

2012-2013 Inquiry Seminars and Practicums in Humanities and Arts
(revised May 15, 2012)

TERM E, 2012

English

HU 3900-E05 INQUIRY SEMINAR: SHADOW OF FACT IN FICTION

Ljungquist, Kent (contact info: kpl@wpi.edu office SL223D)

CRN #: 30036

Fiction writers are generally identified as purveyors of imagined characters and invented situations, but this seminar will focus primarily on novels that are based on or shaped by actual persons and events. Readings will come from selected spheres of human experience: the realm of art, the domain of economics and business, and the arena of politics. Readings will be selected from such fact-based novels as Willa Cather's *The Song of the Lark* or *My Antonia*, Frank Norris's *The Octopus* or *The Pit*, Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men*, and Wallace Stegner's *Angle of Repose*. Through reading, discussion, short reports, and formal essays, students will focus on two novels and examine each writer's sources of inspiration and how actual characters, events, and experiences are shaped into fictional form.

History

HU 3900-E02 & E03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY (TWO SESSIONS WILL BE OFFERED)

Bullock, Steven C. (contact info: sbullock@wpi.edu office SL235)

CRN #: 30033 or 30034

This Inquiry Seminar in History examines Mason Locke Weems's *Life of George Washington*, the most popular early biography of America's first president--and the first to tell the story of Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on the book itself and on its connections to Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary America. They will also consider more broadly how to think and write about the past.

HU 3900-E04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM

Hanlan, James P. (contact info: jphanlan@wpi.edu office SL028)

CRN #: 30035

This Inquiry Seminar is intended as the culminating experience in Humanities and Arts for students who have completed five courses in Humanities and Arts, including at least two courses in American History (one at the 2000-level or higher). It is also suitable for students with interests in American Studies. The class will focus on a particular theme in the American experience to be chosen by the instructor, and students will write individual papers broadly centered on that theme. Students will develop the ability to think, discuss, and write about American history and American Studies.

Music

HU 3910-E PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC

Weeks, Douglas G. (contact info: dweeks@wpi.edu office AH212)

CRN#:

Students will meet in a class setting to both discuss music performance techniques and to prepare for a final performance. Stylistic differences in performance for different periods of music will be studied. A portion of the class time will be spent performing and critiquing for each other. At the conclusion of the term, students will present a final recital.

TERM A, 2012

Art/Art History/Architecture

HU 3910-A01 Practicum: ANIMATION SHORT FILM

Bigonah, Roshanak (contact info: rbigonah@wpi.edu office SL031)

CRN: 10601

This seminar focuses on the production of short animated films. Students develop their own concepts, characters, and scripts. Weekly critiques, readings, and research will be followed by further exploration of disciplines such as drawing storyboards, developing characters, modeling, texturing, lighting and rendering. Topics such as visual storytelling, artistic style, character design, and physical acting will be considered. Students should have taken Art of Animation, or have equivalent experience in 2d or 3d animation techniques.

English

HU 3900-A04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: GOTHIC FICTION: THE DARK IMAGINATION

Ljungquist, Kent P. (contact info: kpl@wpi.edu office SL223D)

CRN #: 10599

With his novel *The Castle of Otranto*, Horace Walpole initiates literary Gothicism, a tradition in English and American literature that stresses mysterious or unexplained happenings, eerie atmosphere, and strange characters. The reach of this seminar will be broad to include fiction by both British and American practitioners in the supernatural genre. Students will read recognized landmarks of Gothic horror (e.g., Bram Stoker's *Dracula*) alongside works by Arthur Conan Doyle, Stephen King, and Patrick McGrath. Students will explore the diverse manifestations of the Gothic--affective, symbolic, and psychological--via discussions, reports, and a series of related writing exercises and formal essays.

HU 3900-A02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: REALITY LIT

Dempsey, James (contact info: jdempsey@wpi.edu office SL332)

CRN #: 10543

This is an approach to literature that examines the relationship between documentary materials and creative literary work. We will examine how those original materials--news stories, journals, reference works, videos, and official and unofficial documents of every kind both inspire and are transformed by the writer. The field of study is wide and the forms we may study numerous, including biography, documentary, historical fiction, science fiction, the New Journalism, and Modernism, to name a few. Students may choose to: Investigate the documentary sources behind a work of literature (for example, Melville's use of cetology in *Moby Dick*, T.S. Eliot's employment of Eastern and other myths and philosophies in "The Waste Land," or Kurt Vonnegut's treatment of the fire-bombing of Dresden during World War II in his novel "Slaughterhouse Five"). Write a creative piece of work based on documentary materials.

History

HU 3900-A06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

Bullock, Steven C. (contact info: sbullock@wpi.edu office SL235)

CRN #: 10600

This Inquiry Seminar in History examines Mason Locke Weems's *Life of George Washington*, the most popular early biography of America's first president--and the first to tell the story of Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on the book itself and on its connections to Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary America. They will also consider more broadly how to think and write about the past.

HU 3900-A01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA

Clark, Constance A. (contact info: cclark@wpi.edu office SL408D)

CRN #: 10859

This inquiry seminar in the History of Science and Technology will focus on the history of science, technology and the media, and students will individually explore focused aspects of that history: individual projects might focus on the technical history of some part of mass media, or on representations of science and technology in the media at some period in our history. We will focus predominantly on primary source materials, with some attention to the methods of analysis historians have devoted to such material. This will be a writing-intensive course, including a "workshop" setting in which students will help each other improve their writing and revising skills.

