FIRST YEAR SEMINARS
FALL 2016

CRN: 87770
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
Professor Andrew Gurstelle, Department of Anthropology

What happens when the museum closes its doors for the night—what really happens behind the scenes? This course introduces students to the inner workings of museums through an exploration of their histories, collections, exhibitions, and roles in society. Students learn by doing—getting to know the joys and challenges of museum work by creating a real exhibit to be installed at the Wake Forest University Museum of Anthropology.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am Carswell 018 Fall 2016

CRN: 90782
LOST CONTINENTS, ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS, AND MYSTERIOUS MOUNDBUILDERS: PSEUDOSCIENCE, EPISTEMOLOGY AND THE HUMAN PAST
Professor Paul Thacker, Department of Anthropology

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

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm Carswell 018 Fall 2016

CRN: 86854
DISCOVERING THE AVANT-GARDE
Professor Leigh Ann Hallberg, Department of Art

This seminar will explore the art, politics, and history of the avant-garde from the mid-19th century 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.

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

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am Scales 103 Fall 2016
TRUE VALUE MEALS
Professor Angela King, Department of Chemistry

The goal of this course is to explore the complex interactions among advertising, food production, safety and availability, agricultural environmental impact and standards of living. How has our evolution as a fast food nation affected social interactions? Corporate farming produces more food than our nation needs, but hunger and malnutrition are still present. Could modern agricultural practices be putting human and environmental health at risk? How do economic factors affect farmers, food processing workers, and consumers buying the final product? If you are what you eat, learning more about the true value of the food goods you consume should be given a high priority in order to make the best choices of what and where to eat.

MWF 11:00 – 11:50 am Salem 210 Fall 2016

BEWARE THE HEMLOCK: ROLEPLAYING CRISIS IN ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME
Professor Theodore Gellar-Goad, Department of Classical Languages

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

MWF 2:00 – 2:50 pm TBA Fall 2016

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

This group will live in the same residence hall and will form a first-year advising group. Faculty advisers designated prior to class. Registration is limited. To enroll, please contact Associate Dean Christy Buchanan (buchanan@wfu.edu).
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.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm  Tribble A309  Fall 2016

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

TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm  Greene 310  Fall 2016

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

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm  Tribble A110 (Detamble Auditorium)  Fall 2016

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CRN: 93931  
QUANTUM CHANGE: UNDERSTANDING THE PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION PHENOMENON  
Professor Mark Scholl, Department of Counseling

Does the “self” have a true center? What conditions and principles underlie quantum change, as opposed to change that is linear? Breaking bad, as opposed to breaking good? This seminar focuses on the principles and theories of counseling and psychology underlying processes of quantum change. We will examine cases of quantum change from real life and in fiction, in writings and in movies. Students will design and implement a personal change plan.

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TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm          Greene 310          Fall 2016

CRN: 89751  
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.

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

WF 11:00 – 12:15 pm          Carswell 102          Fall 2016

CRN: 90868  
COMMUNICATION, CULTURE, AND SOUTH ASIA  
Professor Ananda Mitra, Department of Communication

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

MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm          Carswell 305          Fall 2016
CRN:  90780  
GLOBALIZATION, EDUCATION, AND TECHNOLOGY  
Professor Ann Cunningham, Department of Education

Students in this seminar will explore how globalization impacts education in the US and around the world. Topics will address the role of technology, economic growth, and changes in perspectives on what “education” means in a globalized 21st century world. Examples from traditional and non-traditional education programs from around the world will be shared and discussed, in particular Finland, China, New Zealand, and the US. Students will be asked to deeply examine their own educational experiences against models in other countries, evaluate the substance of the models, and contemplate what type of educational opportunities and experiences they feel will be relevant to their children and grandchildren.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am  
Tribble A10  
Fall 2016

CRN:  86851  
SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLING: UNDERSTANDING OUR VARIED EXPERIENCES  
Professor Sarah Fick, Department of Education

This seminar will explore the variety of high school educational contexts that Wake Forest students come from, both within the United States and internationally. Students will reflect on the characteristics of their own high school experience, and how that is similar to and different from their classmates’ experiences, and other high school experiences nationally and internationally. This seminar will focus on: how students learn content, the physical context of schools, and the populations that make up schools. Particular attention will be paid to educational inequities in the United States and abroad.

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm  
Tribble A205  
Fall 2016

CRN:  91719  
PLAY IN PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL WORLDS: LEARNING FROM GAMES  
Professor Ali Sakkal, Department of Education

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

WF 2:00 – 3:15 pm  
Tribble B216  
Fall 2016

CRN:  86856  
UNCERTAINTY  
Professor Dean Franco, Department of English

This first year seminar will explore uncertainty as a physical, ontological, ethical, and political phenomenon. The assigned readings, films, and class discussions will have two primary aims: first, to discover the nature of uncertainty in its many forms, and second, to consider how we live with uncertainty. By “live with,” the instructor means, of course, how we deny, ignore, explore, reimage, or decide in the face of uncertainty.

