

Suffolk University

First-Year Seminar Fall 2024 Courses

SF 1129 – Beacon Hill: Fact, Fiction, and Fantasy

Description: The course will explore the physical geography, history, and image in literature, film, and pop culture of Suffolk University's Beacon Hill neighborhood. The purpose and objective of the course is to provide students with a deep knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Beacon Hill through examination of written and visual sources, and feet-on and eyes-on experience of the public parts of the Hill.

Meeting Patterns: Samia Academic Center Room B15 | M_W_F | 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

Faculty: Suzanne Westhues

SF 1141 - Classical Civilizations: Pathways to Wisdom

Description: How is it that the knowledge, intelligence, wisdom and values of the Greeks and Romans still educate and edify the world by providing venues towards leading fulfilling and dignified lives? The guiding principles of their respective civilizations rested upon eight pillars: -Humanism: It was recognized that humans have the potential to master their world and live life to the fullest. -The Pursuit of Excellence: To imagine the highest good and strive to attain it. -Self Knowledge: It is imperative to know oneself before seeking to know the world. -Rationalism: Always question, reason and discern truth from falsehood and never consider any matter superficially. -Restless Curiosity: Often the resolution of one issue leads to the revelations of others mysteries and pursuits which compels further investigation. The wise individual makes this a lifelong endeavor. -Love of Freedom: As long as one brings no harm to others, one must be free to live and discover as much as possible. -Individualism: All are unique and, therefore, must recognize individual strengths and identity. -The Practice of Moderation: The prudence of avoiding extremes in personal and social conduct. In this course, students will read two (brief) texts on the Greek and Roman contributions to the world and then will proceed with specific readings which illuminate the eight principles above for achieving the good life.

Meeting Patterns: Samia Academic Center Room 219 | M_W | 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Faculty: Leon Rozmarin

SF 1165 - History of Boston

Description: This semester we will explore Boston's history. We will read books, visit historical sites, and you will learn how to do historical research on your own. This course meets the requirement of Humanities and History.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5030 | M_W | 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM

Faculty: Robert Allison

SF 1169 - Immortality: Real and Imagined

Description: Most of the world's religious traditions have as a part of their doctrines some notion of immortality, rendered both in scriptures as well as iconographically. What precisely is entailed by immortality and why does it constitute such a significant element of so many religious traditions? What can we learn about immortality by investigating various conceptions of the afterlife? Is immortality truly a desirable thing? These questions among others will be examined from the perspectives of philosophy, religion, psychology, anthropology, and biology. Besides being cross-disciplinary, the course will be multi-media in nature. In addition to reading philosophical and religious texts concerning the nature of immortality, students will study various accounts of immortality and the afterlife, examine how the afterlife has been dealt with in (visual) art, literature, and film, and investigate current research into life prolongation (biomedical gerontology).

Meeting Patterns: Sawyer Room 135 | T_TH | 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Faculty: Brian Kiniry

SF 1172 - The United States Mexican Border

Description: One hundred and sixty nine years have passed since the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed. It is only fitting to analyze the profound changes that the gain/loss of these territories caused for the citizens of both sides of the border. This course will explore the literature, culture, and history of the United States-Mexican Border and the most pressing problems pertaining to the region. Emphasis will be on contemporary border theater and film. The works of Salcedo, Galindo, Lopez and others will be studied as well as contemporary films and documentaries such as Alambriata, Senorita Extraviada, The Gatekeeper, Sin Nombre, Wetback: the Undocumented Documentary, Victoria para Chino, Which Way Home, and much more. There are no prerequisites for this course. Though the course is conducted in English, parallel readings in Spanish will be made available to those who wish to read and/or compare the original texts.

Meeting Patterns: Sawyer Room 135 | T_TH | 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM

Faculty: Iani Moreno

SF 1173 - Understanding the Vast Sweep of Chinese Culture

Description: This course is an introduction to both ancient and modern Chinese civilization with a focus on its literature, arts, and 4000 year cultural history. We will see China at its earliest stages through its archaeology and progress to the heights of literary splendor in the Tang and Song Dynasties. Study of select early plays from the Mongol Yuan period will clearly tie into the development of Ming and Qing period fiction. With the fall of imperial China in 1911, the focus of literature changed drastically and we will study how many modern authors were able to draw from a massive wealth of literary resources to help create a new Chinese literature and culture. We will watch several films that will provide a rich visual portrait of the culture. We will read quite a few representative literary and historical works in English translation that will give a great deal of insight into modern China and how we can both relate to and interact with this complex and amazing country. This course is a good introduction to further study of Chinese history and culture and, in particular, provides a valuable context for students in all majors that wish to gain a deeper understanding of Asian culture.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5035 | M_W | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Faculty: Christopher Dakin

