

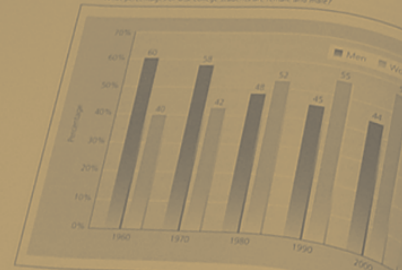
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CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

First Year SEMINARS

Exploration and Discovery

Figure 11.2 Changes in College Enrollment, by Sex
(What percentages of U.S. college students are female and male?)



Source: Statistical Abstract 1981 Table 241; 2002 Table 241

Figure 11.3 Current College Students, by Sex and Race-Ethnicity



Source: Statistical Abstract 2002 Table 241
Note: Only three groups are listed in the figure.

Figure 11.4 Gender Changes in Professional Degrees



Source: Statistical Abstract 2002 Table 241

First Year Seminars

FYSM 100

Through unique courses tied to a theme, the First Year Seminar focuses on the intellectual expectations and values of the academic community and encourages participation in the broader culture of the University. The seminar is designed to emphasize foundational disciplines at the core of liberal learning: critical thinking; analytical reading; effective writing and speaking; informed curiosity; problem solving; locating and evaluating information through research; and student participation in artistic, intellectual, service, and cultural events on campus.

Every first-year student must take one of the First Year Seminars, which are open only to Christopher Newport University first-year students. Each seminar is limited to 19 students and successful completion provides 3 hours of credit in the Foundations section of the Liberal Learning Core. This booklet contains titles and descriptions for more than fifty unique First Year Seminar courses from which students can choose.

FYSM 100 Theme and Objectives

The current theme of the CNU First Year Seminar, “Exploration and Discovery,” focuses broadly on a series of questions that relate to our past, present and future. Some questions your First Year Seminar might investigate include: What does it mean to explore? What explorations and discoveries have made the greatest contributions to humanity? How have exploration and discovery helped human development, and how have they harmed human development? How do we evaluate our discoveries? What is the future of exploration and discovery, and how can we learn from our past in order to be able to shape our future?

Courses will incorporate the following objectives. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- ❑ Comprehend, interpret, evaluate and analyze information from a variety of sources
- ❑ Communicate orally, visually, and/or in writing
- ❑ Understand the limitations and potential of technology and identify and efficiently use appropriate tools to produce a desired outcome
- ❑ Demonstrate depth of knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the common theme.

The theme “Exploration and Discovery” was chosen because it connects to the 2007 Jamestown Celebration. One First Year Seminar specifically capitalizes on this connection:

John Smith, Pocahontas, and Jamestown: Myths and Realities in Early Virginia. This seminar will introduce students to Jamestown’s founding during the Age of Discovery. Through lectures, class discussions, primary and secondary readings, films, and out of class activities, students will explore the wider Atlantic world of the 16th and 17th centuries as well as examine the Virginia colony’s tumultuous early years, which saw large-scale wars with the Powhatan Indians, starvation and near collapse, the rise of a tobacco economy, and the beginning of African slavery. The class will, moreover, examine the significance and importance of key figures in Jamestown settlement, including John Smith and the Indian princess Pocahontas.

Additional information about Jamestown is found at – <http://www.jamestown2007.org/home.cfm>



Africa: Tragedies, Racisms, and Hope

Africa south of the Sahara remains one of two world regions in persistent poverty. This course will explore the multiple reasons for the lagging state of human development in Africa. Simultaneously, we will investigate the divergent trajectories unfolding on the continent, from failed states (Somalia, Liberia, Congo-Kinshasa) to emergent success stories (Botswana, Ghana, Senegal). Core themes will include: past and present forms of "Afro-pessimism," colonial legacies for development, opportunities and challenges of Africa's physical environments, governance issues, and global political economic relations.

Alchemists of Imagination: Ludwig van Beethoven

In this course, students will become acquainted with many of Beethoven's great compositions, including symphonies, concertos, sonatas, chamber music, songs, choral music, and his opera *Fidelio*. Various scholarly perspectives on Beethoven's life will be examined, as well as questions of what constitutes beauty and meaning in music. Students will discover that understanding Beethoven's music, even being moved by it, takes little more than listening closely. We will ask: how is it that music can communicate so immediately across centuries and cultures?





Ancient and Medieval Visions of Heaven and Voyages to Hell

This is an interdisciplinary seminar that explores questions of how we represent ourselves and our place in this world via Otherworldly visions and voyages. Students will read visions and voyages from a variety of sources, ranging from Gilgamesh, Homer and Virgil, to Chaucer, Dante, and anonymous medieval authors. We'll look at the historical and cultural contexts of these stories to explore the ways in which we use future and/or imagined worlds to question, understand, or even shape our lives in this world.

Ancient Explorers

Students will read the Babylonian epic Gilgamesh (which influenced Greek epic), Homer's *Odyssey*, Apollonius' *Jason and the Argonauts*, and selections from the Greek historians Herodotus and Xenophon in order (1) to understand the history of Greek exploration and (2) to appreciate the considerable impact that exploration of the Mediterranean Sea and adjoining lands had on classical Greek culture. By focusing on historians and poets who treat the theme of exploration, students will be able to appreciate both the factual accounts of exploration and how contact with other cultures influenced the way that the Greeks viewed their own culture.