HU 3900-A03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM**Hanlan, James P. (contact info: jphanlan@wpi.edu office SL028)****CRN #: 10713**

This Inquiry Seminar is intended as the culminating experience in Humanities and Arts for students who have completed five courses in Humanities and Arts, including at least two courses in American History (one at the 2000-level or higher). It is also suitable for students with interests in American Studies. The class will focus on a particular theme in the American experience to be chosen by the instructor, and students will write individual papers broadly centered on that theme. Students will develop the ability to think, discuss, and write about American history and American.

HU 3900-A08 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF SPORT**Hansen, Peter H. (contact info: phansen@wpi.edu office SL107)****CRN #: 10718**

This Inquiry Seminar will focus on the historical and cultural studies of sport. Students will give presentations and research and write about a topic related to the history of sports. This seminar is appropriate for students with a background in any area of U.S., European, or world history.

HU 3900-A09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE US AND THE 'THIRD' WORLD**Robertson, Thomas (contact info: tbr@wpi.edu office SL 234)****CRN #: 11078**

During the twentieth century and especially since World War II, Americans and their government have become increasingly engaged – politically, economically, culturally, and militarily – with the peoples and governments of the developing world. Although the term "globalization" is often used for the period after 1990, it's clear that the world has been globalizing for decades, if not centuries. In this research seminar, students will pick either a place, an American development project, a pivotal event, or a commodity through which to analyze the larger patterns of American relations with the developing world. After discussing a common set of readings on the Cold War, economic development, and cultural encounters, students will devote most of their time and energy to researching and writing their papers, and offering feedback to classmates. This seminar will be particularly good for students planning to study overseas for part of their time at WPI. **(This seminar is excellent preparation for many of WPI's overseas project centers.)**

Music**HU 3900-A05 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: ALGORITHMIC MUSIC COMPOSITION****Bianchi, Frederick (contact info: bianchi@wpi.edu office AH208)****CRN #: 10860**

The seminar will investigate various algorithmic processes used in music composition, sound design, and networked sound installations. The seminar will also explore the relationship between sonification, automation, aesthetics, and psychology.

HU 3910-A02 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSICAL THEATRE (THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE)**Delorey, John F. (contact info: jfd@wpi.edu office AH205)****CRN #: 10602**

This practicum will involve all of the aspects of mounting a full production of a major musical theatre work, "The Pirates of Penzance". Students wishing to perform in the Practicum **MUST** audition in C Term 2012. Students wishing to be part of the crew for this Practicum must contact Professor Delorey for registration. Students wishing to play in the orchestra **MUST** contact Professor Weeks for permission and enroll with Delorey.

Philosophy/Religion**HU 3900-A10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PHILOSOPHY OF FILM****Sanbonmatsu, John (contact info: js@wpi.edu SL023)****CRN #: 11073**

This seminar examines the philosophy of cinema (aesthetic theory, narrativity and representation, film style and technique, etc.), as well as the use of film as a medium for expressing philosophical ideas (existentialism, the crisis of religious faith, Nietzsche's myth of the eternal return, suicide, the ethics of political violence, etc.). What makes a film "philosophical"? What is gained, and lost, when an artist expresses ideas in the imagistic language of film or video? Can philosophers write good film criticism? Students will be expected to watch and write critically about two films drawn from world cinema per week, in dialogue with short essays by such philosophers as Albert Camus,

Walter Benjamin, Martin Heidegger, Kate Millet, Susan Sontag, etc., as well as film critics and scholars. At the end of the course, students will be graded on the quality of their "portfolio" of collected philosophical meditations.

HU 3900-A11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: BREAKING AND MENDING SOCIAL BONDS

Smith, Ruth L. (contact info: rsmith@wpi.edu office SL108)

CRN #: 11079

Many concerns of late modern peoples involve questions about breaking and mending social bonds. These bonds may be identified as religious, political, or philosophical.

In this seminar students will pursue an independent research topic that explores practices of social bonds. In addition to your suggestions, in consultation with the advisor, topic areas include: religious covenants, social contracts, modes of ostracism and punishment, economic markets, gifts, laws, utopian communities, and ritual places of gathering. We'll consider ways that ideas and practices about social bonds identify conflict, membership, marginality, and freedom. And we'll be interested in how the elaboration of social bonds shows up in words and images.

TERM B, 2012

Art/Art History/Architecture

HU 3900-B09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: INTERACTIVE MEDIA ART eBOOKS

Farbrook, Joseph H. (contact info: farbrook@wpi.edu SL207)

CRN #: 10604

This seminar will be a survey of the history of interactive media including many of the most recent developments in digital art. The primary focus will be on fine art and the use of computers and the Internet as an artistic medium. Political and social ramifications of electronic media and network delivery systems will also be explored. Students will be able to write a research paper, create their own interactive artwork, or a combination of the two.

English

HU 3900-B10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: TEXTUAL ENGINEERING

COCOLA, Jim (contact info: jcocola@wpi.edu office SL26)

CRN #: 11238

How are texts designed, and how are they built? This inquiry seminar will focus on archival materials, exploring the textual details of manuscripts, rare books, and other holdings in the special collections department at WPI, in local archives such as the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, in regional archives housed at various colleges and universities throughout New England, and in digital collections featuring manuscripts and other materials drawn from websites affiliated with archives across the country and around the world. Readings may include relevant works of history, literature, and theory. Project options will include creative writing portfolios, critical and interpretative essays, and digital humanities pursuits.

