

**2016-2017 Inquiry Seminars and Practicums in Humanities and Arts**  
(Days and times of courses will be available on the Registrar's website.)

Update: January 3, 2017

**Registration form:**

[https://www.wpi.edu/Images/CMS/HumanitiesArts/NEW\\_HUA\\_req\\_FILLABLE\\_registration\\_form\\_4-2016\\_ii.pdf](https://www.wpi.edu/Images/CMS/HumanitiesArts/NEW_HUA_req_FILLABLE_registration_form_4-2016_ii.pdf)

**E 2016 Art/Art History/Architecture**

**HU 3900-E103 INQUIRY SEMINAR: VIDEO ART**

Farbrook, Joseph H. (contact info: [farbrook@wpi.edu](mailto:farbrook@wpi.edu), office SL 207)

CRN: 30544

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

**HU 3900-E102 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AM LIT. FACT-BASED FICTION**

Ljungquist, Kent P. (contact info: [kpl@wpi.edu](mailto:kpl@wpi.edu), office SL 223D)

CRN: 30543

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 2016 History**

**HU 3900-E104 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY**

Bullock, Steven C. (contact info: [sbullock@wpi.edu](mailto:sbullock@wpi.edu), office SL 235)

CRN: 30557

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 2016 Music**

**HU 3910-E102 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC IN MULTIMEDIA AND GAMING ENVIRONMENTS**

Manzo, V.J. (contact info: [vjmanzo@wpi.edu](mailto:vjmanzo@wpi.edu), office AH 209)

CRN: 30674

This practicum 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-E202 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC IN MULTIMEDIA AND GAMING ENVIRONMENTS**

Manzo, V.J. (contact info: [vjmanzo@wpi.edu](mailto:vjmanzo@wpi.edu), office AH 209)

CRN: 30725

This practicum 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 3900-E101 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC AND SOCIETY**

Shim, Eunmi (contact info: [eshim@wpi.edu](mailto:eshim@wpi.edu), office AH 211)

CRN: 30005

The seminar will examine the intersection of music, culture, and society, focusing on the issues of race, gender, and sexuality. 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.

**HU 3910-E101 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC PERFORMANCE**  
Weeks, Douglas (contact info: [dweeks@wpi.edu](mailto:dweeks@wpi.edu), office AH 212)  
CRN: 30545

#### **A 2016**

**HU 3900-A07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: TRANSMEDIA STORYTELLING**  
Dodson, Leslie (contact info: [ldodson@wpi.edu](mailto:ldodson@wpi.edu), office SL 114)  
CRN: 15958

Transmedia storytelling involves creating a story world across multiple media platforms and forms of expression (physical, lyrical, visual, etc.) in order to generate a deeper level of audience engagement. In this Inquiry Seminar, students will learn to create story worlds by exploring the use of documentary and journalistic perspectives, and literary and other artistic representations to create layered and synchronized narratives on topics such as a question from a student's major discipline, a place that provokes interest or other issues in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Readings and related media will be selected to generate an understanding of emerging transmedia techniques as well as theories of visual perception and information networks.

Over the course of the seminar, students will develop the ability to produce transmedia story worlds related to their own projects or fields of interest and they will share production techniques with others in the class.

This seminar is suitable for students with depth in any discipline in the humanities.

#### **A 2016 Art/Art History/Architecture**

#### **A 2016 English (see also Writing)**

#### **A 2016 History**

**HU 3900-A05 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MOROCCO PROJECT CENTER**  
**OFF CAMPUS**  
Addison, W.A. Bland (contact info: [addison@wpi.edu](mailto:addison@wpi.edu), office SL 238)  
CRN: 15244

**HU 3900-A02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY**  
Bullock, Steven C. (contact info: [sbullock@wpi.edu](mailto:sbullock@wpi.edu), office SL 235)  
CRN: 11017

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-A04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM (Filled)**  
Hanlan, James P. (contact info: [jphanlan@wpi.edu](mailto: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 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-A01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF SPORT (Filled)**  
Hansen, Peter H. (contact info: [pahansen@wpi.edu](mailto:pahansen@wpi.edu), office SL 107)  
CRN #: 10626

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.