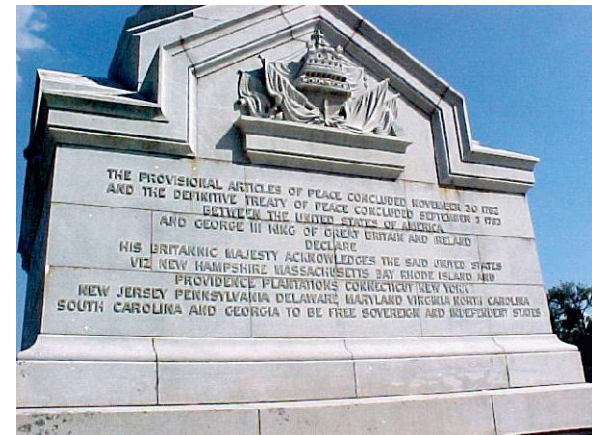


Atlantic World Encounters

Complex interactions between Europeans, Africans, and Amerindians over questions of culture, economics, religion, the environment, and power helped to shape Latin America in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The story of the encounters among these peoples, often called the 'conquest,' has often been told from the exclusive perspective of Europeans and thus has ignored the contributions of Africans and Amerindians to the formation of New World societies. Adopting an Atlantic-world focus we will in this course resurrect the voices of Africans and Amerindians attempting to assess their contribution in the creation of Latin America.

Battling for Yesterday: Exploring Cultural Memory

Dotting the Landscape of Virginia are multiple monuments that seem to speak volumes about our history. However, they lack the ability to speak. As we look upon these silent monuments we must ask their story, for it tells us our own. This class will engage American cultural history sifted through cultural memory. It is the rhetorical engagement of these separate but interrelated conceptions of history that will orient this class as we engage the American past as written in stone and bronze.





China and the West: Cultural Encounters in Globalization

This course explores the dynamics of cultural encounters in the historical process now known as globalization. By examining the tortuous relationship between China and the West in the past few centuries, the course illuminates how that relationship may be understood as cultural encounters -- *cultural perceptions and interactions*--as well as political-economic confrontations and negotiations. It also reveals why cultural encounters cannot be separated from power relations in political, economic, and military, as well as cultural, dimensions, and their interaction.

Church and State: Exploring the Relationship between Religious and Political Ideology

There is no more controversial issue these days than the relationship between church and state. Some believe that religion is a private matter and best left out of the political arena. Others argue that religion is an essential aspect of our life in general and an indispensable element of our corporate existence, laying the foundation of our most sacred political concepts. In this course, we will explore the religious heritage of America, trace the growth of secularism in the modern world, and address contemporary issues related to the relationship of church and state.





Cinemerica: Exploring US Culture through Film

From its origins at the end of the nineteenth century, film has served as a visual record of the cultural events and debates of the United States. This course will examine a range of films – popular and experimental, historical and contemporary, fiction and documentary – as the basis for an investigation of American “master narratives,” or stories we tell to ourselves about who we think we are, such as tales of the frontier, the big city, and road trips.

Computers and Technology in a Changing Society

This course features the discovery and evolution of the computer, from the first mechanical calculator to the discovery of the first transistor that has become a fundamental building block in modern digital computers. The course explores the impact of computers on society and daily life, and examines the increasingly important role computers play in education, science, engineering, medicine, space exploration, etc. In addition, the course introduces future trends in computing and nanotechnology, which are believed to spawn a variety of world-changing industries.



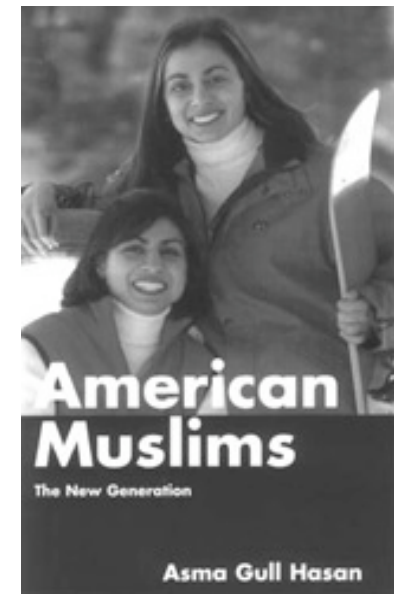


The Creation of the Western World

The examination and exploration of how the Western world was created and evolved through three pivotal cultural paradigms: the ancient Classical World, the first great Western civilization; the Medieval synthesis that created the first truly European culture; the Renaissance, which cast Western humanity in its modern mold. Students will be guided through an examination and discovery of these classic paradigms through a study of samples of the representative art, architecture and literature of each period. The goal of the course is to enable the student to understand the evolution and establishment of the foundation of modern Western civilization and society.

Discovering Islam: Exploring the Qur'an and the Life of Muhammad, Islamic Practices and Beliefs, and Islam in America

This course will introduce students to the faith, beliefs, and practices of Islam from its earliest origins to the present. Emphasis will be on Quranic and *hadith* (sayings and deeds of Muhammad) studies, Islam in America, Christian-Muslim relations, the future of Islam, and the contribution of Islam to the world



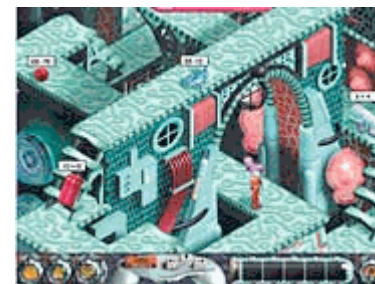


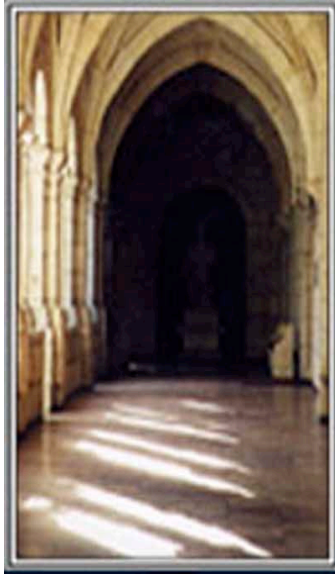
Discovering *Italia*

Whereas the Italian artistic, literary, and historical past is commonly studied in academic communities, its contemporary development is not often offered as a subject of investigation to students. "Discovering *Italia*" intends to be a journey into the discovery of new faces of commonly stereotypical aspects of Italian civilization, such as food and family, in order to analyze how they are realistically and currently experienced in Italy. Any study of a foreign civilization is a journey of discovery of what it is different from the students' native culture. Comparisons will develop more easily if the historical time under examination parallels the students' age.