HU 3900-B04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WRITING AND RHETORIC: RHETORICAL CRITICISM

deWinter, Jennifer (contact info: jdewinter@wpi.edu SL015)

CRN #: 10870

Rhetoric in its broader definition is the art of symbolic communication--How do people communicate? What are the effects of communicative action? What are the tricks of the trade? Rhetorical criticism is a collection of approaches that allow the read/listener to analyze the rhetoric of a text for two purposes: 1) so that you see the rhetorical tricks and are therefore not manipulated by them, and 2) so that you can use those tricks once you know about them when you go to persuade others. This inquiry seminar will apply a number of rhetorical criticisms to something that you want to analyze, such as a favorite story, movie, television program, anime, videogame, and so forth. Courses to demonstrate depth should include courses in writing and rhetoric.

HU 3900-B06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WRITING AND RHETORIC: USABILITY STUDIES

deWinter, Jennifer (contact info: jdewinter@wpi.edu SL015)

CRN #: 10603

Usability studies analyzes whether people can use the thing that you give them. In writing in particular, usability is closely associated with technical writing where directions are given. For example, when writing a sequence of steps for a scientific experiment or a design project in engineering, how do you know that people can follow the directions and do them correctly? How do you know when they get confused? How do you know when they think it's all too easy and self-evident? In many ways, this is the humanist intervention into documentation for it places the user (or human) back into the equation as an important pillar for consideration. In this seminar, we will write and test documents using usability studies in order to critique and revise documents that better consider the user audience. Courses to demonstrate depth should include courses in writing and rhetoric and ideal candidates will have taken Technical Writing and/or Introduction to Professional Writing.

HU 3900-B15 Inquiry Seminar: Humanities and Hospitals

Faber, Brenton (contact info: bdfaber@wpi.edu office SL019)

CRN #: 11407

In September 2011, *The New York Times* reported that Carolyn and Matthew Bucksbaum donated \$42 million to the University of Chicago Medical Center to "create an institute devoted to improving medical students' handling of the doctor-patient relationship." As *The Times* reporter noted, "it seems like a lot of money for teaching good bedside manners." This seminar will look at the interface of the Humanities and Medicine and will specifically examine the doctor-patient relationship and the various efforts to, in the words of Dr. Mark Seigler, head of the new Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellence, "put compassion and empathy on the same pedestal as science and technology. This inquiry seminar will examine the human issues involved in health care and study best practices for

physician-patient interactions. The seminar will be useful for students interested in medicine but also those looking toward client-focused professions such as: veterinary medicine, hospital administration, or teaching.

HU 3900-B02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LIT: FACT -BASED FICTION

Ljungquist, Kent (contact info: kpl@wpi.edu office SL223D)

CRN #: 10545

Fiction writers are generally identified as purveyors of imagined characters and invented situations, but this seminar will focus primarily on novels that are based on or shaped by actual persons and events. Readings will come from selected spheres of human experience: the realm of art, the domain of economics and business, and the arena of politics. Readings will be selected from such fact-based novels as Willa Cather's *The Song of the Lark* or *My Antonia*, Frank Norris's *The Octopus* or *The Pit*, Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men*, and Wallace Stegner's *Angle of Repose*. Through reading, discussion, short reports, and formal essays, students will focus on two novels and examine each writer's sources of inspiration and how actual characters, events, and experiences are shaped into fictional form.

HU 3900-B16 INQUIRY SEMINAR: NATURE WRITING

Nikitina, Svetlana (contact info: svetlana@wpi.edu office AH215)

CRN #: 11408

This Inquiry Seminar invites students to explore a variety of cultural representations of nature and find unique ways to communicate about it. The Final Project will involve telling a rich multi-cultural story behind a particular life form students choose to depict. Michael Pollan's "The Botany of Desire" as well as the writings of John Muir and Annie Dillard will serve as an inspiration for writing about plants and animals and natural phenomena with reverence and insight. Students' creative toolkit in this seminar will not be limited to expository writing they will be free to use poetry, literary narrative, film, photojournalism or digital media to help them write about nature. Literature and writing courses as well as Great Problems Seminars (Feed the World, Heal the World and The Grand Challenges) will provide a good preparation for this seminar. This seminar is also a good match for students who achieved depth in history and have taken at least one course in English and who have a strong background in biology and environmental studies.

HU 3900-B14 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PLAYWRIGHTS' WORKSHOP

Zinn, Jeff (contact info: jz@jeffzinn.com office *****)

CRN #: 11086

Students will learn about the essential building blocks of play structure: plot, story (not the same thing!) character, action, motivation. We'll study some examples from the masters and then plunge in, writing our own 10 minute (or longer) plays. Goal is writing next year's New Voices pick!

HU 3910-B01 PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY

Stone, Erika A. (contact info: erikastone@wpi.edu office SL018)

CRN #: 10872

This Practicum in Theatre Technology will involve participants in the rehearsal and staging of the annual Humanities and Arts, Drama/Theatre, and Masque collaborative production. This practicum is part of the academic theatre program. The Drama/Theatre professors work together every year to stage a play chosen for its high regard from world dramatic literature. The production opens in the fourth week of the term, with the following three weeks devoted to assembling a project portfolio which documents the results of the study. Students may enroll in this practicum for design, technology, stage management, management, or other production areas with the approval of the professor.

