

Fall 2011 Seminar for Freshmen Course Offerings

SF 101A MWF 10–10:50am

Fixing the World—Energy and Water: the Science of Solutions

Craig Christensen (Electrical & Computer Engineering)

Two of the most pressing challenges the world faces today are its need for both clean energy and drinkable water. This course examines the history of energy application with differing engine types and also studies how clean water is generated. It will look into novel alternative approaches to providing renewable sources of both energy and water. Although this course pursues a scientific understanding of these issues, the mathematics used will be gentle, with a larger emphasis placed on an intelligent appreciation of these concerns.

SF104A MW 2:30–3:45pm

Berlin and Vienna: Cradles of Modernity (and Anti-Modernity)

Jay Rosellini (Humanities & Modern Languages)

Does cultural identity come from language, history, or both? German is spoken in the capital cities of Germany and Austria, but no one would confuse a Berliner with a Viennese. We will try to find out what is behind this conundrum by studying dramas, stories, and historical texts; examining buildings and works of art; and viewing films.

SF105A T/TH 2:30–3:45pm

Voices in Conflict

Debra Harkins (Psychology)

Why are conflicts so hard to resolve? How do myths about conflict affect communication? What is the role of power in conflicts? How can we use language and listening skills to engage in healthy conflict resolution? This course examines conflict within and across issues of gender, sexuality, race, class, religion, and ethnicity. It explores attempts to negotiate meaning and power within and across socio-cultural conflicts and how these are revealed through language.

SF109A MW 4–5:15pm

Media Literacy

Nina Huntemann (Communication & Journalism)

This course explores the cultural and social functions of the media with an emphasis on learning how to critically evaluate media content. Students will examine a diversity of media texts, from reality television and action films to pop music and video games. As a final project, the class will produce and edit a short documentary-style video investigating a contemporary social issue.

SF110A MW 8:30–9:45am

Indiana Jones and the Temple of American Law

Allen Tow (Education & Human Services)

This course examines the American legal system and the legal profession from the point of view of an anthropologist. Readings will cover American legal history, the law school experience, life as a lawyer, legal theory, and even courtroom architecture as temples of justice. Seminar activities include field trips to Suffolk University Law School, a Boston law firm, and courthouses. A prominent law school professor, a legal practitioner, and a judge will make guest appearances.

SF113A T/TH 10–11:15am

Citizens, Soldiers, and Scribes

Richard Preiss (Communication & Journalism)

After 150 years, the War Between the States continues to inspire writers in our own time. Reading works of recent fiction along with a number of relevant newspaper and magazine articles, we will examine the challenges confronting those who lived through this pivotal period in our nation's history.

SF116A T/TH 11:30am–12:45pm

Enlightened Insanity

Barbara Abrams (Humanities & Modern Languages)

Why is commenting on the world while sitting in a Parisian cafe such an attractive pastime? Historically social critics, artists, poets, and philosophers are often on the margins of society working from the position of observer. This course probes the background of our modern concept of marginality beginning with the French Enlightenment philosophies and continues to today's commentaries on the modern French malaise. We will focus on the modern history of marginality through a study of

the interrelationship of literature, film, and art. Students will not only study life while sitting in cafes, but visit museums such as the Isabella Stuart Gardner, screen films like *L'Esquive*, and discuss great works of literature, including Rousseau's *Confessions*.

SF120A W 1–3:40pm

Food: Sustainable Choice for a Healthy Planet

Doris Lewis (Chemistry & Biochemistry)

By now the general public is aware that individual food choices affect personal health. It is equally true that our food choices affect the health of the planet in numerous and complex ways. This seminar explores eating as a personal, political, and ecological act. Concerns and questions of course participants will be incorporated into class discussions. Field trips and group meals will focus on available foodstuffs in the Boston area and their evaluation in terms of nutrition, social responsibility, environmental sustainability, and taste.

