First Year Seminars Course Descriptions
Spring 2012

Catalog Description: First Year Seminars (FYS) are writing intensive, topic courses that introduce students to academic thought, discourse and practices. FYS courses prepare and orient students toward productive and fulfilling college careers by actively engaging them in a specific academic area of interest. Students will improve their writing, reading, research, and basic information and technology skills while learning to work both collaboratively and independently. These courses will fulfill the First Year Seminar requirement and may fulfill other requirements for the Core Curriculum. Each course may fulfill different requirements and topics may change each semester. Only one FYS course may be taken for credit.

Prerequisites for 199 courses: Open to all freshmen with a writing placement score of 3 or above or a SAT score of 500 or above

Students with 24 or more transfer credits will have this requirement waived.

ARTH 199-001 Art as National Identity
TR 2:00-3:15 Prof. J. Hooker
In this course students explore the use of art to create a national identity. Students rediscover works of art that have been imprinted on the American mind, namely The Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, and Maya Lin's Vietnam Memorial. Students also begin to expand their knowledge of and interest in patriotic work from around the globe in the past and present. Students will research how contemporary artists are questioning and re-presenting the relationship between art and country and the controversies that ensue. **(Fine and Performing Arts Core Distribution)**

BIOL 199-001 You Are Where You Eat
MWF 12:20-1:10 Dr. S. Schwartz
Most people do not think about the origins of food in the grocery store or restaurant. As we become aware of changes in our environment, it is important to learn about and question fundamental and poorly considered facets of food. Why is distantly produced "fast food" so popular and unhealthy, but nutritious local "slow food" neglected? Does it make sense that transporting food from where it is grown to where you eat it often takes more energy than is contained in the food itself? What about growing crops strictly for fuel? Why do we eat what we eat? What forces of biology, psychology, history, religion, and culture shape our food preferences? We will look at the choices we make as individuals and as a society in the foods we eat. This course questions the basic premises of our culinary lives and will hopefully make you aware of how extraordinary our food culture has become. **(Natural Sciences – Non Lab Core Distribution)**

BIOL 199-002 Your DNA: Health/Ancestry
MWF 1:50-2:40 Dr. M. Carson
DNA based testing for health conditions and ancestry is being offered to the public directly, at moderate cost. Are these health and disease predictions, many of which can be obtained without a physician's orders, accurate and useful? How much can your DNA tell you about your geographic ancestry and does this have any relevance to classical human divisions by race? We will explore the scientific discoveries and the social impacts of these topics through selected readings, written discourse and discussions. **(Natural Sciences – Non Lab Core Distribution)**

CHEM 199-001 or 002 Water, Water Everywhere
MWF 12:20-1:10 or 11:15-12:05 Dr. E. Bauer
Water covers more than 70% of the earth's surface and is fundamental to almost all aspects of life. In this course we will examine the chemistry behind the unique properties of water, explore how these properties shape the world in which we live and evaluate environmental impacts and regulatory policies which influence our use of this valuable resource. **(Natural Sciences – Non Lab Core Distribution)**

COMM 199-001 Speaking for Equality: The Speeches and Writings of Women Advocates
M 1:50-4:30 Prof. S. Cleary
Women were in the forefront of the American struggles against slavery and segregation, and for women's rights in the 19th and 20th centuries. This writing intensive course will examine the rhetoric of these advocates in order to gain understanding of the role public advocacy plays in social movements and the unique voice women brought to these particular movements. **(Social and Behavioral Science Core Distribution)**

COMM 199-003 Communication Skills and Courts
TR 8:00-9:15 Prof. C. Delmonte
This course will discuss the constitutional foundations and traditions of the court process, explore the roles of the officials involved and critique the affect of perspective on their function. Participation in a mock trial, as well as open discussion and debate will be primary learning methods for this course. Students will also develop the techniques and skills necessary to communicate in a procedurally driven environment and will critically analyze current public policy trends. **(Social and Behavioral Science Core Distribution)**