Discovering Mathematics through the Ages

A historical and exploratory look at mathematics. Emphasis will be placed on rediscovering some of the ideas, concepts and formulas of mathematics as a class and individually. We will also be examining the impact that mathematics has had throughout history and discuss how these discoveries have affected who we are today. Topics may include infinity, Fibonacci numbers, Pi and cryptography. This course is intended for students who have an interest in math but it is not limited to math geniuses!



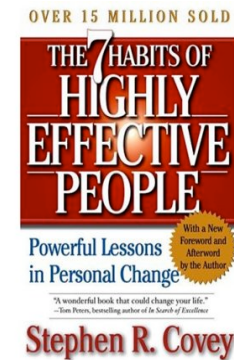


Discovering Spirituality: Exploring the Spiritual Path in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity

Interest in spirituality is at an all-time peak in the US. Christian devotional writings crowd the shelves of big-box bookstores, and millions turn to Buddhist meditation and Hindu yoga. Despite many differences, the spiritual paths of Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism share common stations on the path from spiritual awakening to spiritual maturity. This course will explore how these diverse religious communities construct their distinctive models of human spiritual fulfillment, the dangers inherent in each, and the relation of the academic study of religion to the practice of spirituality.

Discovering the Traits of Personal and Professional Success

Every person and organization wants to be successful. There are many models of personal success (Dale Carnegie, Stephen Covey, Jack Welch, Denis Waitley) and business success (Peter Drucker, Tom Peters, W. Edwards Deming, Jim Collins). This course will explore business literature to discover common traits of personal and business success with the intent to apply them to the student's experience at CNU and beyond.





Discovering Tolkien's Middle-earth

An exploration of Tolkien's three great works of fantasy, in which he created the imaginary world of Middle-earth, will help students learn to understand *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* at the level of plot, character, setting, and idea; appreciate the astonishingly complex world in which Tolkien's novels unfold; think critically and write clearly about Tolkien's themes, with special emphasis on their contemporary relevance; understand how Tolkien's fiction is informed by many literary and linguistic traditions, as well as by philosophical, psychological, sociological, and political issues that reverberate through the entire liberal arts curriculum.

Discovering Truth: Exploring Views of "Reality" and "Self"

The quest for "Truth" is a driving force of human history yet over time there have been remarkable disagreements over what "truth" is. In this course we will explore conceptions of "truth," particularly regarding notions of "reality" and identity (sense of "self"). Most of our energy will focus on tracing competing views of truth, thoughtful cross-cultural exploration, and critical appraisal of different claims. We will engage Daoist and Buddhist views of "reality" and "self" and read works exploring explicitly political/social dimensions of "truth" by R.D. Laing, Hunter S. Thompson and Cornel West. In addition to lecture and discussion we will also listen to recordings and view films that raise questions of truth.



R. D. Laing



Photo provided by Bletchly Park

Discovery Impossible: Exploring the Science of Secrecy

The seminar deals with the science of cryptology and its relevance to computers and the Internet. Starting out with early applications of “secret writing”, we will explore the advancement of cryptology over time, which was driven by the constant rivalry between “code writers” and “code breakers”. Based on selected events and milestones, we will get to know the key players, learn about fundamental methodologies and technologies, and discuss the impact of cryptology on individuals, societies and world affairs.

The Discovery of Mental Illness

This course invites students to consider what mental illness looks and feels like from various perspectives: doctors and psychiatrists, the general public, family and friends and most importantly, those who suffer from mental illness. As we read accounts of mental illness written from these various perspectives, we will discuss, debate and assess arguments about the treatment of the mentally ill in American society.



The Scream (1893), Munch Museum, Oslo



The Effect of Globalization

Students will explore the forces of globalization that are shaping our world, in order to develop a fuller understanding of globalization and to analyze the different responses to this phenomenon. A primary focus of the course will be an evaluation of the current debate about globalization in the light of its historical evolution. Topics include the effect of globalization on the economy, on culture, on the environment, on labor and on human rights. Students will also explore how globalization affects each of us as individuals, and how our economic, political and cultural systems have a global reach.

The European Union (EU)

This course will take an intuitive approach in explaining the Post World War II economic, political, and social developments of the European continent. Particularly we will focus on all the events that led to the formation of the EU, using books, articles, and media for information. Furthermore, the seminar will explore the importance of the EU and its competencies in various areas where it has been delegated powers over the member states. Students will be required to engage in in-class discussions, read and comment on assigned books and theme-related articles, and write a term research paper that focuses on the perspective of their choice regarding this topic.