SF121A M 1–3:40pm

Cradle to Prison Pipeline

Steven Spitzer (Sociology)

This course explores the process through which youth in urban areas are funneled into criminal careers and lives in prison. The focus is on the experience of young men who face the prospect of spending significant portions of their lives incarcerated. Three segments of the life-course for this population are explored: before, during, and after prison. This is a service learning course, offering students opportunities to learn about and work in communities with programs that target criminogenic factors and are designed to prevent youth from ending up in prison. The community service component of the course requires 15 contact hours in community service settings such as group meetings, agency hearings, courts, intervention programs, etc. The course utilizes a “life story” approach to learn more about individuals, families, and communities at risk. Other activities include a prison visit, reviews of programs in prison, and class visits with former offenders.

SF126A MW 10–11:15am

The Boston Theatre Scene

Richard Chambers (Theatre Arts)

Using the current Boston theatre season as its syllabus, this writing- and analysis-intensive course will explore several plays in production at some of the city's many professional theaters. We will study the script of four to five plays before attending performances of those works. Students will gain insights on the world of theatre through backstage tours and conversations with theatre professionals such as producers, directors, actors, designers, playwrights, and critics. Students must be available for evening (usually Wednesday) performances. A fee for student-rate tickets will be assessed.

SF132A T/TH 4–5:15pm

The Beatles: Here, There, and Everywhere

David Gallant (Dean's Office)

This seminar will investigate the impact and legacy of the Beatles. The Fab Four deserve our scholarly attention as musical innovators and as cultural avatars of the 1960s, an era that still exerts influence today. We will examine the many ways in which the Beatles rocked the establishment and became defining figures in post-war youth culture. We will also discuss other media (the visual arts, film, fashion, style) and fields of study (mass media, marketing, recording technology, copyright law, English history) using the Beatles as our guides.

SF151A T/TH 10–11:15am

Getting Over It: Dealing with the Aftermath of Group Conflict/Mass Atrocity

Nir Eisikovits (Philosophy)

Once violent conflict between two groups has ended, what is the best way to transition back to normality— coming to terms with the past or simply moving on? To answer these questions we will examine the debates surrounding war crime tribunals, truth commissions, lustration policies, and reparations in the second half of the 20th century. Case studies will include post-apartheid South Africa, post-WWII Germany, and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. We will discuss the philosophical problems raised by each of these instruments, as well as the political, legal, and practical difficulties their implementation presents.

SF154A T/TH 2:30–3:45pm**Music History and the Bible**

Harrison Kelton (Humanities & Modern Languages)

Students will read and discuss significant Bible passages that have inspired music. We will hear and analyze different arrangements, both vocal and instrumental, to understand how the composer interprets the text through music. Examples include the book of Genesis as set by Haydn in the oratorio *The Creation* and interpreted by Milhaud in the ballet *La Creation du Monde*.

SF155A MW 2:30–3:45pm**Dante's *Divine Comedy***

Anthony Merzlak (English)

Dante's *Divine Comedy* is a journey to the three realms of the afterlife. In this seminar we will accompany him as he visits Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise in search of profound truths about himself and his world. The *Divine Comedy* is about love and hate, good and evil, laughter and tears, men and women, the social sciences and the humanities. Whoever you are, you can learn something from Dante's masterpiece.

SF168A T/TH 11:30am–12:45pm**Women in Art: Eastern and Western Perspectives and Issues of Identity**

Afshan Bokhari (New England School of Art & Design)

This course will survey issues of female identities and how they were 'shaped' or informed as functions of social, political, and religious dynamics in the Eastern and Western hemispheres and during various historical periods. The students will 'objectify' their study with the rich and highly representative collection at the Museum of Fine Arts as they critically interpret female portrayals 'under the brush' of male artists and the purse of male patrons. The evolution of female identities and shifting perceptions of women will also serve as key objectives in weaving a more comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon.

SF172A MW 8:30–9:45am**Seeking Paradise: from Modern Fantasy to the Classics**

Jeremy Solomons (English)

This course will begin with Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* (the series that includes *The Golden Compass*). With this fantasy trilogy, students will begin an examination of the ideas Pullman uses to expand on and develop his sources, which include *Paradise Lost*, the poetry and paintings of William Blake, and the Bible. The final portion of the course will compare Pullman's work with that of fellow Oxford resident C. S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* and look at the different ways the two authors use the same source material. Since both authors' works have recently been filmed and turned into video games, students have the opportunity to witness the literary canon's influence on modern pop culture.

