2015-2016 Inquiry Seminars and Practicums in Humanities and Arts
(Days and times of courses will be available on the Registrar’s website.)
Updated July 1, 2015

**E 2015 Art/Art History/Architecture**

HU 3900-E107  INQUIRY SEMINAR: VIDEO ART
Farbrook, Joseph H. (contact info: farbrook@wpi.edu, office SL 207)
CRN: 30076

**E 2015 English (see also Writing)**

HU 3900-E103  INQUIRY SEMINAR: AM LIT. FACT-BASED FICTION
Ljungquist, Kent P. (contact info: kpl@wpi.edu, office SL 223D)
CRN: 30100
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 endeavor: the immigrant experience, the realm of art and artists, the domain of economics and business, and the arena of politics and power. Readings will be selected from such fact-based novels as Willa Cather’s *My Antonia* or *A Lost Lady*, 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.

**E 2015 History**

HU 3900-E101  INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY
Bullock, Steven C. (contact info: sbullock@wpi.edu, office SL 235)
CRN: 30005
This Inquiry Seminar in History and American Studies 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 (perhaps made-up) 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.

**E 2015 Music**

HU 3910-E102  PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: MUSIC IN MULTIMEDIA AND GAME ENVIRONMENTS
Manzo, VJ (contact info: vjmanzo@wpi.edu, office AH 209)
CRN: 30195
This seminar focuses on interactive music environments in multimedia installations and game engines. Existing projects will be examined and students will work in teams in a variety of ways on a music oriented gaming project including programming and designing music gaming environments in Unity 3D, creating text and video narrative for these environments, graphic and 3D modeling for game levels and other elements, developing virtual instruments within the gaming world and more.

HU 3900-E105  INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC AND SOCIETY
Shim, Eunmi (contact info: eshim@wpi.edu, office AH 211)
CRN: 30007
The seminar will examine the intersection of music, culture, and society, focusing on the issues of gender, sexuality, race, and class. It will expose students to the interconnected nature between these socio-political issues and music from historical, social, and cross-cultural perspectives. Students will choose a topic for an individual paper from a wide variety of styles of music, including Western classical music, popular music, and non-Western music, and conduct independent research on their topics.

HU 3910-E101  PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC PERFORMANCE
Weeks, Douglas G. (contact info: dweeks@wpi.edu, office AH 212)
CRN: 30008
A 2015 Art/Art History/Architecture

HU 3910-A03 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ILLUSTRATE OR ANIMATE YOUR MAJOR
Farbrook, Joseph H. (contact info: farbrook@wpi.edu, office SL 207)
CRN: 13376
For this practicum, you will create an illustration series or animated short that pertains to your major field of study. This may take the form of a cellular process visualization for BIO majors, a series of design illustrations for ME, character sheets for IMGD, a system visualization for RBE, ECE, PH, AE, for example. It is important that you come prepared with artistic and/or animation skills for this practicum. This will be an exciting and relevant way for you to apply your artistic skills to your technological studies.

A 2015 English (see also Writing)

HU 3900-A10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: DEVELOPING TEACHING GAME
Boudreau, Kristin (contact info: kboudreau@wpi.edu office SL 129)
CRN: 11150
This Inquiry Seminar will focus on the development of an interactive role-playing classroom game for teaching engineering within a complex social context. The general theme and provisional name of the game is “Women, Water, and Development in the Middle Atlas Region of Morocco.” By the beginning of A term we will have a more focused theme, including a specific technical problem of water access situated within a political, economic, social, and cultural context that complicates any purely technical approach. Students in this seminar will develop character roles and game activities for this pedagogical game, with the result that game play immerses players in the history of water rights in the Arab world, the culture and history of Morocco and North Africa, and the particular challenges of this region, including political, technical, social, economic, and cultural factors. Seminar students will work together to invent opportunities for game players to take part in solving the challenge of water access, including scenarios for debate and particular game features. At the same time, each student will individually develop character identities with specific roles and objectives (based in part on data sets and primary source materials provided) and will identify relevant secondary source materials for their character roles. At the end of the term, each student will have contributed to the game and will also have written a reflective essay on the experience. When complete, the game will be piloted in a WPI Great Problems Seminar and in courses at other universities. This course is appropriate for students who have achieved depth in history, philosophy, English or writing, international studies, digital media, or Arabic. Other disciplinary or topical focuses may also be appropriate; check with Professor Boudreau.

HU 3900-A06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LIT: GOTHIC FICTION
Ljungquist, Kent P. (contact info: kpl@wpi.edu office SL 223D)
CRN: 13204
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 Shirley Jackson and Stephen King. 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.

A 2015 History

HU 3900-A11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MOROCCO PROJECT CENTER
OFF CAMPUS
Addison, W.A. Bland (contact info: addison@wpi.edu, office SL 238)
CRN: 11571
This Inquiry Seminar in History and American Studies 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 (perhaps made-up) 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-A05  INQUIRY SEMINAR:  AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM
Hanlan, James P. (contact info: jphanlan@wpi.edu, office SL 028)
CRN:  11019
This Inquiry Seminar is intended as the culminating experience in Humanities and Arts for students who have completed five courses in Humanities and Art, 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.