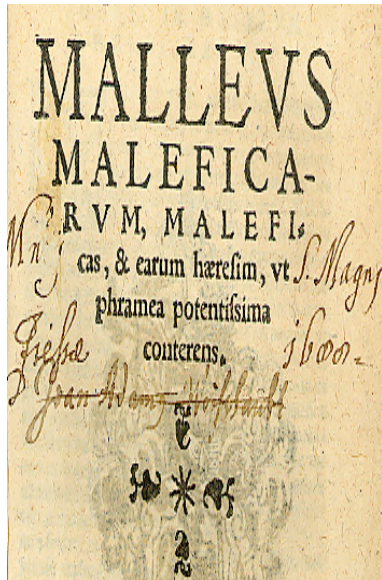
Exploring and Restoring Our World

Students will become familiar with the emerging field of restoration ecology, including both theory and application. Restoration is interesting because it uses complex interdisciplinary solutions to problems caused by humans, often involving history, art, communication, literature, as well as various sciences to restore damaged ecosystems. This course is physically demanding as well as challenging because it not only involves lectures and tests, but it also requires participation in two actual wetland restoration sites and an excursion to a natural wetland. Students will also create and present a team PowerPoint presentation based on these experiences. NOTE: Field trips are required.

Exploring Communication in Young Adult Television and Film

The "teen" genre is one of the most sought after marketing demographics in the media industry. Young adult programming, particularly on networks like the WB and MTV, provides a rich base of cultural information for young adults about relational communication patterns and identity formation. This class examines representations of young adults in television and film, both historically and currently. Students will analyze how these representations shape what it means to be a young adult in contemporary society through their influence on identity formation for the 18-25 age group (either consciously or unconsciously).





Exploring the Evil Woman: Witchcraft in the Malleus Maleficarum and Gender Construction in the Age of Discovery

This course examines one of the prominent historical paradigms that influenced the social construction of the feminine gender. The Malleus Maleficarum, "The Hammer of Witches", was first published in 1487 and gained notoriety for its employment in the witch hunts that plagued Europe and North America in the 15th – 17th centuries. The correlation between the feminine, sexuality and evil has had an indelible impact on constructions of the feminine gender. This course seeks to help students better understand the nature of this paradigm and its effects on historical and modern conceptions of femininity.

Exploring the Influence of Hip-Hop Culture

One of the most fascinating phenomena in the last three decades has been the growth and development of Hip-Hop as the dominant force in American popular culture. This course focuses upon two general areas: 1.) The historical development of Hip-Hop from the early 1980s and 2.) The influence of Hip-Hop upon American youth culture. Within these two general areas we will consider a myriad of questions that will require extensive reading as we engage theory, research and our personal experience with Hip-Hop to place this cultural phenomenon in appropriate historical perspective.





Exploring the Irrational: Ghosts in Art and Literature

Despite the fact that many people claim not to believe in ghosts, it is common practice to “cast” them as characters in plays, films, and novels. These fictional specters coexist in the contemporary world with the scientific method and its emphasis on experimentation and evidence. Why then is it so easy to suspend our disbelief when a ghost appears onstage? What do these figures contribute to works of art, and how do they help us explore emotions that scientific discourse otherwise might ignore? Works by Shakespeare, Ibsen, James, Toni Morrison and Mozart, and at least one popular film, will form the basis of our discussions.

Exploring Nation-Building and Democratization: The United States and Foreign Occupation Since 1945

Even when designed as a benevolent mission, the occupation of one country by another raises fundamental political, economic, social, and cultural questions. Can democracy be “imposed?” What role does the defeated population play in the rebuilding of its country? How should social institutions be reformed to facilitate the stability of a new state? What internal factors influence the success of foreign occupation? How do the occupied view the occupier and what possible effects might this image have? This course will consider these questions – and many more – as it examines four major foreign occupations in which the United States has been involved. The first two date from the immediate aftermath of the Second World War: Germany and Japan. The final two are more recent – the NATO occupation of Bosnia and the U.S.-led coalition occupation of Iraq. These case studies will serve as a window through which we will analyze and discuss foreign occupation and develop commonalities and trends relevant to the nation-building project.





Exploring War and Society

This course explores war's impact on societies through the ages. The course is organized around several topics, such as Loyalty and Opposition, Woman and War, War and Masculinity, and War as Myth. We will work with a variety of source materials to discover the impact of war beyond the battlefield. This course is NOT a study of military history. Rather, we will be exploring and discovering some of the less commonly considered ramifications of war. Our objective is to gain a more complex understanding of how different societies at different times have experienced war.

Fact and Fiction: Voyages of Self –Discovery

This first-year seminar will focus on a number of travel narratives. How do travel narratives compare to other types of literature? How do travels change an individual? Could travel narratives help us reflect upon our own society? We will look for answers to such questions while exploring a wide variety of texts, from medieval and Renaissance writings to 18th century philosophical tales, to 19th century science fiction and 20th century texts and examine notions such as exoticism, exile, and otherness. More than embarking on a chronological journey, we will attempt to examine voyage as a metaphor and explore social and cultural issues.





Fantastic Voyage: The Scientist as Explorer

How do scientists arrive at their understanding of nature? What keeps them going in the face of seemingly insurmountable confusion and uncertainty? What is it in scientists' training that tells them to persevere in the face of failure? The answers to these questions may be found through a biographical and historical examination of the lives of great (and not-so-great) scientists. In this seminar, we will examine the contexts and personalities of selected scientists to develop a deeper understanding of what makes scientists "tick". We will also consider the dominance of the professional research model in the late 20th century and the implications of this development for 21st century science.

Finding Eden: An Exploration of American Immigrant Literature

Immigrants, explorers and visitors who have arrived on American shores have written about their experiences. They write of their vision of America and of their experiences in America. Their writing can help us to better understand our culture, our country, and ourselves. In this course, we will explore what America has meant to those who have arrived from outside our country, and we will apply their experiences to our own lives.