SF173A MW 8:30–9:45am**Crime in American Society**

Donald Morton (Sociology)

Popular beliefs about crime are often inspired by the media and by specific criminological theories. These theories about and media images of crime will be examined in detail, including the "hits" and "misses." We will question whether more police power makes us safer, whether criminals make their choices based on reason or circumstances beyond their control, and if capital punishment fights crime effectively.

SF174A T/TH 2:30–3:45pm**Tragedy and Literature**

George Kalogeris (English)

This course will focus on classic works of ancient and modern literature that examine the human condition from a tragic perspective. We will concentrate on close readings from the following texts: Homer's *Iliad*, Sophocles' *Antigone*, *The Bhagavad-Gita*, Shakespeare's *Othello*, Chekhov's short stories, and Joyce's *Dubliners*.

SF177A T/TH 10–11:15am**Language, Culture, and Identity**

Linda Foley-Vinay (Second Language Services)

This interdisciplinary course examines the role language plays in shaping national and cultural identities, as well as the challenges facing multilingual members of the global economy seeking to preserve their own identities. We will examine Thomas Friedman's ideas on globalization in the contexts of sociolinguistics and identity studies.

SF178A MWF 11–11:50am**Sacred Hoops and Sneaker Pimps: Understanding the American Hoop Dream**

Richard Miller (English)

This course is about the basketball hoop dream played out at the high school and college levels. We will study a wide variety of materials—novels, films, Web sites, reference works—to understand both the construction, and destruction, of the hoop dream in such diverse places as New York City, Seattle, rural Indiana, suburban Georgia, and the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. Issues of race and culture will serve as guiding themes as we develop critical theory explaining why the hoop dream has persisted, and been adapted, over time, to fit the needs of its believers and supporters.

SF181A T/TH 11:30am–12:45pm**Psychology of the American Teenager: Integrating Nature and Nurture**

Rosemarie DiBiase (Education & Human Services)

Want to get inside the mind of a teen? Caught between childhood and adulthood, adolescents look like adults, yet their brains are still developing. In this seminar, we will delve into the mental world of teenagers using multiple methods. We will start by exploring how biology, psychology, and context come together to create this unique life-stage. We will end by examining societal expectations of teens and some of the characteristic psychological problems associated with this period of life.

SF182A MWF 10–10:50am**Heroes, Antiheroes, and Outsiders: Reading Graphic Novels**

Wyatt Bonikowski (English)

How is it that “comics,” a genre often viewed as entertainment for children and adolescents, has become one of the most exciting forms of narrative and visual art? To answer this question, this seminar will examine a range of graphic novels, from those that celebrate their origins in superhero comics, such as Alan Moore's *Watchmen*, to those that treat subjects not usually considered proper to the comics genre, such as Art Spiegelman's Holocaust-themed *Maus*, and Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*, about the complexities of sexual identity. As we read these works, we will look at how the combination of words and images makes the graphic novel a unique storytelling form, as well as how artists and writers push the envelope to create new styles and challenge our expectations. In addition to class discussions and writing assignments, we will take a field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts and create a collaborative group graphic novel step-by-step over the course of the semester (all abilities are welcome).

SF184A F 1–1:50pm**The Natural History of the Gulf of Maine**

Peter Burn (Biology)

Immerse yourself in the natural wonders of the Gulf of Maine at Suffolk's Friedman Field Station. We will continue our discussion on campus during the fall semester. Note: This course requires one week of residence at Suffolk University's Friedman Field Station in Edmunds, Maine, just before fall classes begin in August. There will be a course fee of \$150 for room and board at the field station; the University will provide transportation from Boston.

SF185A T/TH 11:30am–12:45pm**Emerson and the American Renaissance**

David Robbins (Dean's Office)

Encompassing American cultural, intellectual, political, and socioeconomic history, this seminar examines Ralph Waldo Emerson's relationship to his contemporaries and their effect on society. Students will discuss readings by Emerson and other American Renaissance writers, including Hawthorne, Melville, Thoreau, Whitman, Fuller, Stanton, Douglass, William and Henry James, and Dickinson. These readings will reveal how these authors shaped 20th- and 21st-century American and European literature, culture, criticism, and philosophy. We will also investigate how Emerson and his contemporaries have influenced their successors in American culture and criticism to this day.