SF 1180 - Nasty Women in American Literature

Description: Exploring the meanings and suggestions of the term “nasty woman,” we will read widely from American women's writing to find examples of outspoken, unconventional, independent, and otherwise non-conforming women. Our readings will center on intersecting identities, beginning with a series of writings by canonized white women authors including Emily Dickinson, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Kate Chopin, and Edith Wharton, will move on to influential African American women writers such as Nella Larsen and Maya Angelou, and conclude with a focus on Indigenous and Indian American voices from the United States such as Joy Harjo and Jhumpa Lahiri. Our aim is to explore what it means to be a “nasty woman,” how claiming this term can be empowering, how it can be disparaging, and how we present ourselves alongside this term, no matter what identity ours is.

Meeting Patterns: 1- 73 Tremont Room 5045 | T_TH | 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

2- 73 Tremont Room 5040 | T_TH | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Faculty: Elif Armbruster

SF 1181 - Mad Criminals

Description: The figure of the criminal, particularly one driven by madness, has captivated our collective imaginations since Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, carrying over into film noir and horror, and leading up to our contemporary

fascination with serial killers, true crime stories, and extending even to a superhero film like *Venom*. Through a range of fictional and non-fictional examples from literature and film, this course will explore how the "mad criminal" has been depicted with sympathy, revulsion, admiration, and moral condemnation. On the flipside, this course will also examine how the mad criminal opens up opportunities for examining and even questioning the legal and moral frameworks that define crime and criminality. Some of the recurring questions that will be explored in this seminar are: -How do we "authors, filmmakers, journalists, readers/audiences" define "madness" and its relationship to criminality? -Where does the figure of the mad criminal come from, and how has it changed over time? -How do we as audiences feel competing and even contradictory emotions toward the mad criminal, ranging from fascination to fear? -How does the mad criminal force us to question our moral and legal systems, and what the idea of a "civil society" in general is supposed to mean?

Meeting Patterns: 1- Samia Academic Center Room 219 | T_TH | 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

2- Samia Academic Center Room 217 | T_TH | 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Faculty: Francis Vanaria

SF 1183 - Revenge!

Description: It has been said that revenge is a type of "wild justice" whether it is violent, quick, or subtle, stories of revenge provide us with a fascinating glimpse into the recesses of the human soul. At their core, they seek to uncover the carnal side of human nature and shine light on the dark impulses that can lie buried deep. In this course, we will explore whether revenge truly is a dish best served cold, or whether at the end of the day, the consequences of revenge outweigh sweet, sweet justice. Our investigation will center around several questions: Why does revenge as a trope continue to enthrall storytellers? What is the psychology of revenge? And how do these stories invite us to reflect on ethics and morality within our own world? We will examine famous revenge narratives from a wide range of genres (from literature, graphic novels, art, film, and music). Our journey will begin with the quintessential revenge story: Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. We will then move to other texts such as Edgar Allan Poe's "Cask of Amontillado," Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*, Alan Moore's *V for Vendetta*, and the popular film *The Princess Bride*. This course will also include field trips to the MFA Boston during our week on art history, and a trip to Salem during our exploration of Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*. Through reading, lively discussion, and multi-draft essays, our goal will be to develop and refine personal writing styles while also cultivating critical thinking skills.

Meeting Patterns: Samia Academic Center Room 320 | M_W_F | 10:05 AM - 10:55 AM

Faculty: Rachel Masotta Vanaria

SF 1190 - Black Lives Matter

Description: This course will analyze the history of white supremacy and racial violence in the United States from the end of the Civil War that continues to this day. It will also examine the history of resistance to this racial violence, how American public schools teach the history of race and racial violence, and the many controversies surrounding monuments in public spaces.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5120 | M_W | 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Faculty: Bryan Trabold