Dr. Robert Thomas and Margaret Orr
© California Academy of Sciences

The Fourth World and Me: Exploring Indigenous People and Global Development

This course will explore the lives, past and present, of indigenous peoples around the world using the conceptual and methodological tools of anthropology. Ethnographic texts, videos, and photography will be our primary means of inquiry. These will be supplemented by class activities and assignments, in and out of the classroom, that explore how anthropologists develop relationships with their informants, systematically gather information based on hypotheses in need of falsification, and represent their findings to a wide audience.

Frankenstein's Legacy: Literary and Artistic Explorations in the Age of Technology

This first-year seminar will focus on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, a period marked by unprecedented technological growth in Europe and America. Through literary, philosophical and theoretical texts, as well as works of art and music, we will investigate many of the issues and questions that arise in the "Age of Technology," among them the beneficial and detrimental effects of our drive to know and explore, our responsibilities towards ourselves and our environment, and what it means to be human.



Friendship Matters: Communication and Friendship

This course will broaden the student's understanding of why and how friendship matters by exploring (a) the stages of friendship over the life course, (b) the rewards and challenges of different types of friendships, and (c) the intersections between theory, research and our personal lives. Course concepts will be illustrated through lived experiences and media representations of friendship. Throughout the semester students will consider not only what is in terms of friendship, but also what might be and how students, as change agents, may act to improve their individual and collective lives.



From Farming to Fast Food Nation: Exploring Food, Culture and Society

Everyday Americans make decisions about food. Whether we buy a burger at a fast food restaurant, sell organic vegetables at a farmer's market, starve ourselves to fit a particular body image, or fast to celebrate a religious ritual, food is an integral part of human existence. Yet more than just a necessity for physical nourishment, food is a product of powerful social meanings that is intricately connected to culture, religion, politics, identity, social policy, and relations of race, class and gender. This seminar will explore these issues through an examination of the history, production, distribution, preparation and consumption of food.



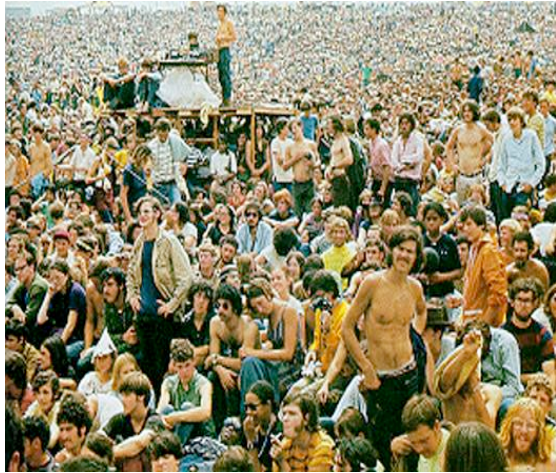
Good Laws, Bad Ethics and Ugly Consumers

This first year seminar is designed to intrigue and challenge students to examine their own futures as business leaders. Music, film and readings will be used to explore global business practices, the laws that affect consumers and the meaning of the oxymoron, "business ethics". Using creative media, students will become engaged in understanding good, bad and ugly business practices. International and U.S. laws, landmark court decisions, the ethics of specific business practices will help determine how laws and ethics affect consumer behavior.

Guns and Politics

This course examines the many issues associated with civilian (non-military) gun ownership in the United States, including the benefits (e.g., crime deterrence and self-defense) and costs (e.g., criminal use of firearms, suicides, and accidents). An additional focus is on the historical and judicial interpretations of the 2nd Amendment, the "gun culture" and its enemies, global gun control, and the symbolic and recreational uses of firearms in America.





Hippies, Politics, and the Electric Cool Aid Acid Test

An examination of the 1960s' impact on our society and related governmental policies from 1964-2004. Topics include such areas as the drug culture, sexual mores, free speech, communal living, civil rights, environmental movement, and rights of women and gays through literature, movies, music, political rhetoric, and governmental policies.

How to Read Like a Philosopher

The course develops the skills of critical and creative reading through a literary analysis of different genres of philosophical writing in brief selections from the fragments of the Pre-Socratic philosophers; the dialogs of Plato; the aphorisms of the Yoga Sutras; the Analects of Confucius; the dialectics of the Summa Theologica; the koans of Zen Buddhism; the geometrical style of Spinoza; and the poetic style of the Lao Tzu. Other authors that will be read include Chuang Tzu, Marcus Aurelius, Epictetus, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche. In addition to the study of philosophical genres, the course will examine different theories of literature and methods of reading such as those of hermeneutics, deconstruction, postmodern literary analysis, New Criticism, and Cultural Studies.



How We Came to This Connected Age - An Introduction to Network Science

During the 20th century a new area of scientific inquiry emerged focused on the study of networks. It grew out of our need to understand the structure and dynamics of the many complex networks that are vital to our well being. This course will explore how the science of networks emerged and how it is applied to understand the behavior of networks for communication, distribution of resources, epidemics, management in organizations and of course the Internet. The course will describe how physical scientists, social scientists, and mathematicians first began to explore networks and how they discovered common characteristics in very different systems.



Photo Credit: US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Design by: Adrian Cousins

Humans and Computers Interface Through Speech

Speech is the most natural and efficient manner of communication and exchanging information. The area of speech processing gained long strides in the last few decades and has been widely used for many applications in our every day life. Students will be able to appreciate the efforts done through time for developing the area of speech processing through their knowledge of its previous discovery and its future potential and important application. The purpose of this course is to provide the students with fundamental tools and sufficient exposure to the applied technologies of human and computer interface through speech.

The Image of the Teacher in Film and Literature

The “teacher” is someone who has impacted nearly every member of our society. But who, really, is a teacher and what does it mean to be one? This course will give students the opportunity to contrast their own experiences against cinematic and literary interpretations as they explore and discover the real and imagined world of teachers. Students will both read and discuss visual and printed texts in their exploration, analyzing and examining interpretations of the teacher in America.