HU 3900-A08  INQUIRY SEMINAR:  HISTORY OF SPORT
Hansen, Peter H. (contact info: phansen@wpi.edu, office SL 107)
CRN #:  10512
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-A03  INQUIRY SEMINAR:  THE SPACE RACE YEARS
Spanagel, David I. (contact info: spanagel@wpi.edu, office SL 239)
CRN:  13338
Description: This inquiry seminar in the history and politics of rocketry and space exploration will examine how science, technology, and national pride got bound up together during the Cold War. Weekly meetings will be devoted to uncovering and understanding the varying perspectives of key historical figures who were active in (or who provided contemporary commentary about) the competition. Students will write brief individual papers analyzing scholarly historical works that have analyzed the space race; 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. [NOTE: Any students who have acquired HUA "depth" in history, history of science/technology, or global history are invited to apply for a spot in this inquiry seminar. Aerospace engineering majors may find this seminar a particularly valuable humanities and arts project experience. Preference will be extended to anyone who successfully completes any regular 3000-level History “topics” seminar course prior to the inquiry seminar.]

A 2015 Music

HU 3910-A02  PRACTICUM:  MUSIC TECHNOLOGY:  MULTICHANNEL AUDIO AND COMPOSITION TECHNIQUES
Bianchi, Frederick (contact info: bianchi@wpi.edu office AH205)
CRN:  11141
The Practicum explores, investigates, and researches the practice and implications of multi-channel audio sound playback. Of particular interest is furthering our knowledge of the aesthetic, psychoacoustic, perceptual, and technical aspects of the discipline.

A 2015 Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900-A04  INQUIRY SEMINAR:  ETHICS AND DEMOCRACY
Eddy, Bethel L. (contact info: bleddy@wpi.edu, office SL 223E)
CRN:  11018
This seminar will allow students to pursue an independent research project in the social ethics of democracy; this would be inclusive of both secular ethical traditions and religious ethical traditions as subject matter to pursue. What sorts of skills are needed for democratic citizenship? Is democracy dead or dying in the United States? What would it take to sustain our democratic traditions? What in the world was going on with the Occupy movement? Is civil disobedience a good thing or an action to be discouraged in a healthy democracy? How do democratic ethics square with religiously-derived ethics? What are the sources of civic morality? These are just some aspects of this subject that might be addressed in research projects, but there are many other directions to take individual projects aside from those mentioned here.

HU 3900-A09  INQUIRY SEMINAR:  QUESTIONS OF JUSTICE AND WHO CAN GO WHERE
Smith, Ruth L. (contact info: rsmith@wpi.edu, office SL 108)
CRN:  10626
In this seminar we’ll address a range of questions about rules of entry and freedom of passageways. Our common and individual reading will incorporate material from moral, religious, legal, political, environmental and cultural analyses. Individual researched and written projects, developed in consultation with the advisor, can proceed from a philosophical, religious studies or rhetorical
angle and can take a variety of directions, such as rights and rites of membership and access, racialized or gendered terms of prohibition, immigration and migration, affirmative action, boundary markers of sacred, civil, or natural environments.

**A 2015 Writing (see also English)**

**B 2015 Art/Art History/Architecture**

**HU 3910-B02 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ILLUSTRATE OR ANIMATE YOUR MAJOR**
Farbrook, Joseph H. (contact info: farbrook@wpi.edu, office SL 207)
CRN: 13377
For this practicum, you will create an illustration series or animated short that pertains to your major field of study. This may take the form of a cellular process visualization for BIO majors, a series of design illustrations for ME, character sheets for IMGD, a system visualization for RBE, ECE, PH, AE, for example. It is important that you come prepared with artistic and/or animation skills for this practicum. This will be an exciting and relevant way for you to apply your artistic skills to your technological studies.

**B 2015 English (see also Writing)**

**HU 3900-B02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: DICKENS'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL**
Brattin, Joel J. (contact info: jjb@wpi.edu, office SL 024)
CRN: 11034
Charles Dickens's first, best, and most popular Christmas book, *A Christmas Carol* (1843), had a profound effect on the culture of Victorian England, and continues to exert a strong influence on our own. Participants in this Inquiry Seminar in British Literature will study the book itself, and also its context, examining Dickens's manuscript for the book, and his adaption of the book for the Victorian stage. 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 *A Christmas Carol*.

**HU 3910-B01 PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY**
Hanlan, Erika A. (contact info: erikastone@wpi.edu, office SL 018)
CRN: 10573
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.

**HU 3900-B01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AM LIT. FACT-BASED FICTION**
Ljungquist, Kent P. (contact info: kpl@wpi.edu, office SL 223D)
CRN:
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 endeavor: the immigrant experience, the realm of art and artists, the domain of economics and business, and the arena of politics and power. Readings will be selected from such fact-based novels as Willa Cather’s *My Antonia* or *A Lost Lady*, 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 3910-B03 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ACTING, DIRECTING, DRAMATURGY OR MAJOR PRODUCTION IN THE LITTLE THEATRE (6)**
Vick, Susan (contact info: svick@wpi.edu, office SL 017)
CRN: 11344
In this practicum qualified undergraduates have the opportunity to act, direct, work in dramaturgy, or otherwise artistically participate in the annual major B term production performed in the Little Theatre. For more information, please contact the professor.

**HU 3900-B08 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PLAYWRIGHTS’ WORKSHOP**
ZINN, JEFF (contact info: svick@wpi.edu, office SL 017)
CRN #: 10628
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!