ECON 199-X01 Entertainment Economics
TR 2:00-3:15 Dr. D. Lomba
Do you ever wonder how downloading content impacts the music and movie industries? Are you curious about the effectiveness of casinos in generating jobs or why some major league sports teams are so lucrative? If so, you will be interested in this seminar, which takes an "economic look" at the entertainment and media industries. In this course students will review economists' understanding of the movie, music, and publishing industries, as well as major league sports, art markets, intellectual property rights, and gambling. We will also discuss the impact of public policy on the production and distribution of entertainment. **(Social and Behavioral Science Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199-001 or 004 Pet-o-Phelia
MWF 8:00-8:50 or 11:15-12:05 Prof. C. Del Prete
This course will focus on the human-animal relationship. We will examine the inconsistencies in our responses to different species (why, for instance, many of us let our dogs and cats sleep in our beds, while we trap and/or kill any "vermin" that enter our homes), and how our culture often dictates these responses. We will ponder and debate a few of the myriad moral issues inherent in our dealings with nonhuman species – especially in regard to our food system and our scientific research. We will consider what motivates humans to act cruelty toward animals, as well as what motivates us to treat them with kindness and compassion. The goal of our inquiry is not to advocate one particular view of the animal-human bond over another, but to carefully consider the ways in which we interact with animals, to arrive at a better understanding of how we as a society (and as individuals) connect with them, and to cultivate a better appreciation of the impact that humans and non-humans have on each other. Although our content is mainly within the "emerging" field of science known as anthrozoology (the study of human-animal relationships), this is first and foremost a writing course. Students will write and revise formal essays, respond to assigned readings in writing and in class discussions, lead class discussions, participate in peer reviews and workshops, and complete a visual rhetoric project. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199-002 or 003 The Number of the Beast
MWF 8:00-8:50 or 9:05-9:55 Prof. J. Norman
Yes, I have shamelessly lifted the title for this course from Iron Maiden's 1982 landmark album. However, it is inspired not so much by the heavy metal music of the 1980s and 90s, but rather, by the academic work of scholars such as Jeffrey Burton Russell and Elaine Pagels—both of whom have written extensively on the origin of Satan in our modern culture. This course will be an interdisciplinary study that is wide not only in terms of the period of time we will cover (about 2,500 years), but also the scope of material we will be studying—everything from novels and plays, to heavy metal music by artists such as Black Sabbath, Ozzy Osbourne and Iron Maiden, to the film *The Exorcist.* In essence, we will be exploring the morphology of Satan as a literary character throughout the ages. The main question we will seek to answer is, "how has Satan, as a character and persona, changed over the millennia?" We will also take into consideration an issue directly related to Satan in history: the problem of evil: a philosophical conundrum that, in its simplest form asks, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Authors and materials include the Bible, church fathers such as Augustine and Anselm, Dante's *Inferno,* Marlowe's *Faustus* (a 16th century play about a man who sells his soul to the devil), sections of Milton's *Paradise Lost,* and a number of authors from

the 19th and 20th centuries that include Nathaniel Hawthorne, Washington Irving, Henry James and C.S. Lewis. It should be one "hell" of a time! **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199-005 or 006 Science Fiction Societies
TR 2:00-3:15 or 3:25-4:40 Prof. R. Rezendes
Science fiction is often viewed as otherworldly fantastic literature that has no relevance to the reader. In fact, the controlling forces in these works are extrapolations of specific elements in past and present societies. We will look at a variety of written texts (and a few films) from various decades and countries. Selections by HG Wells, Isaac Asimov, Octavia Butler, Robert Heinlein, Sakyo Komatsu and others will be included in order to examine the social derivations and implications of the texts. Discussions will cover such topics as aliens, artificial intelligence, technology and utopias. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199-007 Post-Apocalyptic Literature
TR 9:30-10:45 Prof. S. Janson
This course will examine the genre of the post-apocalypse across several different novels and films. We will be considering the thematic implications of society's collapse as a literary conceit and what it reveals about our own present-day anxieties and concerns. Our sample of texts will range widely throughout the genre, beginning with works of the Cold War and continuing into contemporary sub-genres (post-peak oil, contagion, environmental collapse, etc.). Yes, there will be zombies. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199-007 Redrawing Heroism: Superheroes and the Graphic Novel
TR 11:00-12:15 Prof. S. Janson
This course will examine the changing archetype of the superhero in graphic novels ranging from the early 1980's to the present – the so-called "Third Age" of superhero comic books. Through works like Frank Miller's "The Dark Knight Returns" and Alan Moore's "Watchmen," among others, we will consider how contemporary artists and authors have re-imagined "classic" super-heroism, its place in the modern world, and its intersection with issues like vigilantism, morality, and power. Examination of these texts will serve as an introduction to literary analysis in general, though we will also look at some specific theoretical modes that seem particularly applicable. In addition, we will consider how these works operate in terms of their genre by examining the graphic novel as an aesthetic whole, identifying key elements in its composition, and learning how to tailor our reading to what is still a relatively peculiar fusion of art and literature. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

