

**FS 1973 First Seminar Course Descriptions (9 Sections)
Spring 2013**

FS 1973-01

A Creative Process

Chuck Tomlins (*Art*)

TTH, 2:00pm – 3:15pm, CH 251

Students will gather information from the seven Leonardo da Vinci Principles taken from his notebooks, along with the Thirteen Thinking Tools presented in the Root-Bernstein's book, Sparks of Genius. Explorations will be made into an integrated approach to Creative Thinking, utilizing the notion that learning how to think creatively in one discipline will allow that process to be understood and acted upon in other disciplines. Skills that are "new" to the student will emerge, requiring research with an open mind, as well as leaps of "faith" into subject areas and disciplines that will make the "familiar strange and the strange familiar."

FS 1973-02

Culture, Character and Education

Avi Mintz (*Education*)

TTH, 11:00am – 12:15pm, CH 253

What enables students to succeed in school and in life? Many researchers, teachers and administrators have sought to help students succeed by implementing better teaching methods and offering a broad, rigorous curriculum. But what is the relationship between knowledge in history or mathematics, for example, and future success in academics, in the workplace, and in one's personal life? Perhaps students' character is as important to their future success as is their academic preparation. Indeed, in this course, we will consider the work of educational theorists, psychologists, scholars of international comparative education, and others who suggest that culture and character powerfully influence student success.

FS 1973-03

Native American Literature

Randall Fuller (*English*)

MW, 2:00pm – 3:15pm, OH 301

While this course will commence with an examination of traditional oral literature—such as myths and songs—we will primarily focus on contemporary Native American poetry, fiction, and personal narrative. Authors will likely include Louise Erdrich, N. Scott Momaday, James Welch, Leslie Marmon Silko, Luci Tapahonso, and Joy Harjo. Our papers will address major themes of Native American literature as well as the cultural background of several Native American literatures.

FS 1973-04

Horror Movies

Claudia Nogueira (*English*)

TTH, 9:30am – 10:45am, OH 231

The horror film has been argued to be among the most “global” of film genres in that examples of horror films may be found in most national film industries. Often culling from specific cultural traditions, horror films may be understood to be exemplary of how different communities identify and distinguish themselves. Horror films also significantly inform one another, allowing cultures to absorb and claim traditions that are not originally theirs. This course will thus explore ways through which horror films function to “place” their viewers, especially within structures that give shape to understandings of the body as a site for personal as well as political identification. By studying films from Europe, Asia, and Latin America, and by comparing these films to notable U.S.-based productions, we will approach cinema comparatively, not only looking for what makes one culture’s output different from another’s, nor for what cultures share in their assumptions of what is to be feared, but, rather, we will examine how such definitions are constructed in the first place. Through the use of critical thinking skills, close-readings, informed arguments, and a willingness to be challenged, we will work towards a better grasp of the ways in which genres in general are defined and defining. Films screened will include, but are not limited to, *Eyes Without a Face* (*Les Yeux sans visage*, Franju, 1960), *The Orphanage* (*El Orfanato*, Bayona, 2007), *Peeping Tom* (Powell, 1960), and *Santa Sangre* (Jodorowsky, 1989). Assignments will include five response papers, an oral presentation, and a final research paper.

FS 1973-05

American Classical Music

William Price (*Music*)

MWF, 9:00am – 9:50am, LPC 1330

What is “American music?” Answer: Not necessarily Rock n Roll or even “Stars and Stripes Forever.” What is “classical” music? Answer: It’s probably not limited to the first thing that comes to your mind (how about a concerto for electric guitar, trap set, and orchestra?). This class starts with “music now” and works backwards in time to explore such questions and the incredible variety of music composed and performed in the United States.

FS 1973-06

Truth In Comedy: Beyond the Jokes

Jennifer K. Guy

TTH, 11:00am – 12:15pm, KH 112

An exploration into the nature of comedy including such forms as short form improvisation, long form improvisation, sketch comedy and stand up. Through readings and observations, students will be exposed to some of the top performers in each field. With various in class exercises, students will get their own opportunity to perform and 'find the funny'.

FS 1973-07

When Social Science Goes Awry

Andrew Grant Wood

MW, 2:00pm – 3:15pm, CH LL017

From medical doctors to psychologists to anthropologists to criminologists and beyond, social science has often been used and abused for various ideological purposes. Our course will explore a few key examples of such corrupt and unethical practices over the course of the twentieth century.

Required Reading:

Edwin Black, *War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race*. New York: Dialogue Press, 2012.

Lauren Slater, *Opening Skinner's Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century*. New York: Norton, 2005.

Patrick Tierney, *Darkness in El Dorado: How Scientists and Journalists Devastated the Amazon*. New York: Norton, 2002.

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press, 2010.

FS 1973-08

The 2012 Election in Historical Context

Jeremy Kuzmarov

MWF, 10:00am – 10:50am, CH 251

The 2012 election has been unique in US history in reflecting the polarization in American political life and because of the billions of dollars that have been spent on advertising, which is largely a product of the 2010 Citizen's United Supreme Court decision. This freshman seminar will analyze the election in a larger historical context, looking at how the marketing industry has taken over political campaigns and how American political discourse has both coarsened and shifted to the political right over the course of the last several decades. The course will provide an analysis of previous presidential campaigns to enable a better assessment of how the 2012 election fits into a larger historical context.

FS 1973-09

Art and Religion Since the Reformation: From Cranach to Emin and Viola

Clare Haynes

MW, 6:00pm – 7:15pm, CH 251

This course explores the vital but often tense relationship between art and religion since the Reformation.

Using historical and contemporary examples, we will look at the fundamental questions raised at the Reformation, many of which we are still asking today: for example, what can art do and what is an artist?

Using an interdisciplinary framework, the course should be of interest and benefit to students studying history and religion, as well as art history.

FS 1973-10

Wagner's Ring

John Powell

TTH, 11:00am – 12:15pm, LPC, Meinig Hall

Der Ring des Nibelungen (*The Ring of the Nibelung*) is a cycle of four epic operas by the German composer Richard Wagner (1813-1883), which are loosely based on characters from medieval Norse sagas and the German *Nibelungenlied*. In this course we will study the literary sources that Wagner used, view (in HD) the 2011 Metropolitan Opera production, and discuss (with Wagner's libretto in hand) all four operas scene by scene.