

**CRN #****Spring 2020 First-Year Seminar Course Descriptions**

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

**STANDARD LEVEL****40433 ENG 128-A, FYS: Wonderlands****Prof. L. Scales**

A portal opens to another world: what wonders will we find there? In this course, we will travel down rabbit holes, through secret doorways, across borders, and back in time, encountering the stuff of dreams-and sometimes nightmares. Along the way, we will ask what these alternate realities tell us about our own world and our own imaginations. Texts may include: Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, J.M. Barrie's Peter and Wendy, The Wachowski's The Matrix, Neil Gaiman's Coraline, Hayao Miyazaki's Spirited Away, Guillermo Del Toro's Pan's Labyrinth, Octavia Butler's Kindred, and short works by Margaret Cavendish, Jorge Luis Borges, Ray Bradbury and Adrienne Rich.

*Fulfills the Literature Cornerstone requirement*

**40273 HIS 124-A, FYS: History of American Freedom****4 credits****Prof. J. Rodrigue**

This course examines the idea of freedom in U.S. history from the American Revolution to the present. It focuses on how this idea, so central to American identity, has evolved and has been contested throughout the nation's history.

*Fulfills the History Cornerstone requirement*

**40358 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*

**40774 RST 126-A, FYS: Critique of Religion****4 credits****Prof. D. Ullucci**

This course is an introduction to the critical, academic study of religion. It will touch on both personal and broader societal issues that are involved in the contemporary study of religion. It will examine several of the most prominent modern critiques of religion, as well as the various responses to those critiques. Further, it will explore and ask students to reflect on the meaning of religion in today's culturally diverse and religiously pluralistic world. Its objectives are to acquire a basic knowledge of some of the foundational theories of religion, to acquire a working understanding of various methodologies in the critical study of religion, to reflect on one's own understanding and experience of religion, and to reflect on the role of religion in the contemporary world.

*Fulfills the Religious Studies Cornerstone requirement*

**CENTRIC LEVEL (Offers Enhanced Writing support)****40758 WRI 110-A, 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.

**40760 WRI 111-A, 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.

**BASIC LEVEL** (*Offers Enhanced Writing support*)**40761 WRI 141-A, FYS: Introduction to College Writing**  
**Prof. B. Troupe****4 credits**

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.