© 2002 Universal Pictures



John Smith, Pocahontas, and Jamestown: Myths and Realities in Early Virginia

This seminar will introduce students to Jamestown’s founding during the Age of Discovery. Through lectures, class discussions, primary and secondary readings, films, and out of class activities, students will explore the wider Atlantic world of the 16th and 17th centuries as well as examine the Virginia colony’s tumultuous early years, which saw large-scale wars with the Powhatan Indians, starvation and near collapse, the rise of a tobacco economy, and the beginnings of African slavery. The class will, moreover, examine the significance and importance of key figures in Jamestown settlement, including John Smith and the Indian princess Pocahontas

Lights, Camera, Explore: Film as an Instrument of Discovery and Exploration

This course uses film as a launching point for discussion and research. We will examine films that address real historical events (early explorers, the race to the moon, etc.) and compare the cinematic treatment to the historical reality, drawing conclusions about how we view the world through the camera's eye. We will also look at some recent documentaries to discuss film as an instrument of discovery in and of itself.



©2005 New Line Cinema



Credit: Waman Poma, Institute of Ethnology, Paris, 1936

Los indios y los conquistadores: The Literatures of the Conquest of Mexico

For Europe's colonial project in the New World, the conquest of Mexico provides us with some of the best documentary evidence from both sides of the clash of Old and New World cultures. Not only did Spanish explorers and conquerors write of their experiences, but the Aztec and Maya responded to the invasion and conquest through their own literature. This class will explore both sides of the conquest through literature, history, testimonials and film.



The Meaning of Sport

Traditional concerns in ethics, aesthetics, and theory of knowledge will be applied to issues and problems in the philosophy of sport. Some of the topics considered are: the nature of play; authenticity in work and leisure; the nature of sportsmanship; game theory and its application to sport; formulating a definition of sport; the difference between spectatorship and participation in sport; the relationship between sport, art and theater; the role of cooperation and competition in sport; knowing with the body versus knowing with the mind; skill as a special kind of knowing; sport as a metaphor for life; gender differences in sport; courage and fair play; the structure and function of rules in sport; egoism and altruism in sport; sport and the quest for meaning, the genetic engineering of superman/wonder woman athletes, cyborgian athletes, violence and injury in sport.

Morality, Ethics and Justice

Through the lens of our justice system, students in this course will review concepts put forward by classical philosophers and connect these theories to our modern lives. This first year seminar will review moral and ethical questions in the field of criminal justice and relate these issues to the dilemmas faced by college students in their day-to-day decisions.





Johnson Wax Corporation Building
Jack E. Boucher, Photographer, August 1969

Office Space: Exploring How Gen Y Talks About Work in the 21st Century

This course will use film, narratives, and selected readings to explore how this generation conceptualizes and experiences the work world.

On the Road: Travels with a Chesapeake Bay Naturalist

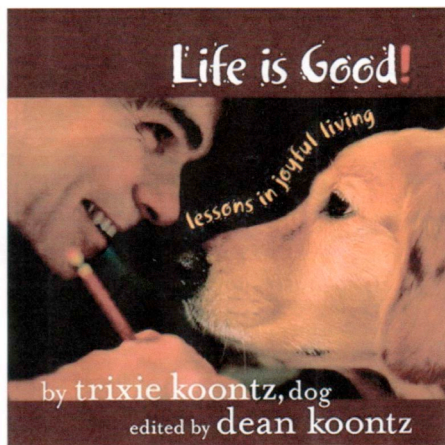
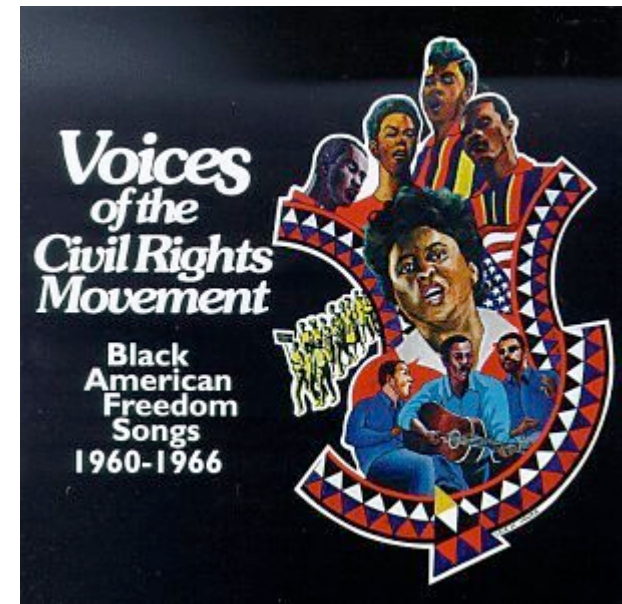
This Freshman Seminar is a field trip course designed to teach you ecological information about the area where you will live for the next four years. Travel to ecological areas around Chesapeake Bay will be by way of back roads through historically important places, which will also be explored as part of your experience. Discussions will not only center on ecological principles but also the history and cultural development of the Bay region. At the end of each trip, dinner and trip discussion will take place at a local restaurant, near the field trip site, that specializes in regional food. Additional experiences will include a trip on a crab boat with a local waterman and instruction in nature photography.