History

HU 3900-B01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EUROPEAN HISTORY

Addison, W. A. Bland (contact info: addison@wpi.edu office SL238)

CRN #: 10544

This Inquiry Seminar in History will focus upon economic, political, and cultural aspects of social struggle during the French Revolution. Students will prepare an analytical research paper on an appropriate topic.

HU 3900-B17 INQUIRY SEMINAR: US AND INT'L ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY**Robertson, Thomas (contact info: tbr@wpi.edu office SL 234)****CRN #: 11409**

History is too often the study of political figures and legislation. In this seminar, students will use the tools of environmental history to conduct in-depth research of a particular place – a neighborhood, city block, park, road, dam, farmhouse, or stream. You will trace this place through time, analyzing the three or four most important events in its history, and thereby shed light on much larger historical patterns and processes. You can pick any place from around the U.S. or around the world, although you are encouraged to pick a place that you already know or have some intellectual or personal connection to. A WPI IQP Project Center location would be ideal. Writing about a part of Worcester would also work very well. It will be important to pick a place for which source materials are readily available. The seminar will begin with a common set of readings about environmental history, after which our time will be devoted to research skills, writing work-shopping, presentations, and peer feedback sessions.

Music**HU 3900-B12 INQUIRY SEMINAR: JAZZ HISTORY****Falco, Richard G. (contact info: rfalco@wpi.edu AH210)****CRN #: 11083**

This Inquiry Seminar in Jazz Music History will assemble a team of students to conduct field research by visiting the homes of New England based jazz artists and their families. Data collected in the field will include oral history interviews, old photographs, recordings, print media, and radio and television shows. Materials will be processed according to specific guidelines and added to an online permanent collection at jazzhistorydatabase.com.

HU 3910-B02 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ARRANGING**Weeks, Douglas G. (contact info: dweeks@wpi.edu office AH212)****CRN #: 10605**

Students will use previously acquired skills to arrange works for instrumental or vocal ensembles. The works will be performed at the conclusion of the course and students will evaluate each other's arrangements.

Philosophy/Religion**HU 3900-B11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY****Gottlieb, Roger S. (contact info: gottlieb@wpi.edu office SL04)****CRN #: 10714**

The environmental crisis challenges basic moral values, ways of understanding relations between humanity and the rest of life, and political norms. For example: can a society be “democratic” if it does not heed the calls or interests of the non-human? With human activity affecting all of the earth, does it make sense to distinguish between humanity and nature? In the face of a culturally diverse world, does the environmental crisis provide the basis for a universal ethical code? How much consumption is morally legitimate and how much is, well, too much? In this seminar we will do some shared reading exploring these challenges, and then each student will focus on a particular topic.

HU 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR: Humanitarianism and Humanitarian Aid: Promise and Problems**Pfeifer, Geoffrey (contact info: gpfeifer@wpi.edu office SL22)****CRN #**

In this seminar we will look at the social, political, and philosophical issues surrounding humanitarianism and humanitarian action. We will begin by thinking through the various philosophical reasons individuals and humanitarian groups undertake such actions. We will then think critically about the various ways in which humanitarian organizations implement their projects, pointing out, along the way, both the successes and failures that result from various modes of humanitarian intervention. In investigating this, we will look closely at the work undertaken by one or two non-governmental humanitarian organizations (NGOs) in an attempt to see both what they get right and what, if any negative effects their actions also have in the places in which they are implemented. Along the way students will have a chance to talk face-to-face with individuals involved in such work and discuss with them how some of the theoretical issues that we think through in class play out in practice. The aim of this seminar is to deepen our understanding of the workings of such organizations and the challenges they face. Though much of the course will be oriented toward philosophical issues, it is (of necessity) a topic which is interdisciplinary in nature so students who have done their depth work in areas other than philosophy, such as

history, are invited and encouraged to enroll. This is also a great course for those who are enrolled in the Global Perspectives Program.

HU 3900-B13 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MORALS AND LAWS IN THE PRACTICES OF A SOCIETY

Smith, Ruth L. (contact info: rsmith@wpi.edu office SL108)

CRN #: 11085

Issues of public debate often involve tensions and concerns linking moral and legal quandaries about justice, fairness, protection, and wrong-doing; they involve deep feelings about the good and the right thing to do. In this seminar we'll take up issues that traffic heavily between moral and legal terms in public discussion along with how these might be thought about differently. Current re-considerations of capital punishment offer one such example, regarding shifting ideas of justice, fairness, punishment, retribution, distribution, and redemption as people wrestle with the process of devising and carrying out law in relation to moral claims. You will think of others as well. Everyone participates in shared reading-discussion and conducts individual research to develop a question about a topic that you select (in consultation). The final result is your individually prepared seminar paper that would give any reader a strong understanding of the question you address.

TERM C, 2013

Art/Art History/Architecture

HU 3900-C13 INQUIRY SEMINAR: INTERACTIVE MEDIA ART eBOOKS

Farbrook, Joseph H. (contact info: farbrook@wpi.edu SL207)

CRN #: 20597

This seminar will be a survey of the history of interactive media including many of the most recent developments in digital art. The primary focus will be on fine art and the use of computers and the Internet as an artistic **TERM** medium. Political and social ramifications of electronic media and network delivery systems will also be explored. Students will be able to write a research paper, create their own interactive artwork, or a combination of the two.