SF 1196 - Human Rights in the 21st Century

Description: Are universal human rights still relevant in the 21st Century? In the aftermath of World War II, human rights advocacy and human rights law has been central to international politics. However, the pressures of economic globalization, war on terror, and climate change along with the resurgence of authoritarianism and anti-liberal regimes have raised new questions on whether the international human rights framework is still capable of addressing issues of justice and freedom in the modern world. In this course, we will review the theory and practice of human rights as well as the challenges of enforcing these rights in a complex and often hostile international environment. In the first section, we cover the historical and philosophical foundations of human rights and the international regime of human rights. What are human rights and who decides? Are they enforceable? Rights for whom? Can and do states protect citizens' human rights? In the second section, we follow the debates over the universality of human rights and cultural relativist critiques of human rights. Are human rights a Western and neo-colonialist institution? As such, does the discourse of human rights create "victims" and "saviors" and reinforce racialized structures of inequality? In the third section, we examine the framework of human rights in the context of contemporary experiences of war, genocide, trafficking, and other human rights violations. We will focus on 3-4 case studies that the students select and that the student will work in groups to research and present to others.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5120 | T_TH | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Faculty: Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch

SF 1197 - The History of Rap, Hip Hop and Popular Culture

Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to rap music and hip hop culture and examine it as a cultural critical and historic phenomena. This course explores the connection of rap music to social movements/social justice as well as to understand it in the context of its place in pop culture. The objective is to be able to critically and historically understand rap music in the context of the social political economic and cultural environment of the time during its rise.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5060 | M_W_F | 11:10 AM - 12:00 PM

Faculty: Frank Irizarry

SF 1200 - Quantum Reality, Information, and Computing

Description: Quantum theory and quantum computation are at the forefront of physics in the twenty-first century. These topics traditionally require substantial background in physics and mathematics. In this course, a new pedagogical approach is used to teaching quantum physics to an audience presumed only to know basic arithmetic. This seminar will introduce freshmen to the principles of quantum computer science and technology, allowing students to perform meaningful hands-on calculations with quantum circuits and algorithms. This course will also provide an opportunity to participate in the instructor's ongoing work on actual quantum computers, and to interact with several Boston-area quantum computer scientists.

Meeting Patterns: Sawyer Room 908 | W | 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Faculty: Prashant Sharma

SF 1201 - Sinatra: Voice of the 20th Century

Description: Before Lady Gaga, Justin Timberlake, Taylor Swift, Bruno Mars, Beyonce and Michael Jackson came Frank Sinatra: America's first pop superstar. When he died in 1998 at age 82, his obituary in The New York Times noted that "Sinatra stood as a singular mirror of the American psyche." Students will explore the 20th century through Sinatra's life and six-decade career; his parent's emigration from Italy; his rise as a singer who reinterpreted the Great American Songbook into timeless classics; his films that reflected life in the wartime 40s, the Baby Booming 50s and Mad Men 60s but also addressed the then-taboo topics of drug addiction, government insurrection and homosexuality; his voice for racial and religious tolerance; and his association with presidents, industry giants, pro athletes and organized crime figures. Students will listen, watch, write, read, research, share and understand why Sinatra remains popular today.

Meeting Patterns: Samia Academic Center Room 414 | T_TH | 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Faculty: Charles St. Amand

SF 1203 - Generals, Explorers, and Smokejumpers: Disaster Leadership

Description: This course is designed to help entering college students examine and discover their leadership strengths and develop practical leadership responses within the context of crisis. It will examine historical events, disasters, crises, times of significant social change, war, and turmoil, which all provide the backdrop for this course and underscore the challenge leaders face during times of social upheaval. The course features a broad survey of inspiring

individuals from all walks of life who have drawn from their own experiences and intuition to employ creative solutions, improvisational thinking, and disruptive decision-making to excel at crisis management.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5060 | M_W_F | 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

Faculty: Michael Siegel

SF 1204 - The Age of Renaissance and Reformation

Description: Covers the period 1300-1600, and explores the intellectual and cultural developments of the Renaissance, and of the Protestant and Catholic Reformations in their social, political and cultural contexts. Topics include: the Black Death; Humanism; the rise of the city-state; art and science in the Renaissance; changes in family and social life; the causes of the Reformation (intellectual, social, technological); Calvinists, Lutherans, and Radical Reformers; Counter-Reformation and its political consequences; the Wars of Religion; the age of Elizabeth I of England and Philip II of Spain.