ENGL 199-009 Short Stories on Film
TR 12:30-1:45 Prof. V. Large
Courses about literary adaptations in cinema often focus on the translation of classic novels to the big screen. However, many enduring films actually started off as short stories. In this course, we will explore the relationship between these films and their literary antecedents, discussing the choices that filmmakers are faced with when moving a short story from the page to the screen. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

HEAL 199-001 or 002 Alcohol: A Matter of Balance
MWF 10:10-11:00 or 11:15-12:05 Prof. G. Marrella
Alcohol is the world's favorite drug. It's been a part of culture for approximately 10,000 years and it is used by about 2 billion people. A powerful drug, alcohol has both negative and positive aspects and effects. In this class, students will examine this drug, looking at its history, its use, its characteristics and the effects, costs, policies around alcohol use, and consequences of alcohol use and abuse. Students will explore alcohol's affect on society, families, and individuals. Because this class is a first year seminar, focus will be placed on developing writing skills and style. Students will work on the brainstorming, editing, and revising process, and will submit writing in various forms.

HIST 199-001 Colonial Women
TR 12:30-1:45 Prof. J. Stonehouse
The course will explore the lives of women who lived in 17th and 18th century America in the context of the history of the thirteen colonies that became the United States. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

HIST 199-002 What's in a Game? Ice Hockey and Identity in Canada
TR 12:30-1:45 Dr. A. Holman
This freshman seminar is cultural history of Canada using the sport of ice hockey, "Canada's national winter game," as a lens. It has two large goals. It uses a topic of common interest to introduce students to the discipline of history, especially critical reading and writing. Second, it will introduce the country via a hackneyed but useful stereotype (hockey=Canada) that many Americans readily draw. The course will examine hockey's multiple meanings: as a vehicle for national unity; as a source of social division – regional, linguistic, gender, and racial; and as a vector for "Americanization." **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

HIST 199-003 or 005 From Camelot to Watergate
TR 2:00-3:15 or 11:00-12:15 Dr. D. Culver
An examination of the major topics of the 1960's, including the Cold War (Berlin Crisis of 1961, Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, the Vietnam War, 1965-1973), LBJ's Great Society and the welfare state, civil rights, women's rights, counterculture and Watergate. Students will write short essays based on readings in primary (e.g. JFK's June 1963 civil rights speech) and secondary sources. Film---among others The Graduate, Mississippi Burning, as well as documentaries---will be an important part of the course and a mirror on the era. **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

LANG 199-001 Media Portrayals of Latinas & Latinos
MWF 10:10-11:00 Prof. J. Fallas
This writing-intensive seminar explores representations of and by people of Latin American and Caribbean origin/ancestry within 20th & 21st century U.S. media. Throughout the course we look at many forms of visual media (including, but not limited to: television shows, documentary films, print advertisements, and music videos). The class examines Latina/o identities and experiences as depicted and communicated through these genres. Additionally, we look to interrogate the accuracy of said content in describing the diversity and truth of the Latina/o experience in the United States. We compare styles, dialogue, and techniques to learn how to think and write critically about these works. Students are required to research topics about these themes and to write papers in English about the topics learned. As part of the class content and goals, students will be required to view episodes and documentary films from a list of "Viewings." **(Humanities Core Distribution)**

MGMT 199-001 Managing the Message: Communication Strategies for the Business World
T 6:00-8:40 Prof. G. Darmody
Writing clearly and concisely are important skills in any setting, particularly in the business world. In this course, we will analyze functions critical to successful communication by exploring a variety of topics such as researching a subject, identifying an audience, and developing and writing proposals. We will review universal communication topics such as style, voice, structure, grammar and medium. We will explore emerging trends in the electronic world such as blogging, writing for the Web and email correspondence. We will look at how to employ communication strategies in problem-solving. We will focus on improving writing skills by discussing the successful methods used in preparing and executing a successful writing project whether it's a sales pitch or an opportunity to change a business function or address a problem. This course will also explore business writing for consumer and business audiences. This course is designed to help you look at the writing process as a challenge not as a chore. Effective communication skills lead to success in the classroom and in the work world.

