Women's and Gender Studies

This course focuses on how visuals play a significant role in negotiating, constructing and reproducing notions of gender and nation. The class will view and explore popular Bollywood style and Art House movies from South Asia: students will analyze how mainstream notions of nation, gender, sexuality, family values, social hierarchies and social change in South Asia get constructed through visuals within specific political economic contexts. The course will also explore alternative visuals that challenge and subvert mainstream visual knowledge. The overall goal is to critically evaluate how films create, perpetuate and reproduce 'South Asian' cultures for western, native and diasporic audiences.

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm

Tribble A4

Spring 2014