#### **A 2016 Music**

**HU 3910-A01 PRACTICUM: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: MULTICHANNEL AUDIO AND COMPOSITION TECHNIQUES**  
Bianchi, Frederick (contact info: [bianchi@wpi.edu](mailto:bianchi@wpi.edu) office AH205)  
CRN: 13376

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.

**HU 3910-A02 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC IN MULTIMEDIA AND GAMING ENVIRONMENTS**

Manzo, V.J. (contact info: [vjmanzo@wpi.edu](mailto:vjmanzo@wpi.edu), office AH 209)

CRN: 15245

This practicum 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.

**A 2016 Philosophy/Religion****HU 3900-A03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MONEY TALKS BUT WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

Smith, Ruth L. (contact info: [rsmith@wpi.edu](mailto:rsmith@wpi.edu), office SL 108)

CRN: 11018

We know that money talks, but what does it say: about goods, evils, human values and disvalues, obligations and desires, moral expressions of and effects on the human spirit? Philosophical and religious traditions struggle with money in associations with inequality, anxiety, political and spiritual corruption and also have been sources of sanction for acceptance of money. What can be exchanged – that is, given price? Everyone participates in shared reading. With advisor consultation, each person develops a project paper of researched inquiry and argument, for instance: gift exchange, charging interest, health care, social security, art ownership, insurance, campaign financing, class and social movements, slavery and trafficking, ascetic traditions. Depth: philosophy, religion, or rhetoric, with consideration for closely related depth areas. Come by to talk over any questions.

**A 2016 Writing (see also English)****B 2016 Art/Art History/Architecture****B 2016 English (see also Writing)****HU 3900-B04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MICROLITERATURE**

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

CRN: 13341

This seminar will consider extremely short literary forms including aphorisms, flash fiction, and haiku, and will also include attention to the collection of <http://www.americanantiquarian.org/minibooks.htm> at the American Antiquarian Society. Project options will include creative writing portfolios, critical essays, and digital humanities initiatives.

**HU 3910-B01 PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT**

Hanlan, Erika A. (contact info: [erikastone@wpi.edu](mailto: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 instructor.

**HU 3900-B06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE POETICS OF WALKING (Filled)**

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

CRN: 13585

Walking as a form of writing practice has a long tradition: "Poets," A.R. Ammons once noted, "not only do a lot of walking but talk about it in their poems." This seminar will consider various examples from this tradition—possibly including writers such as Basho, Hazlitt, Thoreau, Baudelaire, Woolf, Kafka, Jacobs, O'Hara, Mayer, Solnit, and various other contemporary poets and essayists. We will investigate the links between walking, thinking, and writing; between pedestrian trespass and literary trespass; and between walking and writing as forms of resistance to the culture of productivity. Students will write poems and/or essays inspired by their own walks during the term. Note that this seminar will require students to take walks both on- and especially off-campus, both during and outside of seminar time.

**HU 3910-B03 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ACTING, DIRECTING, DRAMATURGY FOR MAJOR PRODUCTION IN THE LITTLE THEATRE (6)**

Vick, Susan (contact info: [svick@wpi.edu](mailto: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-B03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PLAYWRIGHTS' WORKSHOP**

Ciaraldi, Michael (contact info: [svick@wpi.edu](mailto:svick@wpi.edu), office SL 017)

CRN #: 11035

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 2016 History****HU 3900-B02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WORLD HISTORY (Filled)**

Addison, W.A. Bland (contact info: [addison@wpi.edu](mailto:addison@wpi.edu), office SL 238)

CRN: 11034

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-B09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRANT LIVES**

Galante, John, (contact info: [jsgalante@wpi.edu](mailto:jsgalante@wpi.edu), office SL 234) (visit the HUA office SL 125 for details and the registration form)

CRN: 16294

This Inquiry Seminar will examine migration and immigrant experiences around the world and across periods of time. Students will select a historical or present-day case study for analytical examination through the placement of migration in political, economic, social and/or cultural contexts. Among the topics addressed will be: factors that drive migratory flows; characteristics of settlement, assimilation and discrimination; and relationships between immigrant communities and their homeland.

