

CRN #**Fall 2019 First-Year Seminar Course Descriptions**

These courses are only open to students who have not completed their First-Year Seminar Requirement.

STANDARD LEVEL

- 20139 AMS 112-A, FYS: Native Voices in American Culture** **4 credits**
Prof. A. Opitz
 More than Mascots! In this course we will analyze fiction, memoir, mainstream and independent film, folklore, photography, and popular culture artifacts to explore the role the American Indian has played in the American imagination and how Native artists and activists have responded to these images. Students will use methods from American Studies, and cultural and literary studies in understanding the complex shaping of cultural identity.
 Only open to First-Year Students that have not completed the First-Year Seminar and Literature Cornerstone requirements.
- 20642 COM 110-A, FYS: Navigating Media Landscape** **4 credits**
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. Open to First-Year Students only.
This course is the equivalent to COM 107 Mediated Communication.
- 20318 ECO 110-A, FYS: The Economics of eBay** **4 credits**
20319 ECO 110-B, FYS: The Economics of eBay **4 credits**
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. Open to First-Year Students only.
Fulfills the Cornerstone Social Scientific Inquiry Requirement and is the equivalent to ECO 176 Microeconomic Principles.
- 20776 ENG 125-A, FYS: The Imaginary Primitive** **4 credits**
Prof. J. Green
 Our seminar will focus on how the modern idea of Western "civilization" took shape in response to the image of the non-European, "native." Specifically, we will examine the "primitive" (and the related figures of the "cannibal," the "savage," and the "barbarian") in British and French literature and visual art as the essential—if often invented—figure at the heart of modern concepts of empire, subjectivity, aesthetics, ethics, and culture. Although much of our work will concentrate on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, we will begin by examining several foundational early modern and Enlightenment-era texts to see how images of first contact between so-called "natives" and European explorers influenced more contemporary discourses of anthropology, biology, social science, psychoanalysis, and imperial politics. Readings will examine several key contact zones between European and non-European peoples: Africa, India, Oceania, and the Middle East. Our semester will end with a section devoted to contemporary responses to European constructions of racial 'Otherness' from the Sudan, France, and England. Authors to be covered include William Shakespeare, Michel de Montaigne, Montesquieu, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Rudyard Kipling, Paul Gauguin, Joseph Conrad, W. Somerset Maugham, E.M. Forster, George Orwell, Marjane Satrapi, Tayeb Salih, and Zadie Smith. We will also look at art by Gauguin, Jean-Léon Gérôme, Man Ray, and Pablo Picasso, among others, as well as films such as Cannibal Tours and Dirty, Pretty Things.
Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20560 ENG 131-A, FYS: Extreme Makeovers: Transformative Texts** **4 credits**
Prof. S. Gracombe
 From Ovid's *Metamorphoses* to *America's Next Top Model*, we have always been fascinated by extreme makeovers. What accounts for this ongoing appeal? To answer this question, this course will examine transformations in texts as diverse as the Greek myth of Icarus, Bram Stoker's Victorian vampire novel *Dracula*, and Phil Klay's recent Iraq war story "Redeployment." What do these extreme makeovers reveal about psychology, sexuality, and otherness at different moments in history? In particular, what do they suggest about the boundaries between the human and the animal? About the process of growing up? About the challenges of belonging, national and personal? While we will focus on literary depictions of transformation, we will also examine the transformative potential of art itself.
Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.

