

CRN #**Fall 2014 First-Year Seminar Course Descriptions****STANDARD LEVEL****20681 COM 110-A, FYS: Navigating Media Landscape****Prof. A. Paradise**

This course will provide an overview of the history, structure, performance, content, effects, and future of mediated communication, including issues of media ownership, regulation, and media literacy. As a first-year writing-intensive seminar, students will engage in frequent writing assignments, rigorous analysis of texts, critical thinking, and information literacy. *This course is the equivalent to COM 107 Mediated Communication.*

20277 ECO 110-A, FYS: The Economics of eBay**Prof. H. Kazemi**

Why do some items sell for such ridiculously high prices at auctions of reputable establishments such as Christie's, Bonham's, Sotheby's or even eBay? Has it ever occurred to you why the owners of a house listed for \$1.5 million last year cannot get 1/3 of that price this year? In this class we will examine the way consumers and businesses think and behave as rational entities. *Fulfills the Cornerstone Social Scientific Inquiry Requirement, and is the equivalent to ECO 176 Microeconomic Principles.*

20278 ECO 111-A, FYS: The Undercover Economist**Prof. S. Mulholland**

Economics is the study of how to get the most out of life and to help others to do so as well. Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to develop your economic lens, seek out various mysteries that surround us, and discover both the seen and unseen. *Fulfills the Cornerstone Social Scientific Inquiry Requirement, and is the equivalent to ECO 176 Microeconomic Principles.*

20338 ENG 112-A, FYS: Film Theory/Film Practice**Prof. D. Itzkovitz**

This seminar will introduce students to film, and film representation, through theory and practice: intensive study of film language, technique, and theory will be followed by a basic introduction to filmmaking (creating short films). This will enable students to apply the theories and techniques they have learned in class. Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20339 ENG 115-A, FYS: Importance of Being Lazy: Idlers, Loafers, and Slackers in Literature**Prof. H. Duncan**

The figure of the shiftless loner who resists the powerful imperative to work hard (or to work at all) has long been a literary mainstay. In this course we will read works from Shakespeare to Melville and beyond to ask questions about the cultural opposition of work and leisure. You will get acquainted with famous slackers from various significant moments in western cultural history, in poems, dramas, novels, and films—from Shakespeare's history play *Henry IV, Part 1*, for instance, in which the heir to the English throne prefers to hang around with sketchy characters in taverns rather than toil at the palace; to Herman Hesse's novel *Narcissus and Goldmund*, about an overachiever and a gifted bum; to the "Dude," a bowling slacker from Los Angeles in the Coen brothers' *The Big Lebowski*. You will also read widely in social and cultural history on the subject of idleness, and become familiar with key literary terms and concepts. Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20340 ENG 122-A, FYS: Seven Nobel Laureates**Prof. M. Borushko**

In this course students will read from and write about the work of seven recent winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature who write in English. The seven laureates whom we'll read are from various parts of the globe, but their recognition by the Nobel Committee suggests that their work speaks not just about its place of origin but to something beyond national borders. Is this perhaps what is meant by "world literature"? We'll explore this question and others via the fiction of South Africans Nadine Gordimer and J. M. Coetzee, American Toni Morrison, and Trinidadian-born Briton V. S. Naipaul; the poetry of Seamus Heaney of Ireland and Derek Walcott of Saint Lucia; and the plays of London-born Harold Pinter. Naturally, we'll read and discuss their Nobel lectures, too, as well as other prose works wherein our writers discuss why they write, for whom they write, and what they imagine the role of literature to be in the world. Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20359 ENG 138-A, FYS: The Walking Dead: The Gothic in American Fiction**Prof. G. Piggford, CSC**

This course explores the unsettling and uncanny elements in American literature. We will investigate the typical settings of gothic texts, including the wilderness, abandoned institutions (churches, asylums, prisons), and homes. Over the course of the semester we will meet the denizens of such locations and consider what disturbs the American dream. Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement. Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

20709 HIS 119-A, FYS: Chuck Berry's America: The United States from 1955 to 1965**Prof. S. Maddock**

An examination of how entrenched ideas about race, gender, sexuality, class, age roles and social behavior all came under direct challenge with the emergence of rock and roll and youth culture during the tumultuous decade from 1955 to 1965. Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the History Cornerstone requirement.