**B 2015 History**

**HU 3900-B12 INQUIRY SEMINAR: GLOBAL STUDIES**
Addison, W.A. Bland (contact info: addison@wpi.edu, office SL 238)
CRN: 13520
In this Inquiry Seminar students will write a research paper on some aspect of the history and/or culture of the WPI project center location where they completed a project or where they hope to do project work. The research papers will focus on historical and/or cultural phenomena that are important to understanding the mentality and values of the people in these locales. This Inquiry Seminar is interdisciplinary, accepting students in any appropriate areas of depth.

**HU 3900-B06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM**
Hanlan, James P. (contact info: jphanlan@wpi.edu, office SL 028)
CRN: 13341
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.

**HU 3900-B14 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM**
Hanlan, James P. (contact info: jphanlan@wpi.edu, office SL 028)
CRN: 13917
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.

**HU 3900-B04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF AIRPLANES**
Robertson, Thomas B. (contact info: tbr@wpi.edu, office SL 234)
CRN #: 11037
In this seminar, students will explore the environmental and social history of air travel in the United States, exploring how this technology has changed American geography and culture, and how American society has shaped this technology. The focus will be environmental and technological (not military), but broadly construed. After a brief introduction to environmental history, the history of technology, and transportation history, we will examine air travel from several different angles, include technological development, resource use, geographical changes, and culture. Students will write independent research papers. A 3000 level history seminar is highly recommended.

**HU 3900-B05 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WATERWAYS HISTORY**
Spanagel, David I. (contact info: spanagel@wpi.edu, office SL 239)
CRN: 11038
This inquiry seminar in the history of science and technology will examine the global development of waterways. Weekly meetings will be devoted to uncovering and understanding various attempts to develop a scientific understanding of the ecosystems, physical geography, and geodynamics of waterways (estuaries, rivers, lakes, canals, the ocean). Attention will also be paid to the changing technologies of water management, and to their environmental, legal, military, political, and social consequences. Students will write brief individual papers analyzing contemporary scholarly works in the history of waterways science and technology. They 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. [NOTE: Any students who have acquired HUA "depth" in history, history of science/technology, or global history are invited to apply for a spot in this inquiry seminar. Environmental engineering majors may find this seminar a particularly valuable humanities and arts project experience. Preference will be extended to anyone who successfully completes any regular 3000-level History “topics” seminar course prior to the inquiry seminar.]
**B 2015 Music**

**HU 3900-B04  INQUIRY SEMINAR: PRODUCER AS COMPOSER**

Barton, Scott (contact info: sdbarton@wpi.edu, AH 208)
CRN: 10703

In this course, each student will produce, compose, record and mix an EP of his own music (three to four songs). We will devote time to higher-level ideas involved in music production and composition, specific production techniques, and project presentations. We will consider what a music producer does and what a composer does through reading, discussion and listening. We will explore the spaces where the producer and the composer overlap in the context of modern music making. We will consider the aesthetics of modern recordings in a variety of genres so that our own musical choices will be more thoughtful. Because it is assumed that students have familiarity with at least one DAW platform, we will spend time furthering our abilities and knowledge in specific musical and production areas such as composing rhythms, form, EQ, compression, and sound synthesis. Ultimately, students will use this information to compose and produce EP of their own music. This will involve composing, orchestrating, arranging performers, recording, sound design, mixing, and mastering. Each student will present her project each week, which will then be discussed by the class. In seven weeks, students will complete their own EP.

**HU 3900-B07  INQUIRY SEMINAR: JAZZ HISTORY DATABASE**

Falco, Richard G. (contact info: rfalco@wpi.edu, AH 210)
CRN: 10627

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.

**B 2015 Philosophy/Religion**

**HU 3900-B11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY**

Gottlieb, Roger S. (contact info: gottlieb@wpi.edu, office SL 004)
CRN: 13271

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-B03  INQUIRY SEMINAR: CONSCIOUS OBJECTS, OBJECTIFIED HUMANS**

McWeeny, Jennifer (contact info: jmcweeny@wpi.edu, office SL 330)
CRN: 11035

At the same time that machines are becoming more and more intelligent and sensitive, humans are arguably becoming more and more “robotic” and “thing-like.” This capstone project investigates the strength of the lines dividing humans and machines, people and objects, and nature and artifice. Possible questions for study include: What does it mean to be “objectified”? Are humans the only beings capable of being objectified? What does it mean to be conscious, or emotionally attached, or free? Are humans the only beings capable of possessing these qualities? Which kinds of beings are morally responsible? What is the relationship between a given economic structure and the kinds of beings who inhabit it? What kinds of technology are de-humanizing? What is the difference between dehumanization and objectification? Project participants will be introduced to a variety of philosophical theories relevant to these themes. They will then have the opportunity to conduct independent research on a topic of their choosing within this general frame. The seminar will culminate in the creation of a project paper, which will be presented to and reviewed by the author’s peers.