- 20754 ENG 156-A FYS: Listen: Sound Texts from Broadcast to Podcast** **4 credits**
Prof. S. Cohen
 This seminar will examine the histories and cultures of broadcasting. We will consider radio as a unique mode of storytelling and information distribution. The forms of listening have changed from scheduled or serendipitous dial-spinning to downloading and streaming on demand. But much remains the same about the form and connections that broadcasting makes possible. In addition to unearthing connections between radio and literary and cultural production, we will also create our own podcasts.
Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20559 ENG 158-A, FYS: Whose Ireland? Writing the Immigrant Experience** **4 credits**
Prof. E. Chase
 This seminar explores the concept of Irishness through the work of writers born in Ireland and those who immigrated into Ireland in the wake of the Celtic Tiger and the formation of the European Union. We will ask: How has what it means to be "Irish" changed after key moments in Irish history? Who "counts" as Irish? Is Irishness a geographic designation, a cultural concept, a political tool, or a literary construct? By examining seminal works by authors such as W.B. Yeats in conversation with contemporary authors including Oona Frawley and Melatu Uche Okorie, students will practice close reading of texts to form compelling arguments about the interactions between the nation, race, ethnicity, and literature.
Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement.
- 20586 HIS 135-A, FYS: The Revolutionary History Behind "Hamilton: An American Musical"** **4 credits**
Prof. L. Brekke-Aloise
 The hit Broadway musical "Hamilton" has inspired audiences around the world with its hip-hop styled interpretation of the life and times of Alexander Hamilton and his band of revolutionary brothers. But how familiar are we with the actual history the musical presents? This course examines both the irreverent musical and the revolutionary history that informs it, analyzing the biographies and historical contexts of Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, George Washington, Elizabeth and Angelica Schuyler, and the famous duel that ended one founder's life and another's promising career. We will look at the complicated personalities and politics of these figures and analyze "who lives, who dies, who tells your story."
Fulfills the History Cornerstone requirement
- 20587 HIS 141-A, FYS: History and Horror** **4 credits**
20588 HIS 141-B, FYS: History and Horror **4 credits**
Prof. K. Spicer, CSC
 An examination of the history of horror films. This course is an excursion that will compare and contrast the fictional world of the macabre with the historical realities that form and challenge our social and cultural lives. With the aid of film, this course will analyze the phenomenon of the horror genre down through the ages.
- This course does not count towards Elementary Education Licensure. Only open to students that have not completed the First-Year Seminar and History Cornerstone requirements.
Fulfills the History Cornerstone requirement
- 20539 PHL 114-A, FYS: Our Bodies, Ourselves** **4 credits**
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 only.
Fulfills the Philosophy Cornerstone requirement.
- 20525 PHL 117-A, FYS: Mind, Body, Self, Science** **4 credits**
Prof. C. Mekios
 An examination of how philosophers have historically treated questions pertaining to the relationship between mind and body, the concept of the self, the human condition, and the limits of what we can know about such things. What makes these problems philosophical in nature? Could they be resolved by science instead? Only open to First-Year Students only.
Fulfills the Philosophy Cornerstone requirement.
- 20529 PHL 121-A, FYS: Philosophy as a Way of Life** **4 credits**
Prof. E. McGushin
 Philosophy is often taught as a theoretical discipline about abstract ideas and arguments. This course will emphasize how the ideas and insights of different philosophers might be applied to our daily lives and potentially change the way we live, helping us lead wiser, better and more authentic lives. Only open to First-Year Students only.
Fulfills the Philosophy Cornerstone requirement.

- 20712 POL 110-A, FYS: Power, Order, and Justice** **4 credits**
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? Open to First-Year Students only.
This course is the equivalent to POL 171 Power, Order, and Justice.
- 20744 REL 122-A, FYS: Pilgrimage and Passage: Religion as "Sacred" Journey** **4 credits**
20745 REL 122-B, FYS: Pilgrimage and Passage: Religion as "Sacred" Journey **4 credits**
Prof. S. Wilbricht, CSC
 The course begins with the premise that all religions are at their best when they are "betwixt and between," living in the threshold, open to new and unexpected horizons. After a close reading of the Book of Exodus, which will provide the opportunity to identify various themes associated with ritual passage, we will concentrate primarily on the study of the three chief monotheistic religions of Semitic origin: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course will end with a brief exploration of Hinduism and Buddhism. Through comparative analysis of these religions, we will strive to determine similarities and differences in particular approaches to God, worship, institution, and moral conduct.
Fulfills the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.
- 20743 REL 129-H, FYS: From Cloister to CrossFit: Religion in Medieval and Modern Worlds** **4 credits**
Prof. C. Tichelkamp
 What makes a medieval monastery different from a modern-day brewery or gym? What is religion? What is secularism? This course covers medieval and modern religions through critical reading of texts, films, and artwork drawn primarily from Christianity, but also neighboring traditions (Judaism, indigenous religions) and modern movements (science, nation-building).
Fulfills the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement.
- 20201 VPT 110-A, FYS: Theatre as Mystery, Myth & History** **4 credits**
Prof. P. Carey
 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.
Fulfills the History Cornerstone requirement.
- CENTRIC LEVEL** (*Offers Enhanced Writing support*)
- 20682 WRI 110-A, FYS: Writing in New Media** **4 credits**
Prof. A. Brecke
 Let's face it, writing in the 21st century is accomplished online. This course explores reading and writing across social media and other web spaces through genre study, cultural analysis, and real-world practice. Through posts, tweets, blogs, emails, and texts students will hone valuable skills necessary in the twenty-first century thought-place. Creating web-based resumes and professional avatars will also be discussed. Course may be applied to the American Studies program. This course provides enhanced writing support.
 Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20683 WRI 110-B, FYS: Writing in New Media** **4 credits**
Prof. J. Solomans
 Let's face it, writing in the 21st century is accomplished online. This course explores reading and writing across social media and other web spaces through genre study, cultural analysis, and real-world practice. Through posts, tweets, blogs, emails, and texts students will hone valuable skills necessary in the twenty-first century thought-place. Creating web-based resumes and professional avatars will also be discussed. Course may be applied to the American Studies program. This course provides enhanced writing support.
 Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20684 WRI 110-C, FYS: Writing in New Media** **4 credits**
Prof. H. Sadler
 Let's face it, writing in the 21st century is accomplished online. This course explores reading and writing across social media and other web spaces through genre study, cultural analysis, and real-world practice. Through posts, tweets, blogs, emails, and texts students will hone valuable skills necessary in the twenty-first century thought-place. Creating web-based resumes and professional avatars will also be discussed. Course may be applied to the American Studies program. This course provides enhanced writing support.
 Open to First-Year Students only.