SF188A MW 10–11:15am**Travel, Exile, and the Literary Imagination**

Leslie Eckel (English)

Why do we travel? What does it mean to call oneself a “citizen of the world?” This course explores how the adventure of travel and the displacement of exile fuel the literary imagination by uprooting the mind from its familiar ground. We will encounter the New World with European explorers (Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*); journey to Europe with journalists, tourists, and students (Margaret Fuller, E. M. Forster, and Woody Allen’s *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*); map new imaginative geographies in poetry (Elizabeth Bishop); and laugh with master travel writers as they experience culture shock (Bill Bryson). Finally, we will return to Boston to see our home city through the new eyes of immigrants to the United States (Mary Antin and Jhumpa Lahiri).

SF189A T/TH 11:30am–12:45pm**American Gothic: Poe, O’Connor, and Proulx**

Peter Jeffreys (English)

This literature seminar will study and compare the short stories of Edgar Allan Poe, Flannery O’Connor, and Annie Proulx. Beginning with Poe as the father of the short story genre in America and exploring his critical theory of the “grotesque and arabesque,” the class will examine the emergence of the gothic literary idiom as a classic American genre. Critical essays on the gothic aesthetic will be analyzed and film adaptations and documentaries will be viewed.

SF190A MWF 11–11:50am**Asia in America**

Da Zheng (English)

Through selected readings, movies, and a field trip to Chinatown, we will study important socio-cultural events related to Asian immigrants throughout American history. This seminar will help students gain a better understanding of racial and cultural relations and appreciate the dynamics of cultural interactions in the 21st century.

SF191A T/TH 10–11:15am**Film Adaptation**

Monika Raesch (Communication & Journalism)

Perhaps you’ve heard the words, “Why did they change the ending of the movie? The book is so much better!” We will explore the concept and industry of film adaptation using a variety of media. Students will read novels and watch respective film adaptations, explore why the same story is told another way in different countries and cultures, and learn how real-life events are adapted for the screen. You will understand the requirements the film medium has to adhere to and be able to adapt a narrative from a different format into film.

SF194A T/TH 11:30am–12:45pm**Rebirth of Tragedy: Rock ‘n’ Roll 1968–72**

Quentin Miller (English)

Writhing, screaming, howling, moaning, androgynous, chemically-altered youths cavorting to pulsating music: does this describe the Woodstock concert or an ancient Dionysian festival? Friedrich Nietzsche’s book *The Birth of Tragedy* will provide a key for interpreting Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, and Jim Morrison (and many others) in this intellectual analysis of the music of rock’s golden age and the culture surrounding it.

SF197A T 2:30–5:20pm**Sustainability, Energy, and Technology at Suffolk University**

Lisa Shatz (Electrical & Computer Engineering)

In this project- and team-based course, students study a sustainability problem at Suffolk University and spend the semester developing proposals to address it. At the end of the course, students will present their proposals to Suffolk University’s sustainability committee, and will exhibit their Web sites and visual aids in the Donahue lobby to educate the Suffolk community about sustainability. If their proposals are well-researched and well-communicated, students can see their ideas actualized while they are still undergraduates.

SF1101A T/TH 11:30am–12:45pm**Hearts of Whiteness/Hearts of Darkness**

Bryan Trabold (English)

There is a long tradition in the Western world of viewing Africa as a place of savagery and violence, and yet Europeans and descendents of Europeans have historically committed numerous acts of violence against African peoples. This class will examine two such instances: the brutal Belgian colonization of the Congo in the 1880s, famously depicted in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, as well as the system of apartheid in South Africa, a form of racial segregation imposed in 1948 that was enforced with massive levels of violence. Moreover, this course will examine some of the inspiring acts of resistance that developed in response to these abuses.