**HU 3900-B10  INQUIRY SEMINAR: SPECIES VIOLENCE**

Sanbonmatsu, John (contact info: js@wpi.edu, office SL 023)
CRN: 10703

This course explores our complex and troubled relationship with the other conscious beings we share the earth with, nonhuman animals. Through seminar discussion, group readings, and a final research project on a topic of the student's choice, the course explores such topics as the phenomenology of animal being-in-the-world, speciesism as a mode of production, theories of animal rights, and human-animal relations in the context of ideology, power, violence, and citizenship. Where does the belief in human supremacy—a natural right to dominate other beings—come from? What ethical duties do we owe to other animals? Students will
do common readings in cognitive ethology, animal ethics, and critical animal studies, developing a portfolio of short essays on our relations with other beings, then develop an original research paper on a topic of their choosing.

**B 2015 Writing (see also English)**

HU 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR: INQUIRIES INTO EFFECTIVE WRITING AND RHETORICAL STRATEGIES

Madan, Ryan (contact info: ryanmadan@wpi.edu office SL 02)

CRN: 20821

Students will develop a research question concerning communication strategies within a rhetorical context and develop a method to answer that question. Students interested in rhetoric might consider using a method developed in rhetorical criticism. Students who would like to closely link this to their major might consider asking questions such as “How can we communicate genetic testing to a general public?” or “How do chemists share information with one another?” Students interested in visual or digital communication can ask questions about communication strategies in these primarily non-verbal areas. Ultimately, projects will take the form of a seminar paper (15-30 pages) that has a developed and replicable method for answering a research question in writing and rhetoric.

**C 2016 Art/Art History/Architecture**

HU 3910-C02 PRACTICUM IN HUA: DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM PRODUCTION

Bigonah, Roshanak (contact info: rbigonah@wpi.edu, office SL 031)

CRN: 20837

This practicum focuses on the process of producing a short documentary video. The genres of short film, documentary, and promotional video will be discussed. The students will develop their own proposal, scripts, and storyboards and produce their own documentary videos. Topics such as visual communication, storytelling, and effective audio and non-linear video editing techniques will be explored. This course is appropriate for students with ‘depth’ in film-related coursework or art.

HU 3900-C02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: METHODS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE: MODERN ARCHITECTURE—WHAT WAS IT?

Samson, M. David (contact info: samson@wpi.edu, SL 014)

CRN: 20401

This Inquiry Seminar is structured around the architecture and planning works and projects since 1890 that rejected the copying of past architecture and city-making. It will let students explore formal, technical, institutional, biographical and social-history methods in architectural history, and offer paper topics in modern, proto-modern, American and local architecture.

**C 2016 English (see also Writing)**

HU 3900-C11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: SCIENCE FICTION FILM

Cocola, James (contact info: jcocola@wpi.edu, office SL 26)

CRN: 22292

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 impact of a range of science fiction films from Georges Méliès's _Le Voyage dans la lune_ (1902) through Ridley Scott’s _The Martian_ (2015), looking also to works in related film genres such as the action 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-C07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: UNCREATIVE WRITING

Harmon, Joshua (contact info: jharmon@wpi.edu, office SL 022)

CRN: 20840

This seminar will explore poetry/poetic texts that use or abuse other texts and/or processes as the basis for their own riffs, ripoffs, overlays, erasures, and other destructive forms of attention. Some commentators have called this sort of writing—which often literally disfigures someone else’s creative work as a way to make new work—“obliterator.” We’ll call it “uncreative writing,” to highlight the fact that this writing relies not on creative inspiration or imagination in their usual senses, but rather on approaches that may range from the systematic to the aesthetic, from preordained process to composition by quotation. What happens when one overwrites a filled page and returns it to a state closer to the blank page where writing is often considered to begin? What roles do source texts play in the outcomes of such uncreative writing? We’ll look at examples of erasures and collages to try to answer such questions, as well as to help us with more ink-handed concerns about how to use these authors’ works to inspire our own. Each week, we’ll focus our attention on a reading or readings, then move to a discussion of your own uncreative writing—while also making time for a little writing in class.
HU 3900-C04  INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERARY UTOPIAS
Mott, Wesley T. (contact info: wmott@wpi.edu, office SL 236)
CRN: 20555
This inquiry seminar in Literature is appropriate for students interested in American Studies (e.g., courses in history and/or philosophy/religion as well as American literature). Literary utopias pervade American literature, expressing visions of the good life and the ideal society. Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Blithedale Romance*, a semi-autobiographical novel about the Brook Farm community at West Roxbury (1841-1847), provides the base for our exploration of tensions between individual and communal values, and conflicts between perfectionism and pragmatism. Students will write papers on the novel and on its social and historical contexts.

C 2016 History

HU 3900-C06  INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICA'S WARTIME LEADERSHIP
Baller, William A. (contact info: baller@wpi.edu, SL 408C)
CRN: 20440
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-C12  INQUIRY SEMINAR: CARS AND AMERICAN CAR CULTURE
Clark, Constance (contact info: cclark@wpi.edu, office SL 408D)
CRN: 20498
This Inquiry Seminar in the History of Science and Technology examines the history of the influence of private automobiles on American life: their cultural ramifications; the ways in which they influence where we live and how we spend our time; their roles in our national economy; and the ways in which they have altered our environment and the ways we live in it. In addition, we may explore changing attitudes toward transportation and urban spaces. Students will choose individual projects focused on aspects of these larger issues to research, drawing on primary source materials as well as on the growing historical literature on this topic, and will write and revise papers analyzing what they have found. 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-C16  INQUIRY SEMINAR: DDT, SILENT SPRING AND AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT
Cullon, Joseph F. (contact info: jcullon@wpi.edu, office SL 241)
CRN: 20986
In 1948, the developer of DDT won the Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine. In 1962, Rachel Carson attacked the pesticide for its deleterious environmental effects in the pages of *Silent Spring*, giving force and focus to the modern American environmental movement. In 1972, the agricultural use of DDT was banned in the United States. Yet, DDT continued to be manufactured and exported as part of US-supported international development projects addressing problems of disease and famine. This seminar addresses the myriad issues surrounding the balance of risks and benefits of DDT within and beyond America’s borders. Reading will balance of primary and secondary sources, while students will write a series of short papers and a long interpretative essay on a topic relating to the on-going controversies surrounding DDT.