- 20685 WRI 111-A, FYS: The Supernatural in Contemporary Pop Culture 4 credits**
- 20686 WRI 111-B, FYS: The Supernatural in Contemporary Pop Culture 4 credits**
Prof. S. Morris
 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.
 Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20687 WRI 111-C, FYS: The Supernatural in Contemporary Pop Culture 4 credits**
Prof. S. Smith
 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.
 Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20699 WRI246-A FYS: Reading & Writing Diverse Lives 4 credits**
Prof. S. Westhues
 An exploration of the autobiographical essay as a form of cultural critique. A critical analysis of how writers use their life experiences to examine the challenges inherent in the cultural diversity of American democracy. In addition to reading and analyzing autobiographical essays, this course will serve as an introduction to the craft of life writing.
- 20702 WRI 299-A, FYS: Topics in Writing: Finding Your Path 4 credits**
Prof. S. Smith
 Offers students the opportunity to explore individual career aspirations in a small-class format. Emphasis on writing, discussion, critical thinking, and reflection on the choices we make when considering potential career paths. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20703 WRI 299-B, FYS: Topics in Writing: Music as Cultural Critique 4 credits**
Prof. J. Solomons
 Music has been used to protest specific ideologies, protest political policies; it has been used as a voice for the voiceless; it has been used as a way to unite those who have been marginalized. This course will focus primarily on music that has been used in this way. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20704 WRI 299-C, FYS: Topics in Writing: Time Travel in Popular Culture 4 credits**
Prof. G. Scala
 If there is one thing that we cannot control, it is time...yet, our literary and cinematic counterparts never cease trying—and this leaves us simultaneously perplexed and astonished. In this First-Year Seminar, we will consider the potential scientific, philosophical, and religious aspects and ramifications of time travel and examine the ways in which this theme manifests itself in popular culture. This course provides enhanced writing support. Open to First-Year Students only.
- 20705 WRI 299-D, FYS: Topics in Writing: Amazons: Women Warriors 4 credits**
Prof. E. Parks
 The ancient Greeks imagined a tribe of warrior women at the edge of civilization, and Western culture has never forgotten them. This writing-intensive seminar will explore ancient and modern ideas of masculinity and femininity through the lens of stories about Amazons and their reimagined sisters in fantasy, science-fiction, and popular culture.
- 20706 WRI 299-E, FYS: Topics in Writing: Writing and Social Justice 4 credits**
Prof. K. Wickham
 This class explores the rhetorical aspects of social justice writing. Students will critically analyze a diverse range of writing from activists and intellectuals who utilize writing as a form of social critique, identity formation, and as a means of advocacy or dissent. Students will select a social justice issue relevant to their interests and develop, revise, and assess their own writing strategies and ethics. Only open to First-Year Students only.
- 20707 WRI 299-F, FYS: Topics in Writing: Storytelling Across Media 4 credits**
Prof. M. Krejci-Papa
 This course looks at the role of storytelling across media in popular culture, whether in a verbal medium (short story, novel, prose poem, or lyric poem) or in a visual medium (fresco series, film, graphic novel, or dance). Students will gain experience in the essay form, both as creative expression and critical analysis. Open to First-Year Students only.

- 20709 WRI 299-G, FYS: Topics in Writing: Cyborgs, Clones & Ethics** **4 credits**
Prof. J. Softcheck
 This course explores some of the major cultural and ethical questions that are presently emerging from new technologies and their impact on the past, present, and future. Is reproductive human cloning ever permissible? Could cloning be a viable and ethically permissible way of preserving endangered species? What is your position on genetic engineering? Would you download your mind and soul into a mechanical body if it meant you could live as a cyborg forever? Sound like science fiction? *Think again.* Join us in probing some of the most interesting and challenging issues of our time!
- 20921 WRI 299-H, FYS: Topics in Writing: Comics and Culture** **4 credits**
20922 WRI 299-I, FYS: Topics in Writing: Comics and Culture **4 credits**
Prof. S. Connor
 "Comics and Culture" is a First-Year Seminar focusing on today's pervasive comic book movie universe and the way it reflects the society that indulges it. Focusing on critical thinking and how it corresponds to the analytical process, we'll write about and formulate a better understanding of the heroes we've come to know and love. Student essays will detail how and why comics have captured the zeitgeist of 21st-century media.
- BASIC LEVEL** (*Offers Enhanced Writing support*)
- 20688 WRI 141-A, FYS: Introduction to College Writing** **4 credits**
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.
- 20689 WRI 141-B, FYS: Introduction to College Writing** **4 credits**
20691 WRI 141-D, FYS: Introduction to College Writing **4 credits**
Prof. M. Freitas
 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.
- 20690 WRI 141-C, FYS: Introduction to College Writing** **4 credits**
Prof. B. Troupe
 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.
- 20693 WRI 141-F, FYS: Introduction to College Writing** **4 credits**
Prof. K. Wickham
 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.