

FALL 2014: University Seminar I

UNV-101- University Seminar topics

Advocating for Women and Children: Strategies and Policies

Instructor: Mary Montminy-Danna

Forty-two million women live at or below the poverty line and thirty-five percent of households headed by single women are food insecure. Critically examine these and other consequences of federal and state policies on the overall well-being of women and children living in the United States.

Take A Deeper Dive Into Newport

Instructor: John Rok

Explore the community that will be your "home away from home." Discover what a city celebrating its 375th Anniversary has to offer. We combine classroom sessions with field trips designed to introduce you to Newport's historical and cultural legacy. Requirements: passion for learning, sense of adventure, and initiative -- maps provided.

Fighting Hitler: Rescue and Resistance in Nazi Germany

Instructor: John Quinn

While much has been written about the Final Solution, not nearly as much attention has been paid to the numerous individual efforts made to oppose Nazism. Drawing on narratives written by survivors and rescuers, we will focus on the many courageous Jews and "Righteous Gentiles" who chose to resist Hitler.

Mapping Cities and Citizens: Bodily Identity and Urban Planning

Instructor: Michael Budd

Explore the city as body, machine, and spectacle, and concepts of bodily difference (gender, race, class) embedded in urban contexts. Examine how cities work beginning with iconic Athens and Rome, to the competing "capitals of the world" New York and Paris, and modern-day London and Chicago, Berlin and Brasilia.

What is the Meaning of Life?: The Wisdom of Plato

Instructor: Lois Eveleth

Does life have meaning? How can I tell right from wrong? Is democracy good for us? These are among the most important questions we can ask; even today we need to think about ideas such as citizenship, good and evil, justice, even life itself. Join with Plato in his great search.

Exploring the Roaring 1920s: Literature, Music, Film, Fashion, Lifestyles

Instructor: Norma Bailey

Discover why F. Scott Fitzgerald defined "the roaring 1920s" and decades to follow as the Jazz Age, why the uniquely American, democratic and improvisational nature of jazz influenced a nation and later the world at large. Explore this fascinating Age in prose, poetry, drama, music, documentaries and films.

Jazz Dance and American Pop Culture

Instructor: Lindsay Guarino

From *Singin' in the Rain* to *Thriller*, and from *American Bandstand* to *So You Think You Can Dance*, jazz dance is and has been a part of our American landscape. Through movement, videos, and literature, you will explore moments from Hollywood, MTV, and television that forever changed dance history.

Literature after 9/11: Love, Loss, and Fear in the Age of Terror

Instructor: Jennifer McClanaghan

In the years since 2001, the United States has fought two of the longest wars in its history. Meanwhile, terror and torture have become household words and government surveillance as certain as death and taxes. Learn how artists have responded to the post-9/11 world in prose, poetry, and film.

Religious Liberty

Instructor: Daniel Cowdin

We take religious liberty for granted as foundational for U.S. society, yet we also argue about its meaning, limits, and scope. How do we respect religious differences while protecting against harmful religious behavior? You will explore religious liberty's historical and contemporary controversies, as well as its global relevance.

Roots of the Blues

Instructor: Donald St. Jean

The blues is a musical genre that has its roots in the cultural fabric of the United States, shaped by social, political, and economic factors. Explore the blues as a musical and cultural phenomenon; discover the people and places that have contributed to making this music uniquely American.

All is not Lust: Literature and the Politics of Love

Instructor: Sally Goma

Love is in the air, yet there is no one definition of love. This suggests that love can be used to, among other things, challenge power, define justice, and create a coherent sense of self. Explore the multiple uses of the love story in classical and world literatures.

Disaster! Stories of Survival

Instructor: Chad Raymond

In a disaster, who lives, who dies, and why? Examine the life and death decision-making of individuals who have survived hurricanes, earthquakes, civil war, and genocide. With story-boarding and free software, learn how to design a digital interactive disaster story that evolves according to the reader's decisions.

Education, Harmony and Conflict

Instructor: Laurie Harper and Symeon Giannakos

Engage in critical analysis of cross-cultural educational systems and their impact on identity, harmony and conflict. In this interdisciplinary team-taught seminar, you will analyze educational practices, attitudes and beliefs in secular, religious, multicultural, multi-ethnic, developed, and developing states in South America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

Exploring America's First Civilizations

Instructor: Jon Marcoux

This course explores the vibrant histories of Native North and South American civilizations such as the Aztec, Maya, and Inca. The course introduces students to a number of archaeological concepts while charting the rise and fall of some of the world's most fascinating and least understood societies.