HU 3900-C15  INQUIRY SEMINAR: EMPIRE IN HISTORY
Hansen, Peter H. (contact info: phansen@wpi.edu, office SL 107)
CRN #: 20729
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-C05  INQUIRY SEMINAR: TECHNOLOGY, RESOURCES, AND THE POPULATION BOMB
Robertson, Thomas B. (contact info: tbr@wpi.edu, office SL 234)
CRN #: 21779
Does the planet have the material resources to sustain the world’s growing population? Will technology add to the problem or help solve it? This is one of the central questions of the 21st century, but it is an issue that has concerned scholars over much of the last century. In this history seminar, we will look back at the conversation about population and resources to look for how people in early decades have approached the question. We will discover that seemingly straightforward issues such as demographic change get quickly wrapped up with sensitive issues of race, class, gender, sex, international relations and much more. The seminar will be organized around weekly readings and writing. Students will write independent research papers.
HU 3910-C01 PRACTICUM HUA: MUSICAL ROBOTICS
Barton, Scott (contact info: sdbarton@wpi.edu, AH 208)
CRN: 20839
In this course, we will design, build and compose for musical robots. In the design component of the project, we will research acoustic and mechanical principles of traditional instruments as well as of the technologies used in more current systems. We will consider the strengths of these designs, how they can be improved and how they can be modified to explore new musical territory. We will imagine musical gestures that we want our instrument(s) to be able to perform, paying particular attention to those gestures that are idiomatic and unique to machines. In the building component of the project, we will fabricate parts, design circuits and program the code necessary to realize our instruments. Each student will then compose a piece for the robotic/mechatronic instrument(s) that illuminates its expressive capabilities. Students should have experience in both music and at least one of the core robotics disciplines (electrical and computer engineering, computer science, mechanical engineering).

HU 3910-C03 PRACTICUM: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: MULTI-CHANNEL ALGORITHMIC MUSIC COMPOSITION
Bianchi, Frederick (contact info: bianchi@wpi.edu office AH205)
CRN: 22294
The seminar will investigate various processes, methods, and strategies used for creating multi-channel music. This will include interacting in real time with multi-channel sound systems used for sound design, sound installations, and other creative applications. The seminar will also explore the relationship between sonification, automation, aesthetics, and psychoacoustics when composing for 40 channels of discrete audio.

HU 3900-C19 INQUIRY SEMINAR: RICHARD WAGNER
Jonathan Blumhofer (contact info: ***** , office AH 215) See Professor Weeks AH 212
CRN #: 22425
From Bayreuth to Bugs Bunny, The Adventures of Robin Hood to Lord of the Rings, the halls of Neuschwanstein to the chambers of the Knesset, Richard Wagner’s music, ideas, writings, and legacy have gone a long way to shaping (or at least deeply influencing) many elements of our modern world. This is a class that aims to explore the many oftentimes contradictory sides of the man, composer, and philosopher by examining his writings and analyzing several of his major works. Of particular interest is his influence as it pertains to music and other artistic disciplines, politics, and race. Classes will focus on one main theme per week and, for the final project, students will write a paper on an approved topic that they will also present to the class.

HU 3900-C01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: JAZZ HISTORY
Falco, Richard G. (contact info: rfalco@wpi.edu, office AH 210)
CRN #: 20399
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: MUSIC AND SOCIETY
Shim, Eunmi (contact info: eshim@wpi.edu, office AH 211)
CRN: 20738
The seminar will examine the intersection of music, culture, and society, focusing on the issues of gender, sexuality, race, and class. It will expose students to the interconnected nature between these socio-political issues and music from historical, social, and cross-cultural perspectives. Students will choose a topic for an individual paper from a wide variety of styles of music, including Western classical music, popular music, and non-Western music, and conduct independent research on their topics.

HU 3910-C04 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ARRANGING
Weeks, Douglas G. (contact info: dweeks@wpi.edu, office AH 212)
CRN: 22371

C 2016 Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900-C09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY
Sanbonmatsu, John (contact info: js@wpi.edu, office SL 023)
CRN: 20441
This seminar considers the epistemology, phenomenology, ethics, and politics of technology. Is technology neutral, or does it have a politics? Are we losing control over our artifacts, becoming "tools of our tools," as Thoreau put it? How is computerization changing
what it means to be human? Students will do shared readings in the philosophy of technology, then produce a portfolio of essays, including a final research paper on a topic of their choice. Sample research topics from past classes include: the "gender" of machinic technology; the ecological consequences of the automobile; the ethics and politics of drone warfare; artificial intelligence; the role of capitalism in shaping scientific priorities; and the ethics of biomedical research, among others.