HU 3900-C04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE ARCHITECTURE OF MCKIM, MEAD & WHITE AND THEIR TIMES

Samson, M. D. (contact info: samson@wpi.edu office SL014)

CRN #: 20508

This Inquiry Seminar is structured around the work and times of Charles McKim, William Mead and Stanford White, partners in one of the most accomplished and important firms in the history of American architecture. The firm was founded in 1879, created daringly innovative buildings throughout the 1880s (the "Shingle Style" era), and became a highly influential force for Classical Revival architecture, which it upheld into the 1920s. The firm influenced many American and Worcester architects, including Stephen Earle, architect of much of WPI. In this Inquiry Seminar students will make a presentation on a text we all read, and write and discuss an independent research project resulting in a 16-20 page paper.

English

HU 3900-C06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: SCIENCE FICTION FILM

Cocola, Jim (contact info: jcocola@wpi.edu office SL026)

CRN #: 20851

If science fiction came into its own in the nineteenth century, then science fiction film emerged in the twentieth century as a complementary and contrastive phenomenon that drew on, extended, and transformed the themes and tropes of the genre. In this seminar we will consider the aesthetic, political, and social dimensions of a range of science fiction films from Georges Méliès's "Le Voyage dans la lune" (1902) through Guillermo del Toro's "Pacific Rim" (2013), looking also to works in related film genres such as the horror film and the western, to works of film criticism and theory, and to works in other media forms from graphic novels and short stories to radio plays and television shows. Project options will include critical and interpretative essays, digital humanities pursuits, documentary mashups, and original short films.

HU 3900-C14 INQUIRY SEMINAR: REALITY LIT

Dempsey, James (contact info: jdempsey@wpi.edu office SL332)

CRN #: 20713

This is an approach to literature that examines the relationship between documentary materials and creative literary work. We will examine how those original materials—news stories, journals, reference works, videos, and official and unofficial documents of every kind both inspire and are transformed by the writer. The field of study is wide and the forms we may study numerous, including biography, documentary, historical fiction, science fiction, the New Journalism, and Modernism, to name a few. Students may choose to: Investigate the documentary sources behind a work of literature (for example, Melville's use of cetology in *Moby Dick*, T.S. Eliot's employment of Eastern and other myths and philosophies in "The Waste Land," or Kurt Vonnegut's treatment of the fire-bombing of Dresden during World War II in his novel "*Slaughterhouse Five*"). Write a creative piece of work based on documentary materials.

HU 3900-C15 INQUIRY SEMINAR: BUILDING DIGITAL SHAKESPEARES

Ephraim, Michelle (contact info: ephraim@wpi.edu office SL237)

CRN #: 20714

In this Inquiry Seminar, students will explore new ways to learn about Shakespeare in the classroom. Students will have a chance to build their own learning modules, using their choice of technology. Creativity is encouraged! I welcome students with interests in literature, games, software development, secondary-school education, and other areas.

History

HU 3900-C08 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY

Baller, William A. (contact info: baller@wpi.edu SL408C)

CRN #: 20594

This seminar will examine some aspect of recent American social history, perhaps race, sports, or the experience of the common soldier. Students will write a paper on a common text and a longer research paper, using primary sources, on a number of possible social history topics related to the seminar topic.

HU 3900-C09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EMPIRE IN HISTORY

Hansen, Peter H. (contact info: phansen@wpi.edu office SL107)

CRN #: 20595

This Inquiry Seminar will focus on empire in history with an emphasis on recent comparisons of the British and American empires. Students will give presentations and research and write about a topic related to the theme of empire in history. This seminar is appropriate for students with a background in any area of U.S., European, or world history.

HU 3900-C11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: URBAN HISTORY

Rudolph, Jennifer (contact info: jrudolph@wpi.edu SL408B)

CRN #: 20596

This inquiry seminar will examine the development of cities, urban spaces, and urbanization through the discussion of classic works on the city and individual research projects. Class time will be devoted to acquiring a common foundation on approaches to the study of the city and the exploration of issues critical to urban studies and urban history. Each student will then research and analyze a specific urban history topic of his or her choice.

Presentation of student work will open discussion to a wide variety of urban history topics representing a geographically diverse set of cities. Students are expected to share their work with the class and help critique fellow classmates' work. This seminar is appropriate for students with a background in history (American, Asian, Central or South American, or European).

HU 3900-C16 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HIST GEOGRAPHY/MAPMAKING

Spanagel, David I. (contact info: spanagel@wpi.edu SL239)

CRN #: 20716

Mapmakers have been among the world's most imaginative scientific pioneers. This inquiry seminar will examine the motives and results of historical attempts to study Earth's geographical features and translate them into abstract scientific, political, or artistic representations. Students will write brief individual papers analyzing primary source materials (maps); will collaborate in small groups in the composition of more substantial historical research papers; and will participate in a culminating set of research/poster presentations. The final grade will depend heavily on engagement in all aspects of the seminar experience. [NOTE: Any students interested in issues of space and place, who have acquired HUA "depth" in history, history of science/technology, literature, philosophy, or the visual arts, are invited to apply for a spot in this interdisciplinary inquiry seminar.]

Music

HU 3900-C01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC INTERFACES

Bianchi, Frederick (contact info: bianchi@wpi.edu office AH208)

CRN #: 20505

The seminar will investigate developments in technology that can detect physical gesture, monitor the sonic conditions of various environments, and bio-sensing technologies suitable for creative applications. These technologies are particularly relevant to designing advanced interfaces for music and interactive media applications.