20708 HIS 121-A, FYS: Perspectives on China**TBA instructor**

This course follows in the footsteps of Venetian merchants, Japanese monks, British diplomats, Western missionaries and other foreign visitors to China's shores throughout the centuries. We explore what happens when cultures meet for the first time, how they perceive one another, and how this shapes the writing of history. Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the History Cornerstone requirement.

20449 HIS 128-A, FYS: The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass**Prof. T. Gernes**

Frederick Douglass' heroic journey from slavery to freedom in antebellum America illuminates—in lightning flashes—a nation riven by race, region, economy and differing conceptions of justice and morality. The course weaves literature, film, and primary materials, tracing Douglass's complex life and times and introducing students to college-level historical inquiry. Considered a United States History. Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the History Cornerstone requirement.

20481 PHL 113-A, FYS: What Does it All Mean?**20482 PHL 113-B, FYS: What Does it All Mean?****Prof. E. McGushin**

In this course, we will examine some perennial issues in philosophy, including the nature of the self, knowledge, friendship and love, tragedy, and freedom and justice. Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the Philosophy Cornerstone requirement.

20483 PHL 113-C, FYS: What Does it All Mean?**Prof. B. O'Sullivan**

In this course, we will examine some perennial issues in philosophy, including the nature of the self, knowledge, friendship and love, tragedy, and freedom and justice. Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the Philosophy Cornerstone requirement.

20707 PHL 114-A, FYS: Our Bodies, Ourselves**Prof. M. Mitchell**

This course explores some of the questions that are raised by recognizing that we are not just minds— we are embodied creatures. How should we organize society to provide for our bodily needs? Should we worry about the death of our bodies? Are our minds and our bodies really different? Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the Philosophy Cornerstone requirement.

20642 POL 110-A, FYS: Power, Order and Justice**Prof. B. Scholz**

This course will explore the dilemmas facing all governments: on what principles should the political order be based? What is the nature of the just state? What determines citizenship, political authority, and power? What is the good life and how is it related to the political order and the satisfaction of justice? *This course is the equivalent to POL 171 Power, Order, and Justice.*

20572 REL 112-A, FYS: Saints and Sinners in Church History**Prof. R. Gribble, CSC**

Saints and sinners, much like victors and vanquished in war, are often determined by those who triumph in Church conflicts. This course will address several Church controversies throughout the 2000 years of its history, review the issues and debates that arose through the reading of primary and secondary sources, and who in the end were considered victors, saints, and the vanquished, sinners, in Church history. Only open to students that have not completed the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.

20714 REL 124-A, FYS: God Doesn't Do Religion**Prof. M. Leith**

We tend to think that religion is all about God, but why? And if God "doesn't do religion," who does? What do we even mean by "religion" in these questions? This course will inquire into the "building blocks" of religion and human religiousness, considering the practices of Jews, Christians and Muslims from an anthropological and historical perspective. Only open to students that have not completed the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.

20617 VPH 111-A, FYS: Boston Buildings: Inside and Out**Prof. A. Sheckler**

Boston is home to many exquisite private urban dwellings: Paul Revere House, the Harrison Grey Otis House, the Gibson House, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and Gropius House. In addition Boston boasts some of the most cutting edge public buildings such as the Boston Public Library, Trinity Church, and Boston City Hall. This course will introduce students to Boston's private living spaces and how they reflect the people who lived in them and its historic public buildings that reflect the city who commissioned them. On site visits, guest curators and critical readings will all contribute to a new understanding of Boston architecture. Open to First-Year Students only.

20589 VPT 110-A, FYS: Theatre as Mystery, Myth and History**Prof. P. Sankus**

This course covers the development of theatre from its primitive beginnings through the major eras and countries until the year 1700. Theatre will be studied as a social and cultural institution, mirroring the civilization in which it thrives. Topics will include theatre as education, censorship, and understanding contemporary theatre from an historical perspective. *This course is the equivalent to VPT 181 History of the Theatre I for a Theatre Arts minor.*

CENTRIC LEVEL (*Offers Enhanced Writing support*)**20669 WRI 110-A, FYS: Writing in New Media****Prof. H. Sadler**

This seminar examines writing, multimedia composition and popular culture through the lens of YouTube and other social media sites (such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, etc.). Students will blog their observations, reflections, and analysis, later working them up into traditional essays, and will assemble a final e-portfolio. As a creative project, students will craft a digital story, a scripted and recorded first-person narrative illustrated with images, video, and music. This course provides enhanced writing support.