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm  
Tribble A201  
Fall 2016
CRN: 93136
**Explorations in Translational Science**
Professor Gary Miller, Department of Health and Exercise Science

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 and nutrition. Reading assignments and questions pertaining to specific topics in this area will be made weekly. Students will turn in writing responses on the first day for each topic (Wednesday), with group presentations the following class period.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm    Worrell 1162    Fall 2016

CRN: 90735
**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 9:30 – 10:45 am    Worrell 0174    Fall 2016

CRN: 86880
**THOMAS JEFFERSON AND HIS WORLD**
Professor Michele Gillespie, Department of History

Thomas Jefferson remains an elusive and contradictory public figure. The third U.S. president, author of the Declaration of Independence, a strong advocate for religious freedom, and founder of the University of Virginia, Jefferson also was a prominent slaveholder. Despite his intellectual commitment to liberty and equality, he defies easy characterization. This seminar explores Jefferson in all his complexity, as Enlightenment man, political thinker, politician, slaveholder, naturalist, architect, and father, all within the context of the revolutionary age in which he lived.

M 6:00 – 8:30 pm    Tribble A104    Fall 2016

CRN: 90758
**THE GREAT WAR AND THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD**
Professor Charles S. 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.

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am    Tribble A102    Fall 2016
CRN: 91721
POWER AND DISSENT IN THE MODERN ARAB WORLD
Professor Charles Wilkins, Department of History

The wave of popular uprising, political revolution, and civil war moving across the Arab World since 2011 has its origins in long-standing patterns of conflict between state and society extending back to the early 20th century. This course examines in historical perspective the changing structures of political power in the periods of European colonial dominance (1920s-1940s), national liberation and the Cold War (1950s-1980s), and neo-liberal reform and adaptive autocracy (1990s-2000s). In parallel, the course explores the dynamics of power within the Arab family, with attention given to the institution of marriage, the status of women, and sexuality. Each week students will read, in translation, a short novel or set of short stories, as a way to reflect on the popular Arab perspective and to evaluate the power of the written word to effect change.

TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm
Tribble A305
Fall 2016

CRN: 90759
SELVES AND SOCIETIES
Professor Alan Williams, Department of History

This course offers the opportunity and the tools to think seriously and carefully about two questions that arise and recur in most lives: who are we, and who decides who we are? We will read work done by social scientists and historians, as well as three efforts at self representation: the records of Joan of Arc’s trial, the brilliant WWI memoir of Vera Brittain, and the recent exploration of a social identity’s power over our lives by Ta-Nehisi Coates. We will conclude with the claim made by some that who we are is a fabrication produced in part each time we tell a story about ourselves. We will learn one way to write such stories and then each produce one.

WF 9:30 – 10:45 am
Tribble A104
Fall 2016

CRN: 91852
CHILDREN OF DIVORCE
Professor Linda Nielsen, Department of Interdisciplinary Humanities

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 A206
Fall 2016
CRN: 93910  
**LITERATURE AND ETHICS**  
Professor Thomas Phillips, Department of Interdisciplinary Humanities

Participants will read from a range of mostly fiction works to consider how we establish ethical values for living what constitutes a good life. The syllabus includes Aristotle (from Ethics), The Pilgrim’s Progress (Bunyan), The Merchant of Venice (Shakespeare), Survival at Auschwitz (Levi), and Never Let Me Go (Ishiguro); additional brief prose non-fiction selections; and film adaptations of this material. Three medium length papers serve companion to a final creative project, the last an oral presentation on a contemporary ethical issue.

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TBA | TBA | Fall 2016

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CRN: 86863  
**DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD: NONPROFIT AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FOR ENTREPRENEURS**  
Professor Barbara Lentz, School of Law

In this course, students will discuss the intersection of philanthropy, non-profit and social entrepreneurship in working for the common good. Drawing on diverse materials from business, art, law, anthropology and other disciplines, we will review American voluntarism and associations and the role of nonprofits, venture philanthropy, foundations and corporations in solving social problems. The underlying tension between “doing good” for society and “doing well” for yourself and your family will be a continuing theme.

_TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm_ | TBA | _Fall 2016_

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CRN: 90825
**GOVERNMENT IN THE TIME OF GRIDLOCK**
Professor Sidney Shapiro, School of Law

Students will explore the conflict between capitalism (markets) and democracy (government) that has gridlocked government, think critically about what mixture of markets and government best secures the country’s political values, and consider how law legitimizes these compromises.