MUSC 199-001 Music, Society and Learning: From Hot Cross Buns to American Idol
MWF 9:05-9:55 Dr. S. McQuarrie
This course will examine the changing role of music in our society and discover ways traditional classroom instruction and nontraditional learning work together to shape the development of a student's musicality. Topics covered will include the personal relationship between humans and music, the multitude of effects music has on us, the exploration of our musical heritage and culture, the traditional elements of music education such as the methodologies of Orff, Kodaly, and Dalcroze, and contemporary societal trends in popular music and culture. **(Fine and Performing Arts Core Distribution)**

MUSC 199-002 Folk Music in the United States
MW 3:20-4:35 Prof. P. Bishop
Folk music in the United States is a vibrant form of music that preserves regional cultural traditions and has influenced other music throughout the nation. Folk music is extremely diverse, from Cajun music of Louisiana to hulas from Hawaii and numerous traditions throughout the United States. This course will study these diverse

musics in an interdisciplinary manner, examining the music and its connection to culture, geography, history, and folklore. It will also explore several basic music concepts, including those with special relevance to folk music. **(Fine and Performing Arts Core Distribution)**

MUSC 199-003 The Walt Disney Company and Music
TR 8:00-9:15 Prof. J. Bohn
The Walt Disney Company and Music considers the central role played by music in the company's films, programs, theme parks, and other products. The course also investigates some common traits, techniques, and approaches that the Walt Disney Company has utilized to achieve their artistic, entertainment, and business goals. In this course, music will be considered not only in relationship to the larger aesthetic entity with which it is associated, but also in relation to a larger cultural perspective. **(Fine and Performing Arts Core Distribution)**

PHED 199-001 or 002 Canine Athletes
TR 8:00-9:15 or 3:25-4:40 Prof. M. Ellis
In the 21st century we mainly think of dogs as pets. However, did you ever consider that canines, as a whole, are one of the most diverse and adaptable species of mammals on earth? Each breed was specifically developed by man with an explicit job in mind. This course will look at how environment, man's specific needs, and domestication shaped what we know as "the dog." Emphasis will be placed on how form (structure and anatomy) determines how well a dog is able to perform a particular job.

PHYS 199-001 Pale Blue Dot
TR 3:25-4:40 Prof. J. Kern
When speaking of planet Earth, Carl Sagan wrote, "That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of… lived there -- on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam." This course will explore the environment of Earth on an astronomical scale by studying the Solar System and its origins. What allows Earth to harbor life as we know it, and are there other worlds on which life is possible? Where did the materials that make the Earth – and us – come from? What are the properties of our Sun, and how is it different from other stars? Through exploration of our own cosmic evolution and that of other worlds, we will seek to better understand and appreciate the pale blue dot we call home. **(Natural Sciences – Non Lab Core Distribution)**

SOCI 199-001 or 002 Inventing Irish America
MWF 8:00-8:50 or 9:05-9:55 Dr. P. Fanning
This course will introduce students to the story of the American Irish by examining the waves of migration of the Irish to the Americas as well as the culture, music, literature, and traditions they have created. Students will also consider the characteristics of Irish Americans with regard to family, gender roles, religion, occupation and politics through readings, film, and popular culture from a sociological perspective. **(Social and Behavioral Science Core Distribution)**

SOCI 199-003 Sociology and Biology
TR 12:30-1:45 Dr. Henry Vandenburgh
Since the 1970s Sociology has had at least two points of view. On one hand, social constructionists have said that humans put together their social life as a unique "drama," almost like a play. On the other, sociobiologists have argued that social life is constrained by material, perhaps genetic, agendas. This course will examine both points of view, and attempt to explore a creative synthesis. This exploration has implications for both gender and class, major preoccupations of the field currently. This seminar is fairly non-technical, and requires no experience in either Sociology or Biology. **(Social and Behavioral Science Core Distribution)**

For more information on the Core Curriculum see www.bridgew.edu/corecurriculum