

Spring 2021 First-Year Seminars

FYS 100-01 (20567) TTh 8-9:50AM **Self, Mind, Heart in Eastern Philosophies** (Shogenji)

There are deep differences between Eastern and Western understandings of self and related concepts such as mind and heart. This course examines how self, mind, and heart are viewed in Eastern philosophies, and explores implications of these views in goals of life, moral conducts, and social relations. Eastern philosophies to be examined include Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism, and the concepts in these philosophical systems are studied in comparison with their Western counterparts.

FYS 100-02 (20568) MW 10-11:50AM **Exploring Cultural Landscapes: Placing Power, Symbolism, and Identity** (Dixon)

They say a picture is worth a thousand words; the same visual literacy that is used to understand, analyze, and critique pictures is needed as we examine places. Places manifest power, symbolism and identity. We will evaluate what the cultural landscape that a society creates says about it, and how public spaces are used to shape communal identities. In this course, students will explore symbolism and meaning embedded in cultural landscapes, both everyday places close to home and internationally iconic landscapes.

FYS 100-03 (21459) MW 8-9:50AM **Native Arts** (Lawrence)

What is Native Art? This question drives the course focus on historic and contemporary visual and performance arts by Indigenous individuals and communities in response to settler societies.

FYS 100-04 (22162) TF 12-1:50PM **From Europe to the States: humour, friendship, and love through film remakes** (Falangola)

This course will explore cultural differences by comparing American film remakes to their European originals (France, Italy, Spain, UK). The filmic adaptation from one culture to the other will allow students to question American cultural assumptions, biases, morals, and taboos. Topics considered will include love, sex, friendship, family, class, race, gender, and humor. We will also discuss cultural self-awareness and intercultural transposition, and introduce the concept of intercultural competence. Possible questions that will result from our class discussion will be: What is morally

tolerable in France or Italy and intolerable in the US? How does a movie need to change in order to be “culturally accepted” by an American audience? What makes an American versus a French or British audience laugh? Why do some of these remakes sugarcoat the originals with a happy ending?

Students signing up, please consider that some of the movies are rated R for sexuality, strong language, and drug use.

FYS 100-05 (21460) MW 10-11:50AM **Leadership Study Through the Biography**
(Kunkel)

This course will look at the dimensions of leadership primarily through the study of biographies and biographical portraits. The class will explore qualities of various leaders through online sources, print and media. For final projects, students will conduct research as well as read a biography of their choice and share portraits of their subject based on their original research.

FYS 100-06 (21461) TTh 10-11:50AM **Shock Therapy: Drama as Action**
(Abbotson)

Throughout history, rulers have viewed the communal opportunity offered by theater as a dangerous form of communication, and have striven to censor anything perceived as threatening the social order. Students will explore socio-cultural boundaries enforced and broken by drama from the Greeks to contemporary works, as playwrights provoked attention toward a variety of inequities and wrongs. Protest drama is by its very nature shocking, but can it go too far, does it still work, and can we create some of our own? Requirements include active participation in discussion, class presentations, an independent research assignment, a short paper (3-5 pages) and a final group presentation.

FYS 100-07 (20569) TTh 10-11:50AM **The Rhetoric of Toxic Masculinity**
(Michaud)

Toxic masculinity has been defined as a set of behaviors exhibited by men but really it's an outcome—it's the self that emerges in boys and men after years of being taught that emotions like fear or sadness must be suppressed, that one must maintain an appearance of stoicism and strength at all times, and that violence signifies power. One need look no further than President Donald Trump to find a vivid illustration of this concept as it manifests in the early years of the twenty-first century. The fact that Trump was able to get elected and that he maintains support especially among white men is a sign of the health and endurance of toxic masculinity. In this class we'll

examine the rhetoric of toxic masculinity through film, literature, and cultural history as we work to imagine, enact, and expect better and saner versions of masculinity for and from boys and men.

FYS 100-08 (21457) MW 8-9:50AM **Just for Laughs** (Blasdell)

The nature of this course will provide you with an introduction to the academic world in the college setting. It is a “seminar” style course, meaning that the focus will be on having minimal lecture style and more on class discussions. It will also help you to adjust to the learning standards of academic behavior. This course will provide you with an understanding of how to utilize humor throughout your life. Students will explore different types of humor, research studies on the subject, and how humor can positively affect your life. We will discuss case studies and laughing is required. In case you find yourself wanting to incorporate more humor in different situations, this course will also provide the opportunity to help you learn specific strategies to use in a wide variety of settings.

FYS 100-09 (20570) MW 8-9:50AM **Music and the Social World** (Harkness)

This discussion-based first-year seminar explores how music infiltrates your world through pop culture, weddings, movies, video games, birthday parties, festivals, social media, sports, and more. Grounded in a series of student-led conversations, we will explore how music both reflects society and how social issues are described and debated in the music we love (and love to hate!). Topics may include music in the 20th and 21st centuries, the historical roots of contemporary music, musical subcultures, specific artists, festivals, audiences, authenticity, the music business, and how music and musicians have been shaped by the internet and globalization. Students will improve their interpersonal communication, research, and writing skills, while gaining a new appreciation for how music shapes society.