**B 2016 Music****HU 3900-B04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PRODUCER AS COMPOSER (Filled)**

Barton, Scott (contact info: [sdbarton@wpi.edu](mailto:sdbarton@wpi.edu), AH 208)

CRN: 11476

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 an 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-B05 INQUIRY SEMINAR: JAZZ HISTORY DATABASE**

Falco, Richard G. (contact info: [rfalco@wpi.edu](mailto: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](http://jazzhistorydatabase.com).

**B 2016 Philosophy/Religion****B 2016 Writing (see also English)****HU 3900-B07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HUMAN FACTORS OF DISEASE (limit 4 per term offered B & C)**

Faber, Brenton (contact info: [bdfaber@wpi.edu](mailto:bdfaber@wpi.edu), office SL 019)

CRN: 15553

Diseases tell us quite a bit about what it means to be human. Human behaviors have a complex association with disease emergence, prevention, severity, treatment, and mortality. In this seminar students will work from prior HUA courses, quantitative public health data sets, and the pathophysiology of a specific disease to better understand how human factors inform disease and on the flip side what these diseases tell us about what it means to be human. Students will present findings in a professional medium that best suits audience, topic, and purpose. The Humanities Seminar is appropriate for students seeking admission to medical or veterinary school, other health sciences graduate degrees, and graduate programs in the medical humanities.

HU 3900-B08 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EFFECTIVE WR/RHET STRA  
Faber, Brenton (contact info: [bdfaber@wpi.edu](mailto:bdfaber@wpi.edu), office SL 019)  
CRN: 13520

## **C & D 2017 inquiry seminar/practicums**

### **C 2017 Art/Art History/Architecture**

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

**Bigonah, Roshanak** (contact info: [rbigonah@wpi.edu](mailto: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 3910-C07 PRACTICUM IN HUA: 2D DESIGN TO 3D SCULPTURE**

**Gutierrez, Ed** (contact info: [ergutierrez@wpi.edu](mailto:ergutierrez@wpi.edu), office SL 206)

**CRN: 24436**

Maquettes are 3-dimensional sculptures of characters that are used as guides for traditional animation and also used as a pre-visualization tool for developing CG models for video games and CG movies. Maquettes are small preliminary models or studies made of wire armature and clay – this is not a virtual/digital sculpting class. The basics of classical study in drawing, perspective, composition, and tonal drawing will have been practiced before sculpting a 3-dimensional clay maquette. Students will learn sculpting techniques to form their maquette by applying an anatomical understanding. Students will design and sculpt their own maquettes and all students will evaluate, critique, and collaborate to contribute to each other's work. A theme will be proposed so that all character/creature sculptures will exist in the same world and story. The following courses are excellent preparation for this practicum: Basic Drawing and Perspective and Figure Drawing. The skills acquired in this practicum will equip students with the fundamentals of fine arts creativity in classical media, which they will be able to apply to their works with digital media.

#### **HU 3910-C05 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MIXED MEDIA FILMMAKING (Filled)**

**Rosenstock, Joshua** (contact info: [jrosen@wpi.edu](mailto:jrosen@wpi.edu), office SL 208)

**CRN: 23329**

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.

#### **HU3910-C06 PRACTICUM: LIGHT ART (Filled)**

**Rosenstock, Joshua** (contact info: [jrosen@wpi.edu](mailto:jrosen@wpi.edu), office SL 208)

**CRN: 23330**

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-C02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ARCH MCKIM MEAD WHITE**

**Samson, David, M.** (contact info: [samson@wpi.edu](mailto:samson@wpi.edu), office SL 14)

**CRN: 20401**

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.

### **C 2017 English (see also Writing)**

#### **HU 3900-C07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE POETIC SEQUENCE**

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

**CRN: 20840**

From "The Epic of Gilgamesh" and the sonnets of William Shakespeare through Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman to Robert Duncan and Lyn Hejinian, many significant poems exist not only as isolated entities but also as parts of larger, often book-length or multivolume endeavors. Various described as the poetic series, sequence, or set, each term has slightly different shades of meaning, and each has its own relationship to epic ambition, lyric expression, and poetic closure. In this seminar we'll read and reflect on the poetic sequence in relationship to the series and the set, as the driver of the long poem, and as connective tissue to

related approaches in the literary, musical, and visual arts. Project options will include creative writing portfolios, critical essays, and digital humanities initiatives.