Liam Gumley, Space Science and
Engineering Center,
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Passionate Politics: Music and Social Movements

In this course we will look at the relationship between popular music and politics in America and other parts of the world. In exploring the intersections between music and politics from various historical and contemporary perspectives, we will address issues such as protest, resistance, nationalism, censorship, and propaganda. Furthermore, we will investigate what politics entails, how is political spectacle constructed and what is the role of music in that process. From freedom songs of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s to the relationship of popular music and politics in the United States today; from Jamaican reggae of Bob Marley to Nigerian "afro-beat" revolution of Fela Kuti; from *nueva canción* in Chile to *turbo-folk* in Serbia; we will explore the power of music to reference social worlds, to support or critique the status quo, and to inspire political action.



Positive Psychology: Systematic Discovery of the Highest Human Qualities

This seminar will introduce and explore a number of the most positive human attributes. Because in the past psychology has focused on diagnosis, dysfunction, and disability there has been little interest until recently in characterizing the individual who is functioning at very high levels of humanity and productivity. This seminar will examine a number of such attributes. These include, but are not limited to: creativity, optimism, self-actualization, "toughness," "hardiness," subjective well-being, self-esteem, self-efficacy, compassion, maturity, and solitude. Students will read both primary and secondary literature in these areas.

Practicing Social Justice

This course provides an examination of the concepts of oppression, injustice, empowerment and social justice. Along with developing and analyzing historical, personal and worldview concepts of oppression and injustice, students are challenged to develop concepts of empowerment and social justice that combat oppression and injustice. Participation in class, campus and community assignments, service projects, and functions will help students understand and be involved in the practice of social justice.



Associated Press



The Psychology of Pseudoscientific Thinking: Understanding Why People Believe in Weird Things.

Alien abductions, monster sightings, faith-healing, channeling the dead, and recovered memories are the subjects of countless books, magazine articles, movies, and television shows. Not surprisingly, recent surveys reveal sharp increases in paranormal beliefs over the past 20 years among people in the general public. Throughout the course, we will examine many paranormal phenomena and pseudoscientific claims, such as near-death experiences, homeopathy, psychic readings, hypnosis, and ghosts.



National Archives and Records Administration

Radical America: Protest Politics and American Democracy

Democracy – rule by the people – is perhaps the most ideal form of governance ever devised. Yet, when the American colonists began asserting their rights to self-rule in the late eighteenth century they were called radicals. Since the establishment of American democracy in 1776, the boundaries of American politics have been continuously explored and reshaped through radical ideas. This course focuses on these radical ideas, from those that gave rise to the American Revolution itself to those that gave rise to the call for gay rights, and looks at their influence on American politics past, present, and future.

The "Real" Matrix: Exploring the Web of Culture and Its Influences on the Self, Relationships and Perception

The real web that envelops your life is not digital; it's cultural. Your values and behaviors, the way you think, even the way you "see" physical reality is culturally-conditioned. In this course, we will first examine American cultural patterns and the influence of culture on identity, the concept of the "self," personal values and assumptions, interactions with others, and communication styles. From this foundation, we will contrast our own cultural perspectives with those of cultures from around the world through lectures and discussions, guest lectures, interviews with native informants, further research, and group projects. Learn to see the world from a whole new point of view; learn the keys to success in the global village of the 21st century.



National Museum of Australia

Religion in American Culture

This course is an examination of American culture as discovered through the lens of religion. This course takes a thematic approach to the study of American culture. Students will therefore read and discuss representative scholarship about the different areas of our culture: Gender, Race, Class, Religions Diversity, Civil Religion, Popular culture, Literature, Government, Law the Environment, Science and Technology. The role of religion will be seen as a catalyst of discovery in each of the aspects of American culture.



Norfolk, VA Skyline

Rich Landscapes: Detectives, History, and Globalization

In this era of renewed globalization and commercialization, some critics have worried human landscapes are all becoming the same. This course explores – through intensive study of Hampton Roads landscapes, and other activities – why fears of “placelessness” are misguided. We will consider methods of landscape analysis, which will enable us to discover the richness of human landscapes, in terms of history, culture, environment, economy, and other elements. We will explore how and why human landscapes are constructed, contested, and altered over time.



www.usaid.gov/gn/education/

Scientists in Cribs: The Foundations of Scientific Thinking in Children

This seminar focuses on how infants and young children explore and discover their worlds, in other words, how they learn. We will find that children's exploration and discovery looks remarkably like grown-up scientists' thinking. In particular, this seminar will focus on recent theories and research findings on the development of children's thinking. Readings will include two books, *The Scientist in The Crib* and *Einstein Never Used Flashcards*, as well as research articles on various topics in children's cognitive development.

Searching for the Self: Autobiography as Exploration and Discovery

Who am I? What does it mean to be the specific person that I am? How do I fit into the larger scheme of things? This course explores these perennially important and difficult questions. The course does so by focusing on the efforts of certain persons to understand themselves through the medium of written autobiographical reflection. In addition to reading closely *The Confessions* of St. Augustine and other autobiographical writings, seminar participants will consider philosophical, religious, psychological, and anthropological/sociological materials and theories to aid in understanding this quest for self understanding.