FYS 100-10 (20571) TF 12-1:50PM **Food and Medicine of East Asia** (Kim)

Can food be preventive medicine? Are so-called “healthy foods” good for everyone? What are the problems we face in our food culture and medical practices? This class starts with these questions to examine the history and the philosophical foundation of East Asian food and medicine. Class discussions and research will be focus on East Asian food as preventive medicine and their traditional medical practices including acupuncture, reflexology, and herbal medicine. Students will investigate how East Asian traditional medical practice has been transmitted to Europe and the U.S. and what issues our society has with it as an alternative medicine.

FYS 100-11 (20577) MTh 12-1:50PM Is Biography History? (Golden)

Intrigued by Ancient Rome and celebrity gossip? Suetonius's "Lives of the Caesars" provided a view of the personal lives of the men who controlled the destiny of millions. But are we too focused on personalities? Looking at rulers, modern and ancient, we will discuss how central rulers and their character should or should not be to how we talk about the lives of countries.

FYS 100-12 (20572) MW 2-3:50PM Language and Gender (Basile)

This course will explore the concept of gender as a social construct, and how men and women use language to reflect cultural expectations of masculinity and femininity. It also discusses current socio-cultural approaches to human identity beyond the traditional binary gender classification. Students will analyze a variety of materials that illustrate how we perform our gendered identity through language and provide a critical discussion of theories of this interdisciplinary field of study.

FYS 100-13 (21462) TTh 10-11:50AM The Trio (Turki)

Prior to college, most students are introduced to courses that appreciate music and art in nature. This seminar aims to bring appreciation to mathematics that is found in nature as well as in every aspect of our daily lives. It will be centered around students' discovery, creative and hands-on activities. Students will be discussing, working, creating projects in groups to explore and discover loads of codes, when and where the golden ratio appears in nature and art as well as creating models to tackle and propose solutions to social issues and other real world questions. Minimal mathematics background is needed.

FYS 100-14 (20573) MW 10-11:50AM Bill Nye the Science Guy, Norman Lear, Sesame Street, EE and Me (Galvez)

An exploration of how we learn, and what we learn through popular television. Dominant themes associated with early childhood development, health communication, and social justice, as portrayed by popular television, will be examined. Topics will include Entertainment Education, Social Cognitive Theory/self-efficacy/personal agency, Parasocial Interaction, and Diffusion of Innovation.

FYS 100-15 (21464) MW 4-5:50PM **You, Inc.: The Business of You** (Blanchette)

We are all "brands," and as such may apply business concepts in managing our personal, academic, and professional lives. Topics include personal finance, creativity, management and leadership, ethics, analysis and critical thinking, economics, branding, planning and strategy, collaboration, operations management, and many more professional areas that have personal applications. There are no exams; students choose which "medals" to pursue in the areas of class engagement, content understanding, and project application to construct their grades.

FYS 100-16 (20576) MW 6-7:50PM **Performance in First Person: This is Me!**
(Pennell)

The class involves sharing orally and in writing 8 Personal Narrative Topics, learning performance techniques along with watching and responding to 6 YouTube videos of Oral History plays which use a variety of presentational techniques for storytelling, and a final project combining these all together.

FYS 100-17 (21668) MTh 12-1:50PM **Loving Nature—Protecting Nature:
Romanticism's Legacy to the Environment** (Schneider)

What is Romanticism's legacy to today's environmental awareness and activism? It begins with the Romantic poets of Europe and Transcendental writers in America and their love of nature. It then proceeds to those who helped identify the modern ecological movement such as Henry David Thoreau and John Muir. The American manifestation of this legacy include the creation of the National Parks system, the founding of the Audubon Society, the efforts of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the U.S. government's response to the Dust Bowl, the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, and the Earth Day Initiative.

FYS 100-18 (21742) MW 4-5:50PM **Philosophy of Mind and Mental Disorder**
(Duncan)

We will seek to better understand the nature of the mind and the relationship between the mind and body. We will consider various classical arguments in the philosophy of mind, paying special attention to what *mental disorder* can teach us. That is, we will see how we can better understand the mind by studying what happens when it functions abnormally.

FYS 100-19 (22514) TTh 4-5:50PM Evaluating Headline News: Current Events and Political Controversies (Noh)

Are you interested in the world around you? This class will explore current political events and global controversies regarding migration, war, race, gender, terrorism, and more. Students will read and watch a variety of news sources to study these issues from different viewpoints. We will also critically evaluate the degree of bias and prejudice in news reports.

FYS 100-20 (22771) MTh 12:00-1:50PM Class Matters (Schuster)

Americans don't like to recognize social class. For some the topic raises resentments or defenses while others think it doesn't matter. Many of us see the differences between groups as a matter of taste and choice and believe mobility and success is open to everyone who works hard. But we all live in a social class and have been shaped by the expectations, opportunities, values, and life chances of that class. We only need to think about the people around us (Caitlyn Jenner, the immigrant woman who collects aluminum cans in the PC neighborhood, Donald Trump) to see that social class plays a role in our options and our interactions. While class shapes experiences, life chances and responses to the world it is a largely hidden system and perspective. In this course we will investigate class – its meaning, its representations in popular media, the impact of social and economic structures, and the connections between class and opportunities, identities, values and expectations. The discussions are always eye-opening and fun.