HU 3900-C19 INQUIRY SEMINAR: What and How We See
Smith, Ruth L. (contact info: rsmith@wpi.edu, office SL 108)
CRN: 22293
This seminar is prompted by arguments that notions and experiences of seeing are changing and that we have some ways to think about that change from current and earlier ideas about image. We’ll read a collection of essays, “Images in the 21st Century” along with sources from your individual research topics, selected in consultation with the advisor. To develop your written project, you can emphasize the 21st century (digital or otherwise) or turn to the recent or distant past. Your interest may be in artistic image, cultural image, religious or political image, or the seeing of places in landscapes and architectures or the virtual. Analysis will emphasize development of philosophical, religious, political and rhetorical claims about the powers and effects of visual argument and expression.

C 2016 Writing (see also English)

D 2016 Art/Art History/Architecture

HU 3910-D05 PRACTICUM IN HUA: VISUAL PERSUASION
Bigonah, Roshanak, (contact info: rbigonah@wpi.edu, office SL 031)
CRN: 20845
In this practicum, students will produce a collection of art projects such as photography, 3D modeling, or non-digital/ traditional arts to promote an idea, a product, or a cause. Topics such as research, marketing, as well as examining the elements and principles of arts and visual culture could be integrated in this practicum to make an effective persuasive presentation. This course is appropriate for students with 'depth' in either traditional or digital art.

HU 3910-D06 PRACTICUM: NATURE, DESIGN, and ART
Keller, Marie T. (contact info: mkeller@wpi.edu SL106)
CRN: 22215
Nature has been a source of inspiration for artists throughout history. In this practicum, students will study forms and patterns found in nature and use their observations to solve design problems and create artwork. Related art and architecture will be reviewed for additional inspiration. The goal for each student is to develop a body of work suitable for professional presentation. Prospective students with traditional skills are encouraged to apply, as are students with non-traditional skills.

HU 3910-D09 PRACTICUM IN HUA: THE FIGURE IN MOTION
Reinhardt, Jo Ellen (contact info: jreinhardt@wpi.edu, office SL 106)
CRN: 22520
In this practicum students will design a body of work consisting of four cohesive pieces which includes a figure. The figure may be human, animal, or an imaginary character. The work should display the figure in motion in four different positions or stages. Background settings may be included. Students may choose their medium including graphite, charcoal, paint, or digital. All materials and supplies are the responsibility of the student.

HU 3910-D01 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MIXED MEDIA FILMMAKING
Rosenstock, Joshua (contact info: jrosen@wpi.edu, office SL 208)
CRN: 20402
This practicum focuses on the production of original short films that combine live action with CG elements. Students will work in teams to develop scripts, shoot video, create 3d models and sets, animate characters, and edit together the visual and sonic elements of their production into a short film. Topics such as visual storytelling, artistic style, directing actors, video compositing, and green screening will be considered. Students should have previously completed Art of Animation I, or have equivalent experience in 2d or 3d animation techniques.
This studio art practicum will introduce students to techniques and practices in the creation of works of light art. Students will explore the application of creative lighting technology to objects, spaces, and fashion, culminating in the creation of an original work of electronic light art. Topics may include light painting, working with LEDs and electroluminescent wire, 3D printing, programming for art with Arduino and Processing, and basic electronics skills.

HU 3900-D04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: COLLECTIONS OF WAM (Worcester Art Museum)
Samson, M. David (contact info: samson@wpi.edu, SL 014)
CRN: 20407
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.

D 2016 English (see also Writing)

HU 3900-D06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: CREATIVE WRITING: SCI-FI, HORROR, AND FANTASY
Ephraim, Michelle K. (contact info: ephraim@wpi.edu, office SL 237)
CRN: 10501
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-D23 INQUIRY SEMINAR: UNCREATIVE WRITING
Harmon, Joshua (contact info: jharmon@wpi.edu, office SL 022)
CRN: 22214
This seminar will explore poetry/poetic texts that use or abuse other texts and/or processes as the basis for their own riffs, ripoffs, overlays, erasures, and other destructive forms of attention. Some commentators have called this sort of writing—which often literally disfigures someone else’s creative work as a way to make new work—“obliteration.” We’ll call it “uncreative writing,” to highlight the fact that this writing relies not on creative inspiration or imagination in their usual senses, but rather on approaches that may range from the systematic to the aesthetic, from preordained process to composition by quotation. What happens when one overwrites a filled page and returns it to a state closer to the blank page where writing is often considered to begin? What roles do source texts play in the outcomes of such uncreative writing? We’ll look at examples of erasures and collages to try to answer such questions, as well as to help us with more ink-handed concerns about how to use these authors’ works to inspire our own. Each week, we’ll focus our attention on a reading or readings, then move to a discussion of your own uncreative writing—while also making time for a little writing in class.

HU 3900-D07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE: STUDIES IN AMERICAN SELF-RELIANCE
Mott, Wesley T. (contact info: wmott@wpi.edu, office SL 236)
CRN: 20443
This inquiry seminar in Literature is appropriate for students interested in American Studies (e.g., courses in history and/or philosophy/religion as well as American literature). Ever since Ralph Waldo Emerson’s famous essay “Self-Reliance” (1841), that concept has been regarded in the U.S. and abroad as a defining American trait. Used at points in our history to justify predatory economic practices and military ventures, the concept is sometimes criticized (as is Emerson) for undermining social justice and a sense of community. After exploring what Emerson actually meant by the term, students will select and pursue a historical context of self-reliance (such as politics, religion, social reform, international relations, or other writers who responded to Emerson) to better understand the far-reaching implications of this core national ideal.