20670 WRI 111-A, FYS: Supernatural Pop Culture**Prof. H. Sadler**

We live in a world haunted by the fantastic. Vampires, werewolves, witches, fairies, ghosts, and even caped crusaders invade our everyday lives through entertainment media and advertising. This course will look at how these familiar creatures evolved and what they can teach us about history, culture, and ourselves. This course provides enhanced writing support.

20680 WRI 113-A, FYS: Has Science Disproved God?**Prof. K. Giberson**

The motion of the earth, evolution, the Big Bang, the multi-verse, naturalistic moral theories, and other scientific ideas have challenged traditional beliefs about God. Through discussion, exploration, and in-depth written analyses of writings on science, students will explore the relationship between science and culture, especially religion.

20671 WRI 241-A, FYS: Art of the Essay**Prof. R. Prakasam**

In this workshop-based course students will sharpen their writing skills in a rigorous yet supportive workshop setting; explore the flexibility and versatility of the essay form in a variety of rhetorical contexts; and prepare a final portfolio of revised writing that demonstrates mastery of the essay form. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.

20672 WRI 241-B, FYS: Art of the Essay**20673 WRI 241-C, FYS: Art of the Essay****Prof. E. Idsvoog**

In this workshop-based course students will sharpen their writing skills in a rigorous yet supportive workshop setting; explore the flexibility and versatility of the essay form in a variety of rhetorical contexts; and prepare a final portfolio of revised writing that demonstrates mastery of the essay form. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.

20674 WRI 241-D, FYS: Art of the Essay**Prof. B. Nielson**

In this workshop-based course students will sharpen their writing skills in a rigorous yet supportive workshop setting; explore the flexibility and versatility of the essay form in a variety of rhetorical contexts; and prepare a final portfolio of revised writing that demonstrates mastery of the essay form. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.

BASIC LEVEL (*Offers Enhanced Writing support*)**20661 WRI 141-A, FYS: Intro. to College Writing****Prof. J. Chichetto, CSC**

This workshop-based course is designed for students who wish to practice and develop the essential skills of writing, critical reading, and textual analysis at the college level. Instructors provide extensive feedback on assignments, helping students to gain more confidence with grammar, sentence structure, and the writing process as a whole. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.

20662 WRI 141-B, FYS: Intro. to College Writing**20663 WRI 141-C, FYS: Intro. to College Writing****Prof. J. Kim**

This workshop-based course is designed for students who wish to practice and develop the essential skills of writing, critical reading, and textual analysis at the college level. Instructors provide extensive feedback on assignments, helping students to gain more confidence with grammar, sentence structure, and the writing process as a whole. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.

20664 WRI 141-D, FYS: Intro. to College Writing**20665 WRI 141-E, FYS: Intro. to College Writing****Prof. J. Howe**

This workshop-based course is designed for students who wish to practice and develop the essential skills of writing, critical reading, and textual analysis at the college level. Instructors provide extensive feedback on assignments, helping students to gain more confidence with grammar, sentence structure, and the writing process as a whole. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.

20666 WRI 141-F, FYS: Intro. to College Writing**Prof. R. Prakasam**

This workshop-based course is designed for students who wish to practice and develop the essential skills of writing, critical reading, and textual analysis at the college level. Instructors provide extensive feedback on assignments, helping students to gain more confidence with grammar, sentence structure, and the writing process as a whole. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.

20668 WRI 142-A, FYS: American Pop Culture**Prof. B. Troupe**

This seminar is an introduction to academic writing for English Language Learners (ELLs)*. Addressing a variety of American popular culture themes with rhetorical and semiotic approaches, students will learn how to analyze and interpret a wide variety of cultural texts while practicing college-level discussion, essay writing, critical reading, and textual analysis. This course will emphasize the writing process, academic argument, grammar, and mechanics. Students will receive extensive feedback on their writing from the instructor and from peers. *Open to First-Year English Language Learners only.*