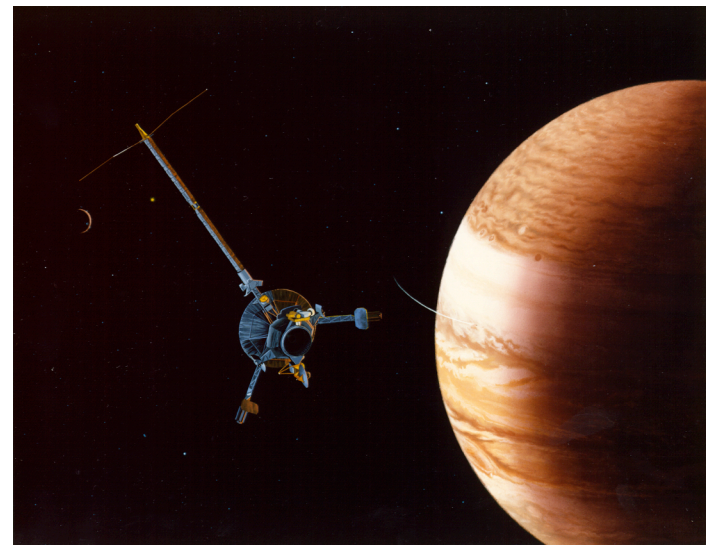


The Simpsons: Exploring Popular Culture/Discovering Popular Imagination

We will explore our world via the TV show, The Simpsons. Examining popular culture is one of many ways of knowing our place in the world; it is through the study of popular culture that we discover the beliefs, values and ideological positions of our society. We will explore The Simpsons to discover religion, family, sexuality, friendship, work, spare time in American culture. We will also use The Simpsons as a means to explore theory and the study of popular culture.

Space Trek: The Epic Journey

This course examines the exploration, discovery, risk and benefit of the massive endeavor to better understand our earth, solar system, and cosmos. Contributions of Tidewater area to this effort will be emphasized.



NASA



Spirituality and Art: Developing spirituality through visual literacy

Spirituality and Art will provide a hands-on workshop course where art is seen and heard in its historical context as an instrument of spirituality and where art is the outcome of the soul's journey spirit ward. Although Christianity will have a dominant focus in some sessions, the course will identify common themes and needs in the path to spiritual enlightenment, and how various religions and civilizations have addressed those needs through art. The content of the course will include concepts and symbols used by religions and civilizations worldwide and will require in turn that these concepts and symbols be applied to art projects, using traditional techniques of spiritual exploration. No previous art training is necessary, and no belief in your talent for making art is required.

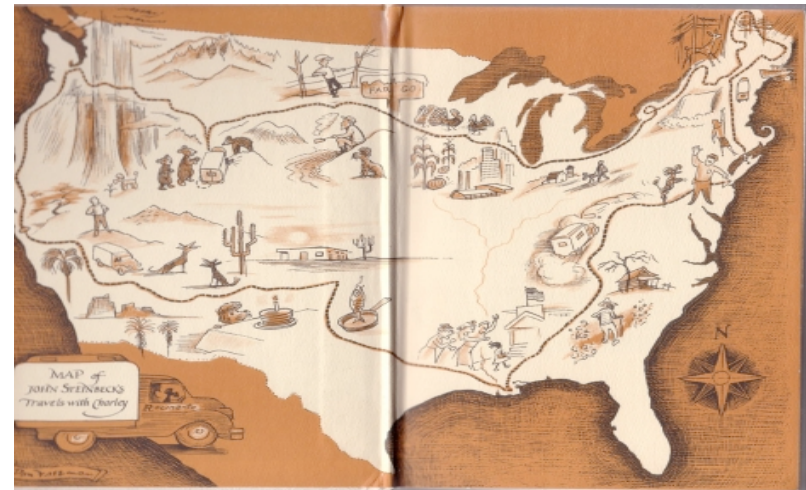


Terrorism: A Historical Perspective

This course is designed to stimulate intellectual discovery by exploring the meaning of terror and terrorism. Students engaged in the freshman experience will be introduced to the historical context in which terrorism has existed throughout history. The course will begin with a definition of terrorism as violent direct action of a political, economic, or religious nature on the part of individuals, groups, or States with the specific goal of establishing or maintaining a particular kind of society. The class will then research, examine, and discuss a variety of terrorist activities from ancient and medieval times to the present.

Travel Writing and Self-Exploration

Students in this course will read and discuss a wide variety of travel narratives which introduce them to the world of travel writing: the exploration of places and people from around the world. We will analyze why people set out on journeys of discovery, what contact and encounter with the "new" provides them, and what they take with them by way of self-discovery when they return home. In addition to reading essays, poems and short stories on travel, students will write an original travel narrative of their own





Viva Zapata! Revolution and the Peoples of Latin America

This course will follow the trail of 20th century Latin American Revolutionaries to understand them as at once romanticized figures and idealists and then also as 'guerillas' and revolutionaries who challenged the stability of legitimate Latin American regimes. Some of these revolutionaries will be familiar (Ernesto 'Che' Guevara, Emiliano Zapata, and Pancho Villa) others more obscure (Victor Raúl Haya de la Torre, Abimael Reynoso Guzmán, Ricardo Flores Magón). Depictions of these revolutionaries in popular history, film, and literature will guide the class through what be an engaging and enlightening historical jaunt into the radicalism of our neighbors to the south.

Who is God? – Exploring Conceptions of the Divine

The majority of people today claim to believe in God but their beliefs are often quite diverse and even contradictory. Indeed, humankind has pondered questions concerning God (or "gods") for centuries. For many people seeking to understand the Divine Reality (whatever He/She/It/They may be) is an all-consuming passion but no overall consensus about God(s) has emerged. In this course we will explore some of the many conceptions of the Divine that people have held, examining what these ideas actually mean and pondering some of their implications. Our purpose is *not* to prove or disprove the existence of God (although we will look at such issues) or to decide whether certain views of the Divine are "better" than others so much as engage in an on-going process of critical, disciplined thinking.



Photograph by Dan LaMee



Wilderness as Sacred Place

Sacred places are prevalent in various religious traditions and serve as conduits between human beings and the Holy. Mircea Eliade writes, "a sacred place constitutes a break in the homogeneity of space; this break is symbolized by an opening by which passage from one cosmic region to another is made possible." Those who seek solace in wilderness are confronted by the sublime and reoriented to that which stands outside of culture and going into the wilderness becomes a spiritual journey, a journey of exploration and discovery.