**HU 3900-C15 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE DARK IMAGINATION (Filled)**

**Ljungquist, Kent P.** (contact info: [kpl@wpi.edu](mailto:kpl@wpi.edu), office SL 223D)

**CRN: 23327**

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.

**C 2017 History**

**HU 3900-C10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PRESIDENTIAL WARTIME LEADERSHIP (Filled)**

**Baller, William A.** (contact info: [baller@wpi.edu](mailto:baller@wpi.edu), SL 408C)

**CRN: 22292**

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-C11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF POPULAR SCIENCE (Filled)**

**Clark, Constance** (contact info: [cclark@wpi.edu](mailto:cclark@wpi.edu), office SL 408D)

**CRN: 20986**

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-C12 INQUIRY SEMINAR: DDT, SILENT SPRING AND AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT**

**Cullon, Joseph F.** (contact info: [jcullon@wpi.edu](mailto:jcullon@wpi.edu), office SL 241)

**CRN: 20498**

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-C13 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM (Filled)**

**Hanlan, James P.** (contact info: [jphanlan@wpi.edu](mailto:jphanlan@wpi.edu), office SL 028)

**CRN: 22293**

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-C14 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EMPIRE IN HISTORY (Filled)**

**Hansen, Peter H.** (contact info: [phansen@wpi.edu](mailto: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-C-08 INQUIRY SEMINAR IN ASIAN HISTORY****Rudolph, Jennifer** (contact info: [jrudolph@wpi.edu](mailto:jrudolph@wpi.edu), office SL 408B)**CRN#: 23916**

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.

**C 2017 Music****HU 3910-C01 PRACTICUM HUA: MUSICAL ROBOTICS (Filled)****Barton, Scott** (contact info: [sdbarton@wpi.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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-C01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: JAZZ HISTORY****Shaker, Thomas** (contact info: [rfalco@wpi.edu](mailto: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](http://jazzhistorydatabase.com).

**HU 3900-C03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC AND SOCIETY****Shim, Eunmi** (contact info: [eshim@wpi.edu](mailto:eshim@wpi.edu), office AH 211)**CRN: 20738**

The seminar will examine the intersection of music, culture, and society, focusing on the issues of race, gender, and sexuality. 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.

**HU 3910-C04 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ARRANGING****Weeks, Douglas G.** (contact info: [dweeks@wpi.edu](mailto:dweeks@wpi.edu), office AH 212)**CRN: 22371****C 2017 Philosophy/Religion****HU 3900-C09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY****Gottlieb, Roger S.** (contact info: [gottlieb@wpi.edu](mailto:gottlieb@wpi.edu), office SL 004)**CRN: 20441**

The environmental crisis challenges basic moral values, ways of understanding relations between humanity and the rest of life, and political norms. For example: do mountains, trout, or monkeys have their own moral value, outside of their use for people? Can a society be "democratic" if it does not heed the interests of the non-human? With human activity affecting all of the earth, can we still distinguish between humanity and nature? In 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? How does the environmental crisis affect traditional religious, philosophical or political perspectives? Is there a way to face the future without despair? In this seminar we will do some shared reading exploring these challenges, and then each student will focus on a particular topic.

**HU 3900-C06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: CONSCIOUS OBJECTS, OBJECTIFIED HUMANS**

**McWeeny, Jennifer** (contact info: [jmcweeny@wpi.edu](mailto:jmcweeny@wpi.edu) office SL 330)

**CRN: 20440**

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-C05 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Sanbonmatsu, John** (contact info: [js@wpi.edu](mailto:js@wpi.edu), office SL 023)

**CRN: 21779**

Is technology value-neutral? Or does it have a politics? What makes one technology “appropriate,” another technology anti-democratic or dangerous? Have we lost control over our technologies? Do computers have a gender? Is technology an artifact, a social practice, or a way of being-in-the-world? All three? Is virtual reality changing what it means to be human? How should our technological artifacts be developed? Should some not be developed at all? These are just a few of the epistemological, metaphysical, ethical, and political questions students will ask--and try to answer--in this course.