HU 3900-C02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: JAZZ HISTORY

Falco, Richard G. (contact info: rfalco@wpi.edu AH210)

CRN #: 20506

This Inquiry Seminar in Jazz Music History will assemble a team of students to conduct field research by visiting the homes of New England based jazz artists and their families. Data collected in the field will include oral history interviews, old photographs, recordings, print media, and radio and television shows. Materials will be processed according to specific guidelines and added to an online permanent collection at jazzhistorydatabase.com.

HU 3900-C03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: "THE LAST WALTZ": MUSICAL IDENTITY IN AMERICA**Ludwig, Alex****CRN #: 20507**

In this class, we will use Martin Scorsese's concert film "The Last Waltz" as a foundational text in order to examine the intersection of various musical styles and genres. Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton and the Staple Singers, among others, were invited guests of The Band and each bring a unique musical identity to bear in what many consider to be the best concert film ever produced. During this seminar, we will examine a variety of musical styles, from blues to jazz and pop, and determine how these styles influenced the quintessentially American musical style, rock 'n' roll.

HU 3900-C07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY**Manzo, Vincent (contact info: *****)****CRN #: 21538****Philosophy/Religion****HU 3900-C12 INQUIRY SEMINAR: RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER ISSUES****Eddy, Bethel L. (contact info: bleddy@wpi.edu office SL223E)****CRN #: 20854**

Religion has been a major factor in the lives of groups that have experienced racism and discrimination in the U. S and abroad. Sometimes religion has served as a tool of racism; sometimes it has served as a means by which oppressed groups have adapted to their conditions and struggled to overcome them. In this country, religion has played a role in the lives of Native Americans, African Americans, and Spanish-speaking Americans as they have struggled to work out their identities in American society. Religious ideas have also influenced our assumptions about women's roles and identities in patriarchal culture. Student will individually define projects that may focus on issues of race, sex and gender and the interplay between religious notions and other philosophical and cultural notions about sexes, race, and ethnicity. Religion and culture interact dynamically, and while religions have often brought significant advances to culture in general and oppressed groups in particular, many religious institutions relegate groups to secondary status in at least some ways. Groups historically experiencing discrimination have critiqued this tendency and struggled to draw creatively on their own religious heritages to articulate more equitable visions of, and places for, themselves in the world.

HU 3900-C20 INQUIRY SEMINAR: SPIRITUALITY**Gottlieb, Roger S. (contact info: gottlieb@wpi.edu office SL04)****CRN #: 21175**

While millions of people describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious," some of the world's most revered religious figures are thought of as "spiritual teachers." We talk of spiritual social activists (King, Gandhi), find spiritual power in nature, learn "spiritual lessons" from life's difficulties, discuss the "spiritual" (rather than the literal) meanings of the Bible, and see that spiritual practices like meditation and yoga have been integrated into western medicine. In this seminar students will study an overview of the concept of spirituality and then explore in depth a particular teacher, problem, idea, or spiritual practice. Examples of possible topics: the spiritual dimension of yoga or meditation; spiritual interpretations of the Bible; the relation between spirituality and political non-violence or environmentalism; tensions between traditional religion and contemporary spirituality; individual figures like Thomas Merton, Kierkegaard, Elie Wiesel, the Dalai Lama, Joanna Macy, Mary Daly. Spiritual movements within traditional religions such as Sufism or Hasidism.

HU 3900-C18 INQUIRY SEMINAR: The Twenty-First Century Body**McWeeny, Jennifer (contact info: *****) office****)****CRN #: 21516**

How do technology and scientific advances affect the ways that we experience and think about our own bodies and the bodies of others? After becoming familiar with relevant philosophical theories of the body, students will be encouraged to design and pursue independent research on a topic of their choosing that speaks to facets of twenty-first century embodied life. Topics may include but are not limited to the following themes: athletic programs and diet/training technologies; habitual cellular phone, video game, and computer use; disability, illness, and medical devices such as prosthetic limbs; transgender and transsexual hormone treatments and surgeries; plastic surgery and the beauty industry; body modification such as piercings and tattoos; transportation advances

and industrial pollution; and architectural design as a way to move in space. The seminar will culminate in the creation of a seminar paper, which will be presented to and reviewed by the author's peers.

TERM D, 2013

Art/Art History/Architecture

HU 3910-D01 Practicum: ANIMATION SHORT FILM

Bigonah, Roshanak (contact info: rbigonah@wpi.edu office SL031)

CRN: 20509

This seminar focuses on the production of short animated films. Students develop their own concepts, characters, and scripts. Weekly critiques, readings, and research will be followed by further exploration of disciplines such as drawing storyboards, developing characters, modeling, texturing, lighting and rendering. Topics such as visual storytelling, artistic style, character design, and physical acting will be considered. Students should have taken Art of Animation, or have equivalent experience in 2d or 3d animation techniques.

HU 3900-D04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: SEMINAR IN THE VISUAL ARTS: THE COLLECTIONS OF THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

Samson, M. David (contact info: samson@wpi.edu office SL014)

CRN #: 20515

This Inquiry Seminar will have students investigate and write about works in the collections of the Worcester Art Museum. Selecting art objects on display in the Museum's galleries, or in storage in the museum's collections, students will explore visual, biographical, historical and curatorial issues as they are studied by historians of art. The objects to be studied may include paintings, sculptures, prints, photography, furniture, and useful objects.