Meeting Patterns: Sawyer Room 1122 | F | 1:15 PM - 3:55 PM

Faculty: Matteo Casini

SF 1207 - American Popular Culture

Description: In this course we will be spending a lot of time reading / viewing, analyzing, and discussing different forms of popular culture in the United States from a variety of different time periods. We will also consider a variety of media and genres, from documentary film, feature film, television and podcast to literary genres such as the novel, the autobiography, and the graphic memoir to analytical nonfiction writing about history, art history, politics, and culture. Three key themes we will explore are: 1) The American Dream 2) Passing and 3) Self-Invention / Self-Creation. Of course, not only should we be prepared to encounter thought-provoking syntheses between these three themes but we should also expect to discover plenty of other themes and throughways in our course materials, especially as they pertain to the role that the popular cultural imaginary plays in producing cultural meaning and its relationship to power at its intersections of class, age, race, ethnicity, gender, etc. We will lean upon our own expertise as producers and consumers of popular culture as a starting point for exploring the numerous ways that it influences how we see ourselves, other people, and the world around us.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5045 | M_W | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Faculty: Daniel Hutchins

SF 1208 - Social Meanings of Money

Description: Money, not sex, is the last taboo topic in the U.S. It is vulgar to talk about it, wrong to ask others how much they make, immoral to boast the money you have, and shameful to admit you don't have any. Yet, money is simply a form of exchange, an objective way to measure value. So why is something so impersonal such a private matter? To answer this question, we will approach money from a social perspective by examining how different cultures understand systems of exchange; how popular media give meanings to debt, crisis, and money management; why money has a gender and race bias; and why our current understanding of money leads to social injustice. Students will engineer Suffolk Money that advances social justice for all community members.

Meeting Patterns: Sawyer Room 135 | M_W_F | 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM

Faculty: Micky Lee

SF 1209 - Video Games As Expressive Art

Description: The size and reach of the contemporary video game market is staggering: it is larger than the global film industry, twice the size of the American sports industry, and orders of magnitude larger than the streaming and physical music industry. Games are a medium of entertainment and expression that simply has no cultural parallel today. Which is to say that we can learn a lot by carefully studying games, gamers, and gaming culture and market. The academic word for this study is ludology. This course will introduce the basic analytical mechanics of ludology to help you practice your critical reading, writing, and thinking skills.

Meeting Patterns: Sawyer Room 1122 | M_W_F | 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

Faculty: Scott Votel

SF 1212 - Socialism v. Capitalism

Description: According to a 2022 Pew Research Poll, more young Americans have positive views towards Socialism than towards Capitalism. This fits a clear trend as Socialism has become more and more popular as the world gets further from the Cold War. Yet, what exactly is "Socialism," and what is "Capitalism"? Why would people prefer one economic system over the other? In this class, we explore these issues from a philosophical, economic, and historical perspectives. We'll see the various arguments that figures—Adam Smith and Karl Marx to Ron Paul and Bernie Sanders—have used in favor and against these different systems. Beyond getting a better sense of how our values relate to this debate, the class serves as an introduction to ideas from political philosophy and economic theory.

Meeting Patterns: Samia Academic Center Room 314 | T_TH | 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Faculty: Chris Melenovsky

SF 1213 - I Fought the Law and I Won: Debating 21st Century Civil Rights in the Law

Description: Aristotle's *Politics* argues that debate is the most highly valued political skill because it is through debate that we are able to *carry reason into action*. Debate is the public vehicle by which we make decisions that impact all members of society. Debates echo in the halls of Congress, in trial courts across the land, and in executive offices, because it is through the art of debate that we are able to test the veracity of what we believe to be true. Some even believe it is better to debate questions without settling them than it is to settle questions without debating them. This first-year seminar course blends an emphasis on legal principles associated with American civil liberties with the art of debate in an attempt to help build honest and competent students at Suffolk University and the same into their futures afterwards.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5035 | M | 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Faculty: Gregory Bordelon

SF 1216 - Gender and Media: Taylor Swift

Description: Taylor Swift was just a teenager when she wrote her first hits "Tim McGraw," "Love Story," and "You Belong with Me." Her first label, Big Machine, exerted full control. Back then, the rising star was known for her country sound and signature look: cowboy boots, sundress, red lipstick and, always, a big smile. Almost two decades later the multi-eras artist has traversed multiple genres including country, pop, synth, hip hop, trap, and indie rock; Sold over 200 million records worldwide; And changed labels and achieved unparalleled artistic control and autonomy. The iconic singer songwriter is a household name who wields unprecedented power in the music industry and beyond.