**C 2017 Writing (see also English)**

**HU 3900-C16 INQUIRY SEMINAR: INQUIRIES INTO HEALTH COMMUNICATION**

**Faber, Brenton** (contact info: [bdfaber@wpi.edu](mailto:bdfaber@wpi.edu) office SL 019)

**CRN: 23328**

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-C17 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HUMAN FACTORS OF DISEASE (limit 4 per term offered B & C)**

**Faber, Brenton** (contact info: [bdfaber@wpi.edu](mailto:bdfaber@wpi.edu), office SL 019)

**CRN: 23503**

Diseases tell us quite a bit about what it means to be human. Human behaviors have a complex association with disease emergence, prevention, severity, treatment, and mortality. In this seminar students will work from prior HUA courses, quantitative public health data sets, and the pathophysiology of a specific disease to better understand how human factors inform disease and on the flip side what these diseases tell us about what it means to be human. Students will present findings in a professional medium that best suits audience, topic, and purpose. The Humanities Seminar is appropriate for students seeking admission to medical or veterinary school, other health sciences graduate degrees, and graduate programs in the medical humanities.

**D 2017 Art/Art History/Architecture**

**HU 3910-D05 PRACTICUM IN HUA: VISUAL PERSUASION (Filled)**

**Bigonah, Roshanak**, (contact info: [rbigonah@wpi.edu](mailto: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-D10 PRACTICUM IN HUA: PREPRODUCTION TECHNIQUES**

Chery, Farley, (contact info: [fjchery@wpi.edu](mailto:fjchery@wpi.edu) SL206)

CRN: 24786

This course will take students through the early stages of cinematic and film creation. The course blend 2D and 3D tools to experiment with shot angles, design characters and 3D models. The final project results in a feature length storyboard and animatic. Students will be expected to create dynamic shots, learn or know the proper camera technique. Work functionally as a group while work in an iterative purposeful manner to give a clear vision to the production team.

**HU 3910-D06 PRACTICUM: NATURE, DESIGN, and ART**

Keller, Marie T. (contact info: [mkeller@wpi.edu](mailto: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 (Filled)**

Reinhardt, Jo Ellen (contact info: [jreinhardt@wpi.edu](mailto:jreinhardt@wpi.edu), office SL 114 )

CRN: 22520

For this practicum, students will design a body-of-work consisting of four cohesive pieces centering on the 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 imagery may be included. Students may choose their medium, which may include graphite, charcoal, pastel, paint, or digital. All materials and supplies are the responsibility of the student.

**HU 3900-D04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE COLLECTIONS OF THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM**

Welu, James A. (Director Emeritus, Worcester Art Museum) (contact info: [jimwelu@aol.com](mailto:jimwelu@aol.com))

CRN #: 20407

This course explores the Worcester Art Museum's world-renowned holdings of 50 centuries of art. Special attention will be given to works demonstrating the Museum's pioneering role in collecting. These works range from ancient Roman mosaics to late 20<sup>th</sup>-century video art. The class consists of lectures at WPI and regular visits to the museum where students will sharpen their observation skills by focusing on original works. Students will select a work from WAM and use it as a touchstone to explore through a paper and gallery presentation the Museum's collection as an educational resource.

**D 2017 English (see also Writing)**

**HU 3900-D19 INQUIRY SEMINAR: INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND COMPARATIVE CULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

Boucher, Esther (contact info: [efboucher@wpi.edu](mailto:efboucher@wpi.edu) office SL 109)

CRN: 23363

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-D01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD**

Brattin, Joel J. (contact info: [jjb@wpi.edu](mailto:jjb@wpi.edu), office SL 024)

CRN: 20404

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](mailto:ephraim@wpi.edu), office SL 237)

CRN: 20501

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 3910-D04 PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT**

Hanlan, Erika A. (contact info: [erikastone@wpi.edu](mailto:erikastone@wpi.edu), office SL 018)

CRN: 20409

This Practicum in Theatre Technology will involve participants in the rehearsal and staging of the 35th 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 fifth week of the term, with the following 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-D22 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERARY UTOPIAS**

Mott, Wesley T. (contact info: [wmott@wpi.edu](mailto: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.