SF1107A T/TH 11:30am–12:45pm**Vertebrate Fossils and Evolution**

Eric Dewar (Biology)

The pattern of vertebrate evolution, as captured in the fossil record, shows great changes in anatomical structure reflecting natural selection toward new ecological opportunities. After an introduction to paleontological methods, this course develops students' anatomical knowledge of phylogenetic relationships among living and extinct vertebrates. This foundational knowledge is then applied to discussing changes in locomotion, defense, and feeding adaptations in vertebrates, as well as an understanding of the lifestyles of various groups, especially early tetrapods, dinosaurs, and mammals. The class will also be able to critique scientific arguments being waged in areas of active debate in the field of vertebrate paleontology. This class takes a required weekend trip to study evidence of prehistoric life and geologic change in western Massachusetts.

SF1109A F 1–3:40pm**Ancient to Modern Law**

Mark Rotondo (Dean's Office)

This course will examine the major topics, trends, and controversies in the study of ancient Greek law and its influences on the American legal system. This course will focus on law and order in the Athenian courts, judicial review, implementing the neighborhood grand jury, and social norms in the Athenian courts. Special emphasis will focus on the law in action and in daily life, as mirrored in its usages and customs. Special emphasis will also be given to argument and rhetoric, civic and professional actors in the court system, the modalities of justice, as well as the foundation of the courts.

SF1110A T/TH 11:30am–12:45pm**Decoding Boston**

Charles Cramer (Humanities & Modern Languages)

This interdisciplinary seminar will explore the buildings, monuments, sites, and signs around Boston from the lenses of visual and cultural studies. In addition to providing a compelling introduction to the history, major landmarks, and culture of the city, the seminar is specifically intended to improve students' visual literacy: their awareness of their visual environment and their ability to critically analyze the rhetoric of the spaces, buildings, and images which surround them.

SF1111A MW 11:30am–12:45pm**Logo Police**

Susan Alessandri (Communication & Journalism)

Counterfeit goods have simultaneously become a financial drain on rightful brand owners, and a funding source for organized crime, including terrorism. However, counterfeiting, dubbed the 'crime of the 21st century,' has also become a consumer and tourist activity—shopping for fake purses, watches, and clothing—that many view as a victimless crime. In this seminar, we will discuss the legal, financial, and social implications of the counterfeiting phenomenon. Students will explore the link between a seemingly harmless activity (purchasing a 'fake') and the exceedingly harmful consequences that may result. This seminar's syllabus will include readings, television news reports, discussion of first-hand experiences, and guest speakers with expertise on the topic.

SF1113A T/TH 4–5:15pm**Get Thee to the Mall**

Lou Foglia (Economics)

This seminar will examine America's preoccupation with materialism. It seems we have been a nation of conspicuous consumers for a very long time. The seminar will compare us to the rest of the world through our ecological footprint. We will also examine the rest of the world's inclination to follow the American model, some nations more than others. The

seminar borrows heavily from economics, psychology, sociology, and environmental science. One focus of the seminar will be to examine whether bigger is really better and if materialism leads to happiness.

SF1114A MW 1–2:15pm

Memoirs of Development

Kathryn Jackson (Counseling Center)

The purpose of this course is to help students gain a greater understanding of psychological development through the process of reading, writing, and discussing literary memoirs. Poetry and prose will augment a more nuanced understanding of memoir writers' experiences of growing up in their families and confronting the larger world. Students will begin to consider the impact of race, class, gender, culture, and family on individual lives. Writers from Suffolk and the larger Boston community will be invited to the class to discuss their creative process, influences on their writing, and developmental markers. Videotaped interviews and/or screenplays will also be shown.

SF1115A MW 11:30am–12:45pm

Boiling Mad: the Tea Party

Graham Kelder (Education & Human Services)

This course will seek to examine the roots, funding, and ideology of the Tea Party movement. We will explore whether the movement's central claim—that lower taxes plus less government equals more freedom—rings true in the modern era of multinational corporations. We will then examine whether two of the movement's central concerns—that government should strictly adhere to the 'original intent' of the framers of the Constitution; and that America was founded as a 'Christian nation, whereupon church and state should not be kept separated—have any merit. Students will read and discuss original sources related to the Constitution and to the Founding Fathers' diverse religious beliefs. We will also examine and discuss modern analyses of the Tea Party movement.