English

HU 3900-D05 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

Brattin, Joel J. (contact info: jib@wpi.edu office SL024)

CRN #: 20516

Charles Dickens's last novel, The Mystery of Edwin Drood (1869-70), was left unfinished when Dickens suddenly died after a stroke on 8 June 1870. Participants in this Inquiry Seminar in British Literature will examine the surviving portion of the novel closely – not just as a mystery or literary puzzle, but as an important work of the creative imagination. Students will explore the rich collection of materials in WPI's Robert D. Fellman Dickens collection, and will conduct and present original research on topics related to The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

HU 3900-D06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: CREATIVE WRITING: SCI-FI, HORROR, AND FANTASY

Ephraim, Michelle K. (contact info: ephraim@wpi.edu office SL237)

CRN #: 20721

In this inquiry seminar we will study three genres of fiction writing: sci-fi, horror, and fantasy. In addition to reading examples of these genres and analyzing their use of literary conventions, students will write their own 20-30 page creative project. This seminar is for students who have taken previous courses at WPI in both literature and writing. During the draft writing process, students will read each other's work and provide verbal feedback in a "writing workshop" format.

HU 3900-D10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: FUTURETECH

Faber, Brenton (contact info: bdfaber@wpi.edu office SL019)

CRN #: 20863

What is new? This inquiry seminar will examine the rhetoric of new technologies and the process of creating a social space for new innovations. The seminar will begin with a review of what is called "instantiation" and the introduction of electric lighting and the emergence of nanotechnology in popular media. From here students will consider their own strategy for launching a new idea. Prior HUA courses in rhetoric, writing, philosophy, or history would be applicable.

HU 3900-D07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE: TRANSATLANTIC LITERARY ENCOUNTERS

Mott, Wesley, T. (contact info: wmott@wpi.edu office SL236)

CRN #: 20598

American writers often have called for a national literature worthy of our distinctive experience. Great literature, however, engages with many global cultures and traditions, from ancient classics to the contemporary. This seminar explores a specific kind of cross-cultural exchange: transatlantic social commentary by well-known writers. Our case studies will be Washington Irving's The Sketch-Book (mostly about England) and Charles Dickens's American Notes. Students will write papers on how each writer encountered the other's land, and on the influence of their books on both sides of the Atlantic.

HU 3910-D02 PRACTICUM: ACTING, DIRECTING & DRAMATURGY FOR NEW VOICES**VICK, S. (contact info: svick@wpi.edu office SL017)****CRN #: 21526**

Practicum in Acting, Directing, Dramaturgy This practicum offers qualified undergraduates the opportunity to act, direct, work in dramaturgy, or otherwise artistically participate in the annual New Voices production of original plays by WPI community members, in its 31st year.

HU 3900-D16 INQUIRY SEMINAR: LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**Schachterle, Lance E. (contact info: les@wpi.edu office SL027)****CRN #: 21176**

We will consider four classic works dealing with the American environment--its natural richness and the urges and needs of European settlers to harvest those riches thoughtlessly. We will also examine how white Europeans regarded native Americans and Afro-Americans also as property to be exploited. Works to be considered are Cooper's 1823 novel *The Pioneers*, Emerson's 1836 essay "Nature," Thoreau's 1854 book *Walden* and Faulkner's novella *The Bear* (1942).

HU 3900-D18 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MEMOIR WRITING**Higgins, Lorraine D.****CRN #: 21531**

In this seminar, students will read about the art of memoir writing, discussing a variety of sample memoirs and experimenting with various styles and strategies as they write from their own experiences. Weeks 1-3 will focus on reading and discussion; the latter part of the term will be devoted to significant writing and revision. Student drafts will be "work-shopped" by the group in later meetings. The final product will be polished memoir of 20-50 pages.

HU 3910-D04 PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY**Stone, Erika A. (contact info: erikastone@wpi.edu office SL018)****CRN #: 20517**

This Practicum in Theatre Technology will involve participants in the rehearsal and staging of the annual New Voices festival of original works, a collaboration of Humanities and Arts, Drama/Theatre, and Masque. In 2006, New Voices celebrated its 25th year as part of the WPI academic theatre program. The Drama/Theatre professors work together every year to stage the festival. New Voices opens in the fourth week of the term, with the following three weeks devoted to assembling a project portfolio which documents the results of the study. Students may enroll in this practicum for design, technology, stage management, management, or other production areas with the approval of the professor.

History**HU 3900-D01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WORLD HISTORY****Addison, W. A. Bland (contact info: addison@wpi.edu office SL238)****CRN #: 20512**

This Inquiry Seminar in History will focus upon the historical roots of contemporary world conflicts arising from disparities in global wealth and/or hostilities over ethno-cultural differences. Students will prepare an analytical research paper on an appropriate topic.

HU 3900-D14 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICA'S WARTIME LEADERSHIP**Baller, William A. (contact info: baller@wpi.edu SL408C)****CRN #: 20723**

This seminar will examine presidential leadership during some of America's most important wars. Students will write a paper on a common text and a longer research paper on one of a number of U.S. presidents and their military and political subordinates.

HU 3900-D02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY**Bullock, Steven C. (contact info: sbullock@wpi.edu office SL235)****CRN #: 20513**

This Inquiry Seminar in History examines Mason Locke Weems's Life of George Washington, the most popular early biography of America's first president--and the first to tell the story of Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on the book itself and on its connections to Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary America. They will also consider more broadly how to think and write about the past.