By studying the career and music of the 11 time Grammy winning artist, we explore issues of gender, feminism, sexuality, and intersections of race and class by looking at: The music industry and its pressures on women; Constructions of femininity and masculinity; "Whiteness" and femininity; Queer experience and desire in the artist's lyrics along with issues of glass closets and queerbaiting in the industry; How genres are gendered (and racialized); Feminist articulations; The role of celebrities in public discourse; Fan culture (a Swiftie universe where Gaylor and Hetlor battle over who gets to claim the artist as their own); Women and power (taking on the likes of Apple, Spotify, and Ithaca Holdings); And nothing less than the future of recorded, monetized music (and film distribution it now seems).

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5045 | M | 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Faculty: Mocha Herrup

SF 156 - The Mask Behind the Face

Description: The theatre has always been a metaphor for life. In modern times life has become theatre. This seminar will confront the idea of real life and the eroding boundary between performers and audience. Students will study the roots of the contemporary obsession with stars and stardom, a mania that began in the 18th century and flourished in the 19th century. We will look at performance studies, performers memoirs, plays, and films that dramatize this dilemma.

Meeting Patterns: Samia Academic Center Room 320 | M_W | 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Faculty: Catherine Fisher

SF 178 - Sacred Hoops and Sneaker Pimps: Understanding the American Hoop Dream

Description: 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, websites, 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 adapted, over time, to fit the needs of its believers and supporters.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5055 | M_W | 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Faculty: Richard Miller

SF 191 - Film Adaptation

Description: "Why did they change the ending of the book? The novel is so much better!" We will explore the concept and industry of film adaptation. Students will read novels and watch respective film adaptations to explore how the written word is adapted to the screen; both fiction and non-fiction works will be considered. Also, field trips to past film locations in Boston will be taken to explore why specific settings were chosen for respective situations. Additionally, students will create their own written adaptations of source materials, putting into practice the concepts studied in class.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5045 | T_TH | 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Faculty: Monika Raesch

If you are part of the Honors CAS program, you are required to take an honors section of the first year seminar.

SF H1148 - Honors Brave New Worlds

Description: Explores themes of adventure, self-discovery, exile, and culture shock in classic and contemporary travel writing (including fiction, poetry, and non-fiction) as well as film. Students will experiment with creative writing of their own, develop theories of cosmopolitan world citizenship, travel through the city of Boston on field trips, and team up to learn about different countries in Suffolk's global network of study abroad programs.

Meeting Patterns: Samia Academic Center Room 114 | T_TH | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Faculty: Leslie Eckel

SF H116 - Honors Enlightened Insanity

Description: Rain or shine, the great 18th century Enlightenment philosophers would meet at the famous cafes of Paris to discuss their ideas, and to observe and criticize society. From these informal debates emerged ideas that are at the core of our modern understanding of the nature of society, marginality, human nature, civil rights, the essence of creativity and genius. Come join us in the quest to understand, define, observe, and analyze the key ideas and concepts of these great thinkers, such as Rousseau, Diderot, and Voltaire, still so relevant in our time. We will read key works of these creative thinkers and philosophers. We will enrich our experience and understanding through the use of film, theatre performances, museum visits, as well as the occasional cafe debate.

Meeting Patterns: Sawyer Room 1122 | T_TH | 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Faculty: Barbara Abrams

SF H1185 - Honors Socially-Conscious Storytellers in a Political World

Description: This section of the Seminar for Freshmen will consider the role that writing plays in examining social justice issues through the storytelling venue of fiction. How does the writing and reading of fiction make us more socially-conscious people? Through an examination of selected readings from historical novels such as Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad* and "The Shawl" by Cynthia Ozick (both the short story and novella companion), along with various short stories by E.L. Doctorow, James Baldwin, Toni Morrison and others, students will analyze how such literature represents complex social issues through the conventions and techniques of fiction. In addition, students will also produce historical fiction pieces of their own as a means of further understanding how fiction can be used as a tool for social change. Topics will include recent concerns related to immigration, racism, war, African-American slavery, the Holocaust, and intergenerational

trauma in America. Students will consider how the storytelling techniques of fiction allow readers to consider these topics both from a historical and contemporary perspective. In addition to course readings, presentations and classroom conversations, the class will also visit museums such as Museum of African American History and the local nonprofits like MIRA that connect specifically to these topics and discuss those factors that shape the resulting dialogue and stories around them. From these visits, students will be asked to write historical fiction specifically engaged in social justice issues as a way to showcase their understanding of how fiction can be used as a tool for social justice, spreading awareness and greater critical thinking of some of today's most pressing and controversial topics.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5065 | M_W_F | 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

