FYS 101 SECTION DESCRIPTIONS
2015-2016

Section A: The Holocaust
M 7:00—8:40 p.m. (Sherayko)
This seminar will examine Nazi Germany’s systematic murder of Europe’s Jews and other minorities during World War II. Topics to be covered include the history of racism and anti-Semitism, Nazi racial policies, the mindset of perpetrators and bystanders, the variety of experiences of the victims, and the issues of memories and forgiveness after Auschwitz.

Section B: Food Studies
MW 12:00 p.m.—12:50 p.m. (Almanza)
What do we eat? Why do we eat? What would we refuse to eat, and why? We will answer these questions as we consider the politics of what we consume. Topics include: disgust, hunger, sustainability, GMOs and the big business of food. This seminar will address the choices we make when we eat from going vegan to dumpster diving.

Section C: Immortality
M 7:00 p.m.—8:40 p.m. (Bessenger)
This seminar explores humankind’s search for immortality, from the Epic of Gilgamesh, to various world religions’ views on immortality, to contemporary American attitudes toward radical life extension. The class concludes with an examination of the subject of immortality in pop culture, from Harry Potter to vampires, with student presentations on their own encounters with the subject.

Section D: Eyes on the Sky: The Meteorology and Physics of Atmospheric Phenomena
MW 12:00 p.m.—12:50 p.m. (Warren)
In this seminar, we explore the meteorology and physics behind atmospheric phenomena, including ice crystal and droplet haloes, aurorae, and severe weather. Each person will keep a detailed sky journal and participate in class discussions about the week’s weather. Ideally, this seminar will be the start of a fulfilling life-long habit of watching for and understanding the wonders above.

Section E: Humans and Language
MW 12:00 p.m.—12:50 p.m. (Chabot)
Language is a tool available to all human beings, but can be difficult to talk about because we have so many ingrained and inherited points of view on the subject. This seminar is an exploration of what language is, how we use it, and what it says about us. Students are encouraged to develop a critical approach to its study.

Sections F and G: Tech and Innovation
MW 12:00 p.m.—12:50 p.m. (Ordower and Lawson)
This team-taught seminar focuses on how STEM fields impact society. Half of the class will explore technology and innovation to basic human needs such as water supply. The other half will focus on mathematics and games. Games such as NUM and Dots-and-Boxes help us explore a potpourri of mathematical concepts including binary numbers, combinatorics, graph theory, and topology.

Section H: The Creative Life
M 7:00—8:40 p.m. (Dop)
In this seminar, we will discuss, define, dismantle, dignify, and perhaps digest the creative life. While experimenting with our own creative impulses and assumptions, we will interrogate the ideas of experienced creative people and formulate our own creative manifestos, analyzing ways personal creativity can and should impact our communities, Randolph and beyond.

Section I: Movie Science
MW 12:00 p.m.—12:50 p.m. (Sheldon)
Sometimes movies get panned for being historically inaccurate. Rarely does scientific inaccuracy raise an eyebrow. Should movies made for entertainment be scientifically accurate – at least when they can be? We will watch a movie most weeks – mostly main stream action movies – and will analyze them for good and bad science. In the process, we will review some physical science principles.

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Section J: Americans and Animals

*M* 7:00—8:40 p.m. (d'Entremont)
This seminar explores ways in which humans and animals have interacted in North America for the past four hundred years. Topics include American Indian relationships with animals; European livestock as agents of colonialism; American attitudes toward wildlife; animals as entertainment; animals as pets; animals in zoos; animals as feeling beings; factory farming; vegetarianism; and the movement for animal rights.

Section K: Humans and Rights

*MW* 12:00 p.m.—12:50 p.m. (Dugan)
Are human rights universal in reality or only in theory? How can human rights be strengthened, and by whom? The seminar will look at selected human rights in both our local and global communities. Campus and community leaders will help contribute to our understanding, as will the teachings of global human rights advocates. Students will keep a digital portfolio, produce hands-on projects, develop basic research skills, and engage in critical reflection as measures of learning.

Section N: Neuroscience of Language

*M* 7:00—8:40 p.m. (Schenk)
Human language production and processing is one of the most fascinating and complex things that we do with our brains. Yet, for the vast majority of us, language is an effortless skill that we learn as young children. How can we do this? What disorders can break our language systems? These questions and more will be explored in this seminar.

Section O: Greek Love

*MW* 12:00 p.m.—12:50 p.m. (Kardan)
You are coming to college for a liberal-arts education, but what does that really mean? Where does the idea come from? How has it changed over time? Explore the sometimes-surprising Greek and Roman origins of western education across a cultural landscape that includes kink discipline at Sparta, man-boy love in Athens, and the Roman art of rhetorical insult. Homer, Plato, Isocrates, and Quinillian are some of the ancient authors we will meet on our journey, along with modern sources that illuminate them.

Section P: Cells and Justice

*MW* 12:00 p.m.—12:50 p.m. (Bliss)
In this seminar, through study and analysis of the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* and additional readings, students will recognize the interface between culture, science and literature by making connections between these fields through the study of the book chapters. Students will examine literature and develop keen analytical skills through weekly discussion, journaling assignments, and class debates.

Section Q: Action Theatre

*MW* 12:00 p.m.—12:50 p.m. (Parks)
What can you do about it? Can your words matter? Theatre is a powerful means of expression, and can be a powerful call for action. Explore ways to use theatre as a catalyst for change in your world. Choose an audience, pick a topic and create performances that make a difference; in a park, at the mall, on the street.
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