MW 2:00 – 3:15 pm  2321 Worrell Professional Center  Fall 2016

CRN: 93112
**MATHEMATICAL PUZZLES AND GAMES**
Professor Sarah Mason, Department of Mathematics

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

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm  Manchester 124  Fall 2016

CRN: 93932
**WAGNER'S RING, GODS, TOLKIEN AND STAR WARS**
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) adapt strands from medieval German, Norse, and Icelandic mythology into a compelling story of power, greed, treachery, love, and redemption that speaks just as powerfully to modern sensibilities as it did to its first audience in 1876. Controversial from the start, the Ring has had a profound influence on 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), and audio and video 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, as well as Tolkien’s saga in both its written and film versions.

TBA  TBA  Fall 2016
CRN: 93141  
**PHILOSOPHY OF WAR**  
Professor Clark Thompson, Department of Philosophy

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

MW 5:00 – 6:15 pm  
TRIB A201  
Fall 2016

CRN: 90761  
**GOOD AND EVIL IN TOLKIEN’S LORD OF THE RINGS**  
Professor Patrick Toner, Department of Philosophy

The Lord of the Rings is one of the most popular books ever written, but what is it really about? Is it just fantasy literature? What is its connection to the great epics? What is its connection to fairy stories? What does it have to teach us? Is it great literature? Should we care? What does the Ring of Power symbolize? We will study the book particularly in its relation to Tolkien’s Catholicism and with some consideration given to his near-contemporary GK Chesterton, and his friend CS Lewis. Students must re-read the book prior to the start of the semester.

WF 9:30 – 10:45 am  
TRIB A307  
Fall 2016

CRN: 90736  
**POWER AND THE US ELECTRICAL GRID**  
Professor 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.

TBA  
TBA  
Fall 2016
Though science classrooms have been transformed by digital resources, science textbooks have fallen behind. Publishers move words and images to digital media and add movies and electronic quizzes, but students have been slow to adopt e-texts for good reason: they are no better than conventional books. In response, Wake Forest University faculty in biology, physics, and education have developed new learning platforms—PhysBook and BioBook. These learner-oriented platforms enable students to customize their learning experience. In this First Year Seminar we will be exploring the current state of PhysBook and BioBook and finding ways to improve them. As a class, we will discuss how people learn and how new electronic tools can best be harnessed to increase our learning.

TBA  
TBA  
Fall 2016

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

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am  
Kirby B04  
Fall 2016

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.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm  
Kirby B04  
Fall 2016

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  
Fall 2016
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.

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am  
Wingate 206  
Fall 2016

In this FYS, students will study the underlying reasons that gave rise to momentous events such as the Arab Spring and its repercussions for Egypt and the rest of the world. Via conventional and digital media, we will analyze the news as it is presented in the USA as well as in Egypt.

TR 9:30 – 10:45 am  
Wingate 206  
Fall 2016

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 314  
Fall 2016

The study of food—what we do or do not eat as well as how, when, where and with whom we eat—is inexorably linked to anthropological, cultural, social, political, and economic concerns and therefore fundamentally interdisciplinary. Focusing on sources from a variety of disciplines, this course will consider current issues and debates within the field of food studies in order to examine how we use food to define who we are both individually and collectively, as well as to explore the inherent complexities in doing so in an increasingly global world.

TBD  
TBD  
Fall 2016
CRN: 91720
MEET ME AT THE FAIR
Professors Lisa Blee (Department of History), Christa Colyer (Department of Chemistry), Louis Goldstein (Department of Music), Anna Kate Lack (Department of Biology), Ali Sakkal (Department of Education), Ryan Shirey (Department of English), Christina Soriano (Department of Theatre and Dance),

Meet Me at the Fair: What do baby incubators, Ferris wheels and smoking robots have in common? They were all introduced at World’s Fairs! From Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show to the Eiffel Tower, World’s Fairs have been opportunities for nations to represent their pasts and imagine potential futures. In this interdisciplinary course (team-taught by seven faculty members), students will investigate the cultural relevance of World’s Fairs and design their own future fairs.

Professor Christina Soriano will also serve as lower-division adviser for students enrolled.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm  Tribble A208  Fall 2016

CRN: 93127
TELLING FACT FROM FICTION IN THE DIGITAL AGE
Professor Phoebe Zerwick, Writing Program

Is climate change true? What about the stories you see on MSNBC? Or the tweet from Donald Trump? This course, taught by a veteran investigative journalist, provides students with the framework and experience to become informed citizens in the digital age by teaching them to tell the difference between fact and fiction.

TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm  ZSR Library 427  Fall 2016

CRN: 93921
CRUEL ARTS
Professor John Friedenberg, 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 11:00 – 12:15 pm  SFAC 208  Fall 2016

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