Faculty: Olivia Cerrone

SF H1191 - Honors Writing Your Future: Genes and Gen Editing

Description: An introduction to the field of personalized genetics and gene editing and how these technologies impact the modern world. We will discuss how sequencing your genome could affect decisions about your health and other areas of your life. Now that editing your genome is possible, what are the ethical, legal and social issues raised by this technology. These questions are explored through readings, writing assignments and field trips. There are no science prerequisites for this course and all majors are welcome.

Meeting Patterns: Samia Academic Center Room 219 | T_TH | 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Faculty: Celeste Peterson

SF H1202 - Honors Our Plastic Problem

Description: Can you imagine a world without plastic? In less than a century, this versatile material has transformed our lives, society, and planet -- and not always for the better. This course explores the science behind plastics, the history of their use, and their impact on our health and environment. We'll examine our individual and societal dependence on plastic and investigate the alternatives. From bag bans to biopolymers, what's the solution to our plastic problem?

Meeting Patterns: Sawyer Room 135 | T_TH | 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Faculty: Kelsey Stocker

SF H1210 - Honors Data Visualization: Seeing is Believing

Description: In this course, you will learn the fundamentals of data visualization and data analysis, how to gain insight from data that drive change in real-world problems. Further, you

will learn how to use such insight to tell compelling stories and convey your insights to others. Topics include data assessment and management, data visualization tools on single variables (bar chart, pie chart, histogram) and on multiple variables (scatter plot, line plot, bubble plot), along with useful summary descriptive statistics on quantitative variables. An introduction of regression analysis and its application is also included. The use of computer software, such as Tableau and Excel, is emphasized throughout the course.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5075 | M_W_F | 10:05 AM - 10:55 AM

Faculty: Sarah Tang

SF H1211 - Honors Boston in Film and Literature

Description: An overview of literature and films set in Boston from the Colonial Era to the present, i.e. from Phillis Wheatley to Ben Affleck. Our emphasis will be on Boston as a psychic space rather than just a geographic location. What legends or myths about Boston are created, perpetuated, or challenged by literary or cinematic representations?

Meeting Patterns: Samia Academic Center Room B15 | F | 1:15 PM - 3:55 PM

Faculty: Quentin Miller

SF H1214 - Honors Boston and Book History

Description: Even in the digital age, books continue to be a central part of the college experience, and Boston, a city of universities, libraries, and museums, houses an untold number of them. But while we usually tend to think of books in terms of their contents—Are they science textbooks? Trashy novels? Picture books for toddlers?—this course will consider the history of books as material objects, and as a central means of sharing and saving information for thousands of years. We will consider the definition of “book,” trace the history of books from ancient clay tablets and papyrus scrolls to medieval manuscripts and modern printed volumes, and learn about the connections between books and important social movements. To help us engage deeply with the physical qualities of books, this class will be active and hands-on, including workshops in papermaking, marbling, and printing, and numerous field trips to nearby locations where we can see and touch books from the distant (and not-so-distant) past, learning more about how they were made and how readers interacted with them. Drawing on the city of Boston’s past and present literary riches, this class will make you view every book you encounter in a different light.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5070 | F | 1:15 PM - 3:55 PM

Faculty: Hannah Hudson

SF H132 - Honors The Beatles: Here, There and Everywhere

Description: 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.

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5040 | T_TH | 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM

Faculty: David Gallant

SF H182 - Honors Heroes, Antiheroes and Outsiders: Reading the Graphic Novel

Description: 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 *Maus*, about the Holocaust, 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 still 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 welcome).

Meeting Patterns: 73 Tremont Room 5060 | T_TH | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Faculty: Wyatt Bonikowski

SF H189 - Honors American Gothic

Description: 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.

Meeting Patterns: Sawyer Room 1126 | T_TH | 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Faculty: Peter Jeffreys