Human Rights and Struggles for Justice

Instructor: Sr. Johnelle Luciani

Be a voice for human rights! Through readings and multimedia, learn about the real life experiences of individuals in their struggles for justice in the U.S. and select countries. Discuss violations of human rights from human trafficking to bullying. Explore your role in advancing human rights in a global society.

Moving Meditation: Exploring Movement and Asian Culture through Karate

Instructor: JD Swanson

You will be introduced to the physical, historical, and philosophical aspects of Shotokan karate-do. You will learn Shotokan karate and use it as a way to explore Asian history and philosophy as well as the biological principals underlying how your body moves.

Robotics: The Professional Considerations of Global Business.

Instructor: Michael Thombs

How do people living in different geographical regions hold different cultural views about the use and implementation of robotics from the workplace to military drones? You will examine the impact of robotics on human dignity, personal integrity, global awareness, and quality of life.

Welcome to the Matrix: Exploring Cyberspace, Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence

Instructor: Sean O'Callaghan

Explore human beings' relationship with the virtual world and examine emerging technologies such as cybernetics, robotics, virtual reality, Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology, cybersecurity and cyberwarfare, and the issues, ethical questions and endless possibilities opened up by our exposure to a very new kind of world where anything can happen!

Codebreakers: A Survey and History of Cryptography

Instructor: Emily Cilli-Turner

Explore various codes that have been used throughout history for the sending of secret information. Content will include an exploration of different ciphers, historical context around creation of these ciphers and discussion of controversies surrounding the use of coded messages.

Peril and Beauty: Stories of Men and Women at Sea

Instructor: Sarah Littlefield

Throughout time, the sea has sparked the imaginations of writers and spawned stories of high adventure, courage, and romance, which collectively reveal elements of the human condition. Authors like Jane Austen and Ernest Hemingway, films, guest speakers, and visits to maritime places all chart the sea's peril and beauty. *Lab fee*

Understanding Extinction: Modeling Population Dynamics

Instructor: William Stout and Jameson Chace

Ever wonder how populations as widespread and abundant as the Passenger Pigeon have gone extinct? Or how populations, such as the American Bison, once decimated by overhunting, have returned to many areas of their former range? In this course you will explore the mathematics of population growth and decay, extinction and recovery.

War of the Worlds: On the Conflict between Science and the Human Spirit

Instructor: Troy Catterson

Explore the encounter between religious/ethical/aesthetic value and scientific understanding, we will examine the following questions: Are spiritual values and science inherently in conflict? Do the latest scientific discoveries and theories have a bearing on faith? Can spirituality contribute to scientific inquiry and discourse?

Pell University Seminars
Fifth Century B.C. Athens

Instructor: Stephen L. Trainor

The literature of Classical Athens constitutes one of the main sources of Western Civilization. After reading background materials from Homer, Hesiod, Sappho and Herodotus, explore Thucydides *Peloponnesian War*; the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides; the comedies of Aristophanes; as well as the works of Greek contemporaries such as Pindar.

The Quest for Justice

Instructor: Khalil Habib

The aim of this seminar is to transcend our narrow biases about what makes for great political rule by exploring classic epics and treatises spanning several intellectual traditions. Readings include: *Gilgamesh*, the Chinese philosophers Sun-Zi and Han Fei-Tsu, the Islamic philosophers Avicenna and Ibn Khaldun, Machiavelli, and others.

Political and Religious Idealism

Instructor: Luigi Bradizza

Idealism expresses our highest yearning for individual and social excellence. Explore political and religious idealism by means of serious, important, and captivating works of literature and film. You will learn about different types of idealism, its noble possibilities, and its dark corners.

Neuroculture: Social Implications of Brain Science

Instructor: Steven B. Symington

Neuroscience research has captured national attention by suggesting new interventions and applications in various social domains and challenged us to redefine our understandings of responsibility, choice, and the human condition. Explore how the brain is organized and how areas of brain research shape societal attitudes.