SF1116A MW 1–2:15pm

China Through the Lens: the Cinema of Zhang Yimou

Micky Lee (Communication & Journalism)

Fighting warriors! Swordplay! Concubines! The work of Fifth Generation Chinese film director Zhang Yimou has captured the attention of Western critics and earned international acclaim at film festivals. In this class, we examine the China that Zhang imagines by looking at the Cultural Revolution, gender relations, contemporary social issues, and the Beijing Olympics. We will also learn to conduct film criticism by focusing on narrative structure, adaptation techniques, and genre analysis. The class will visit the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem for a day to learn about Chinese architecture.

SF1117A T/TH 2:30–3:45pm

Libertarianism

Benjamin Powell (Economics)

This course will explore the philosophical and economic underpinnings of modern libertarian beliefs and will consider the historical roots of these ideas. The course will focus mostly, though not exclusively, on the Anglo-American tradition of libertarianism. We will trace the development of these beliefs from Locke and the Scottish Enlightenment to the ideas of the founding fathers of the United States. We will explore the individualist traditions of 19th-century American thinkers. Finally we will explore the revival and expansion of libertarian thought following WWII, particularly since the early 1970s. The course will not cover the history of the libertarian political party, or any other political movement, but will instead focus on the economic theories and moral philosophies that underpin these ideas and how to apply these ideas to current popular issues.

SF1118A MW 4–5:15pm

Pageantry: Competitive Beauty

Dana Rosengard (Communication & Journalism)

In this seminar, we will explore the history and mystique of pageantry in the US. We will study the roots of these programs (such as Miss America) and look for lessons learned about women as we follow the progression of competitive beauty through to the crowning of a young woman students may come to see as someone not too different from themselves. This exercise in exploration and examination of the American beauty queen should intrigue all her peers, and challenge supporters and critics of pageants alike to redefine their opinions of the modern pageant participant.

SF1119A W 1–3:40pm**Haiti Speaks: the Writing of Edwidge Danticat**

Marjorie Salvodon (Humanities & Modern Languages)

Haiti has always spoken powerfully through its art, dance, language, literature, and music. Through an exploration of Edwidge Danticat's writing, which includes essays, short stories, and novels, we will study different aspects of Haitian culture, society, and history to reveal nuances of a long-marginalized and misunderstood country. The course will introduce students to the work of one of the world's most celebrated and prolific contemporary writers, whose oeuvre addresses the complex relationships of Haitians in the US and those remaining on the island, Haiti's hard-won independence from France, and inequalities based on race, class, and gender.

SF1120A MW 1–2:15pm**History of Computers**

Dmitry Zinoviev (Math & Computer Science)

There are two definite and well-known points on the timeline of computing: the remote past when our ancestors could hardly talk (forget about counting!) and fall 2011 at Suffolk University, with brand-new desktop computers in the labs, laptops in students' bags, and cell phones in pockets. The purpose of this course is to connect these two points with a line and to embellish this line with dates and events relevant to the history of computing in general, and computers and computer technology. This course is neither a course in history nor computer science, as it does not teach computer programming. No special math skills are required, either. It has been observed in the past, however, that this course has helped students thrive in computer science courses.

SF1121A MW 1–2:15pm**The War to End All Wars**

Gerald Richman (English)

To commemorate the approaching 100th anniversary of World War I (1914–1918), this seminar will explore the war as presented in historical documents, literature, film and art. Texts will include World War I poems (English, but also German, French, and Russian); novels such as *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *A Farewell to Arms*, *The Good Soldier Svejk*, and *Dr. Zhivago*; art (including works by Picasso, John Singer Sargent, Otto Dix, and George Grosz); plays (*What Price Glory*); films such as *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930 version) and *Grand Illusion*; and memoirs such as Robert Graves' *Goodbye to All That*. We will also draw on many online resources produced by, among others, the BBC, UNESCO, and the US Army.

SF1122A T/TH 10–11:15am**Ethics of War and Peace**

Greg Fried (Philosophy)

This course will explore historical, ethical, and political issues concerning matters of peace and war. We will examine a variety of different texts: religious, historical, philosophical, and literary, but the main emphasis will be philosophical justifications for war and philosophical visions of just peace, with an eye to contemporary questions present in the War on Terror. To the extent that we use non-philosophical texts, this will be in the service of focusing the imagination on philosophical issues and applying theoretical frameworks to historical events.