HU 3910-D04 PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY
Hanlan, Erika A. (contact info: erikastone@wpi.edu, office SL 018)
CRN: 20409
This Practicum in Theatre Technology will involve participants in the rehearsal and staging of the 34th annual New Voices festival of original works, a collaboration of Humanities and Arts, Drama/Theatre, and Masque. 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.
HU 3900-D14 INQUIRY SEMINAR: NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN AMERICAN LITERATURE
Schachterle, Lance E. (contact info: les@wpi.edu, office SL 027)
CRN: 20641
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 3910-D02 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ACTING, DIRECTING, DRAMATURGY FOR NEW VOICES (6)
Vick, Susan (contact info: svick@wpi.edu, office SL 017)
CRN: 20732
In this practicum qualified undergraduates have the opportunity to act, direct, or work in other creative endeavors on the annual New Voices annual original play festival performed in D term in the Little Theatre.

D 2016 History

HU 3900-D01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WORLD HISTORY
Addison, W.A. Bland (contact info: addison@wpi.edu, office SL 238)
CRN: 20404
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-D18 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY
Baller, William A. (contact info: baller@wpi.edu, SL 408C)
CRN: 20860
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-D20 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE HOLOCAUST AND WORLD WAR II
Baller, William A. (contact info: baller@wpi.edu, office SL 408C)
CRN: 20884
This seminar will focus on Hitler’s war against the Jews. Topics will include the origins and progress of the Holocaust, limited efforts among the Allies to assist its victims, and ways the event still reverberates throughout the world, including Holocaust denial. Students will read Holocaust memoirs as well as recent scholarly literature on the topic. A WPI professor who lived under Nazi and communist regimes will assist the seminar as a guest lecturer.

HU 3900-D16 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY
Bullock, Steven C. (contact info: sbullock@wpi.edu, office SL 235)
CRN: 20735
This Inquiry Seminar in History and American Studies 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 (perhaps made-up) 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-D03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF POP SCIENCE
Clark, Constance (contact info: cclark@wpi.edu, office SL 408D)
CRN: 20406
This inquiry seminar in the History of Science and Technology will explore the history of American popular science, science controversies, and the relationship of science, technology and the media. Students will individually examine focused aspects of that history: individual projects might focus on some form of popular science or science fiction; on media coverage of a particular science controversy; or on representations of science and technology in the media at some period in our history. We will draw on primary source materials, informed by study of 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-D10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION
Cullon, Joseph F. (contact info: jcullon@wpi.edu, office Sl 241)
CRN #: 20445
This seminar examines the origins of distinct programs of engineering education in the nineteenth century and their evolution at the start of the twentieth century. While our discussions will approach the topic from national and international perspectives, our
course work will take advantage of the history and archives of WPI. The Institute’s history then becomes the lens through which we explore larger themes in the history in engineering education. These larger themes include the evolving epistemologies of engineering as a distinct practice and profession; the principles, ideas, and curricular approaches to educating engineers; the debate over theory and practice in engineering education; and the question over the place of humanistic or liberal inquiry at technical universities. Students will write both a short analytical essay on the relationship between theory and practice in engineering practice in the nineteenth-century and a longer interpretative paper on the on a topic of their choice using WPI’s archives and special collections.

HU 3900-D19 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ASIAN HISTORY
Li, Haihong (contact info: manchugege@gmail.com, office SL 408B)
CRN: 20871
This Inquiry Seminar in Asian history will focus on national identity formation in the age of nation-states. Questions that could be explored include: What is modernity? What makes a place a nation? What is the interplay of religion and nationalism? How does a nation-state maintain its identity in the age of globalization? What role does the internet play in the formation of contemporary nationalism? Students can focus on any country in East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, or Central Asia. Common readings will provide a foundation for individual exploration of specific research questions. The seminar is appropriate for students with a background in world or Asian history or Chinese language.

2016 Music

HU 3900-D22 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MILLENNIAL MUSIC
Jonathan Blumhofer (contact info: ***** , office AH 215) See Professor Weeks AH 212
CRN #: 22426
More than any other period in music history, the 20th century bore witness to tectonic changes in how music was written, consumed – and even what the very definition of music is. “Millenial Music” focuses especially on composers and trends in “classical” music from 1980 to the present. We’ll examine topics such as spectralism and Minimalism, discuss and listen to the music of a wide range of composers (from John Adams and Julia Wolfe to Kaija Saariaho and Magnus Lindberg to Meredith Monk and Hans Abrahamson and many more in between), and try to place it all in some sort of context. The aim of this class is to dive into, in a focused, intense way, the huge body and diversity of recent and contemporary music. For the final project, students will write a paper on an approved topic (composer(s), stylistic movements, etc.) that they will also present to the class.