**HU 3900-D07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE: STUDIES IN AMERICAN SELF-RELIANCE**

Mott, Wesley T. (contact info: [wmott@wpi.edu](mailto: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 3900-D13 INQUIRY SEMINAR: NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN AMERICAN LITERATURE (Filled)**

Schachterle, Lance E. (contact info: [les@wpi.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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 2017 History****HU 3900-D03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: GLOBAL STUDIES**

Addison, W.A. Bland (contact info: [addison@wpi.edu](mailto:addison@wpi.edu), office SL 238)

CRN: 20406

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 D16 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY (Filled)**

Baller, William A. (contact info: [baller@wpi.edu](mailto:baller@wpi.edu), office SL 408C)

CRN: 20860

This seminar will focus on the social history of the 1960s, especially the Vietnam War's effect on young Americans. Students can investigate the war's effect on the common soldier and the anti-war movement. Students can also research and examine the decade's impact on women, civil rights, or sports.

**HU 3900-D18 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE HOLOCAUST AND WORLD WAR II (Filled)**

**Baller, William A.** (contact info: [baller@wpi.edu](mailto: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-D10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY**

**Bullock, Steven C.** (contact info: [sbullock@wpi.edu](mailto:sbullock@wpi.edu), office SL 235)

**CRN: 20445**

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-D12 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MEDIA REVOLUTIONS IN HISTORY (Filled)**

**Clark, Constance** (contact info: [cclark@wpi.edu](mailto:cclark@wpi.edu), office SL 408D)

**CRN: 23185**

The notion that we are currently immersed in a "digital revolution" has stimulated a lot of discussion lately. Many commentators write as if this were the first media revolution in human history. It is not. This inquiry seminar in the History of Science and Technology will explore the history of a series of media revolutions—alphabets, moveable type, books, photography, the telegraph, the graphic revolution in newspapers and magazines, radio, movies, sound recording, and television, in order to gain a historical perspective on our own contemporary digital revolution, and try to come to a better understanding of its implications and ramifications. The course will culminate in a more historically informed contemplation of our own contemporary media revolution. Students will individually examine focused aspects of that history for individual research projects. 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-D02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ROBOTS IN HISTORY**

**Cullon, Joseph F.** (contact info: [jcullon@wpi.edu](mailto:jcullon@wpi.edu), office SL 241)

**CRN #: 20405**

**HU 3900-D20 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WHY PETROLEUM?**

**Galante, John**, (contact info: [jsgalante@wpi.edu](mailto:jsgalante@wpi.edu), office SL 234 ) (visit the HUA office SL 125 for details and the registration form)

**CRN: 23915**

This Inquiry Seminar will seek to answer the question, "How, why and to what degree modern life is dependent on petroleum use?" Students will consider different approaches to this question from the demand and supply sides of the market. They will examine a petroleum product of their choice and investigate its history, uses and position in consumer markets relative to alternatives. They will also choose a hydrocarbon resource, across geographies and periods of time, and study the history of its exploitation, current development status and likely future amid changes in the global energy matrix.

**HU 3900-D17 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MEN AND WOMEN OF EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SCIENCE**

**Spanagel, David I.** (contact info: [spanagel@wpi.edu](mailto:spanagel@wpi.edu), office SL 239)

**CRN: 20871**

This inquiry seminar in the history of science will delve into scientific biography as a genre of scholarship. Weekly meetings will be devoted to analyzing and understanding various historians' attempts to present the lives and times of leading scientific figures from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Attention will also be paid to the broader historical context of the natural sciences, as it impinged on the lives of these important researchers. Students will write brief individual papers analyzing a particular scientific biographical work. They will also collaborate in small groups in the composition of more substantial historical research articles that compare and contrast the lives of some contemporary participants in important scientific developments and controversies of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. 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. Preference will be extended to anyone who successfully completes any regular 3000-level History "topics" seminar course prior to the inquiry seminar.]