HU 3900-D09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM

Hanlan, James P. (contact info: jphanlan@wpi.edu office SL028)

CRN #: 20600

This Inquiry Seminar is intended as the culminating experience in Humanities and Arts for students who have completed five courses in Humanities and Arts, including at least two courses in American History (one at the 2000-level or higher). It is also suitable for students with interests in American Studies. The class will focus on a particular theme in the American experience to be chosen by the instructor, and students will write individual papers broadly centered on that theme. Students will develop the ability to think, discuss, and write about American history and American.

HU 3900-D11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ASIAN HISTORY

Rudolph, Jennifer (contact info: jrudolph@wpi.edu SL408B)

CRN #: 20601

This inquiry seminar in Asian history will focus on national identity formation in the age of nation-states. Questions to be explored include both the broad and the specific: What is modernity? What makes China a nation? Does Japan have particular national or cultural characteristics that contributed to it being the first non-Western country to industrialize and modernize? How does Korea maintain its identity in the age of globalization? What role does nationalism play in today's world? Common readings will provide a foundation for individual exploration of specific research questions. Presentation of student work will open discussion to various dimensions of identity in Asia. Students are expected to share their work with the class and help critique fellow classmates' work. This seminar is appropriate for students with a background in world or Asian history.

HU 3900-D03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: SCIENCE AND DEMOCRACY

Spanagel, David I. (contact info: spanagel@wpi.edu SL239)

CRN #: 20514

This inquiry seminar in the history and politics of American science will examine some instance or instances from American history, wherein issues of scientific research and investigation have aroused public concern and/or sparked political controversy. Weekly meetings will be devoted to uncovering and understanding the varying perspectives of participants about key aspects of these debates. Students will write brief individual papers analyzing scholarly historical works that examine the tensions between scientific and democratic values; will collaborate in small groups in the composition of more substantial historical research articles; and will design and/or participate in a culminating historical simulation activity. The final grade will depend heavily on engagement in all aspects of the seminar experience.

Music

HU 3900-D17 INQUIRY SEMINAR: FILM SCORING

Delorey, John F. (contact info: jfd@wpi.edu office AH205)

CRN #: 20861

This seminar will trace the development of film scores from silent movies to today's orchestral and pop scores. In addition to class time, there will be ten (10) hours of film viewing per week. Final project will be paper on approved film and score.

HU 3900-D12 INQUIRY SEMINAR: "THE LAST WALTZ": MUSICAL IDENTITY IN AMERICA

Ludwig, Alex

CRN #: 20602

In this class, we will use Martin Scorsese's concert film "The Last Waltz" as a foundational text in order to examine the intersection of various musical styles and genres. Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton and the Staple Singers, among others, were invited guests of The Band and each bring a unique musical identity to bear in what many consider to be the best concert film ever produced. During this seminar, we will examine a variety of musical styles, from blues to jazz and pop, and determine how these styles influenced the quintessentially American musical style, rock 'n' roll.

HU 3900-D20 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Manzo, Vincent (contact info: ***)**

CRN #: 21539

HU 3910-D03 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Weeks, Douglas G. (contact info: dweeks@wpi.edu office AH 212)

CRN #: 20511

Students will meet in a class setting to both discuss music performance techniques and to prepare for a final performance. Stylistic differences in performance for different periods of music will be studied. A portion of the class time will be spent performing and critiquing for each other. At the conclusion of the term, students will present a final recital.

Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900-D13 INQUIRY SEMINAR: RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Eddy, Bethel L. (contact info: bleddy@wpi.edu office SL223E)

CRN #: 20603

This seminar will focus on a wide variety of issues that bring religion and science together which might include (but not be limited to) issues in medical ethics or stem cell research, the moral impact of some particular technology, theological views about Darwinian evolution, the philosophical/moral implications of natural selection, historical interactions and conflicts between religion and science such as the Galileo affair or the Scopes Trial, theological approaches to the natural world, etc. We will read a short background book together, and then each student will work on an individual project within the broad subject area which will be presented to the seminar group. Admission to this seminar is by competitive application.

HU 3900-D08 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HUMAN-ANIMAL STUDIES

Sanbonmatsu, John (contact info: js@wpi.edu SLO23)

CRN #: 20722

This course examines the nature of our relationship with other animals. Topics include nonhuman consciousness, intelligence, and being-in-the-world, speciesism as a mode of production, the political economy of animal industries, critical theories of ideology and power, and the moral philosophy of animal rights. Students will be required to research and write a final term paper on a topic of their choice, as well as to participate in weekly seminar discussions.

HU 3900-D19 INQUIRY SEMINAR: Freedom

McWeeny, Jennifer (contact info: ***) office****)**

CRN #: 21517

What does it mean for a person to be free? How much do biological, chemical, physical, economic, and social patterns determine the lives of humans and other animals? Does intelligence (artificial or otherwise) require freedom? Are the political and material structures operative in the twenty-first century conducive to freedom? Does discrimination and prejudice hinder freedom? What are the consequences of a life that lacks genuine freedom? Students may pursue questions such as these and others in the context of this seminar, which will include readings and discussion about philosophical and literary descriptions of freedom. Participants will write a substantial paper on a relevant topic of their own choosing, contribute to seminar discussions, and offer peer commentaries to others.