HU 3910-D07 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC IN MULTIMEDIA AND GAMING ENVIRONMENTS
Manzo, V.J. (contact info: vjmanzo@wpi.edu, office AH 209)
CRN: 20844
This seminar focuses on interactive music environments in multimedia installations and gaming engines. Existing projects will be examined and students will work in teams in a variety of ways on a music oriented gaming project including programming and designing music gaming environments in Unity 3D, creating text and video narrative for these environments, graphic and 3D modeling for game levels and other elements, developing virtual instruments within the gaming world and more.

HU 3910-D11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC AND SOCIETY
Shim, Eunmi (contact info: eshim@wpi.edu, office AH 211)
CRN: 20446
The seminar will examine the intersection of music, culture, and society, focusing on the issues of gender, sexuality, race, and class. It will expose students to the interconnected nature between these socio-political issues and music from historical, social, and cross-cultural perspectives. Students will choose a topic for an individual paper from a wide variety of styles of music, including Western classical music, popular music, and non-Western music, and conduct independent research on their topics.

HU 3910-D03 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC PERFORMANCE
Weeks, Douglas G. (contact info: dweeks@wpi.edu, office AH 212)
CRN: 20433

D 2016 Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900-D02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: BIOETHICS AND MEDICAL HUMANITIES
Eddy, Bethel L. (contact info: bleddy@wpi.edu, office SL 223E)
CRN: 20405
This seminar will allow students to pursue an independent research project in humanistic aspects of the life sciences and/or medicine. The seminar group will provide feedback and help to each seminar participant along the way. Projects may take a literary, film-based, ethical, philosophical, historical, anthropological or religious studies approach, though they are not limited by this list of
possibilities. Projects may also draw from the perspective of practitioners (such as researchers, doctors, nurses, therapists, etc.) or from the perspective of the ill patient or loved ones of the sufferer.

HU 3900-D17  INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE MEANING OF LIFE
Gottlieb, Roger S. (contact info: gottlieb@wpi.edu, office SL 004)
CRN: 20730
Why are we alive? What is the meaning of human existence? What is the good, right or best way to live? Does such a thing exist? For nearly 4000 years humans have been asking these questions, which might seem to be the most important questions anyone can ask. In this seminar we will examine a variety of traditional and contemporary answers embodied in philosophy, religion, spirituality, political theory, and literature. Students will generate their own responses by interacting with other views and reflecting on their own experiences and beliefs.

HU 3900-D12  INQUIRY SEMINAR: SELF AND NO-SELF
McWeeny, Jennifer (contact info: jmcreasey@wpi.edu office SL330)
CRN: 20447
Who am I? Do I have a self? If so, what is the self? Is mind the seat of the self or do our bodies make us who we are? Is the self-determined by its relations or is it an independent entity? How do dominant conceptions of gender, race, sexuality, class, and ability contribute to our notions of selfhood? Is there an abiding self or are the contours of the self always in flux? Do entities like animals, trees, computers, robots, genes, and ecosystems have selves? Does selfhood entail consciousness? Is moral consideration contingent on selfhood? Students may pursue these questions and others in the context of this capstone project, which will familiarize students with several philosophical and religious theories of the self that have been developed within diverse intellectual traditions including modern philosophy, postmodernism, neuroscience, phenomenology, Buddhism, Confucianism, and feminist theory, among others. Project participants will then be encouraged to design and pursue independent research on a topic of their choosing that speaks to this theme. The seminar will culminate in the creation of a project paper, which will be presented to and reviewed by the author’s peers.

D 2016 Writing (see also English)

HU 3900-D05  INQUIRY SEMINAR: INQUIRIES INTO HEALTH COMMUNICATION
Faber, Brenton (contact info: bdfaber@wpi.edu office SL 019)
CRN: 20408
Information and communication about healthcare is intimately affected by hospital policy, governmental policy, and patient actions and these actors alone suggest that healthcare can be predictable and manageable. Yet we know that healthcare is an unwieldy beast, costing the US billions of dollars without the high quality returns promised by investment. This inquiry seminar, then, asks students to ask questions concerning healthcare and find answers using qualitative and quantitative methods. Students will present findings from their research in a professional medium that best suits audience, topic, and purpose.

HU 3900-D08  INQUIRY SEMINAR: INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND COMPARATIVE CULTURAL COMMUNICATION
Boucher, Esther (contact info: efavour@wpi.edu office SL 109)
CRN: 20561
Rhetoric has always been concerned with conveying messages to particular audiences in order to get those audiences to think/feel/do something; however, these practices have always been predicated on knowing about your audience enough to have ethos (or shared character) with them. Contemporary communication complicates these practices because we are often called to communicate in a global workplace while simultaneously, our personal and political lives often intersect in global and geopolitical arenas. This seminar asks students to do a project in comparative cultural communication to talk about strategies and potential pitfalls in communication that crosses cultural boundaries. Most students have fulfilled this project with a comparative seminar paper.

HU 3900-D09  INQUIRY SEMINAR: WRITING IN YOUR DISCIPLINE
Higgins, Lorriane (contact info: ljdh@wpi.edu office SL 020)
CRN: 21040
Writing like an Historian is different from writing like a Computer Scientist, which is different from writing like a Mechanical Engineer. However, these writing and communication systems are knowable; they are emergent genres that belong to particular discourse fields. In this inquiry seminar, students will study the communication within their own disciplines to codify communication practices, discuss the rhetorical assumptions, and critique the practices of the field. The goal is to practice rhetorical analysis for both criticism and production, and the seminar paper and shorter projects will achieve this end.