**HU 3900-D09 INQUIRY SEMINAR IN ASIAN HISTORY ON BUSINESS HISTORY IN REFORM ERA CHINA AND THE POST-SOCIALIST WORLD**

**Rudolph, Jennifer** (contact info: [jrudolph@wpi.edu](mailto:jrudolph@wpi.edu), office SL 408B)

**CRN#: 23917**

In the Reform Era, China's economy has experienced a growth rate that has been unparalleled in history. This inquiry seminar examines the role of business, both state-owned and private, in achieving China's economic transformation. Class time will be

devoted to acquiring a common foundation on approaches to the study of business in social and economic transformation and exploration of issues critical to understanding China's current economic landscape. Each student will then research and analyze a specific business history topic or case study of his or her choice. Most students will focus on China, but topics from other post-socialist economy countries, like Vietnam, are also welcome. Presentation of student work will open discussion to a diverse set of business and economic history topics. 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 as the research methods will be those of the historian (American, Asian, Central or South American, or European history as background is fine).

#### **D 2017 Music**

##### **HU 3900-D21 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MILLENIAL MUSIC**

**Jonathan Blumhofer (contact info: [jblumhofer@wpi.edu](mailto:jblumhofer@wpi.edu), office AH 215)**

**CRN 23924**

More than any other period in music history, the 20<sup>th</sup> century bore witness to tectonic changes in how music was written, consumed – and even what the very definition of music is. “Millennial 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 3900-D11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC AND SOCIETY**

**Shim, Eunmi (contact info: [eshim@wpi.edu](mailto:eshim@wpi.edu), office AH 211)**

**CRN: 20446**

The seminar will examine the intersection of music, culture, and society, focusing on the issues of race, gender, and sexuality. 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.

##### **HU 3910-D03 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC PERFORMANCE**

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

**CRN: 20403**

#### **D 2017 Philosophy/Religion**

##### **HU 3900-D15 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE MEANING OF LIFE (Filled)**

**Gottlieb, Roger S. (contact info: [gottlieb@wpi.edu](mailto: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-D08 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE EMOTIONS**

**McWeeny, Jennifer (contact info: [jmcweeny@wpi.edu](mailto:jmcweeny@wpi.edu) office SL330)**

**CRN: 20561**

What is an emotion? Are emotions physiological responses or mental phenomena akin to beliefs and judgments? Can a person control his or her emotions or are emotions involuntary reactions? What distinguishes emotion from reason? Should emotions be cultivated or diminished? Which emotions are most important to moral life? What is the role, if any, that emotions play in politics, the state, activism, and revolution? Which emotions, if any, are constitutive of religious or spiritual experience? Is emotion an essential component of aesthetic experience? Does emotion play a role in scientific inquiry? Do different social groups such as women and men or people of lower and higher socio-economic status have different emotional repertoires? Are nonhuman animals capable of emotions? What are the defining features of individual emotions such as happiness, joy, love, anger, grief, jealousy, and fear? Students may pursue these questions and others in the context of this seminar, which will familiarize students with several philosophical and psychological theories of emotion that have been developed within diverse intellectual traditions including modern philosophy, analytic philosophy, neuroscience, phenomenology, Buddhism, and feminist theory, among others. Seminar 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 seminar paper, which will be presented to and reviewed by the author's peers.

**HU 3900-D05 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PHILOSOPHY OF VIOLENCE**

**Sanbonmatsu, John** (contact info: [js@wpi.edu](mailto:js@wpi.edu), office SL 023)

**CRN: 20408**

Is violence ever morally justified? What about revolutionary violence? Can wars be just, or are pacifists right to describe "just war" as a contradiction in terms? What are the social origins of violence? How does violence function within systems of oppression like patriarchy and racism? Are we justified in using violence against members of other species? What role has genocidal violence played in modern state formation? Is there a connection between playing violent video games and enacting violence in the real world? Students will conduct independent research on some aspect of the problem of violence, writing a term paper on a topic of their choice.

**D 2017 Writing (see also English)**

**HU 3900-D14 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MEMOIR WRITING (Filled)**

**Higgins, Lorriane** (contact info: [ldh@wpi.edu](mailto:ldh@wpi.edu) office SL 020)

**CRN: 23186**

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.