TERM E, 2011

English

HU 3900-E INQUIRY SEMINAR: MEMOIR WRITING
Higgins, Lorraine D.
CRN #: 30044
In this seminar, students will read about the art of memoir writing, discussing a variety of sample memoirs and experimenting with various styles and strategies as they write from their own experiences. Weeks 1-3 will focus on reading and discussion; the latter part of the term will be devoted to significant writing and revision. Student drafts will be “work-shopped” by the group in later meetings. The final product will be polished memoir of 20-50 pages.

HU 3900-E INQUIRY SEMINAR: LITERATURE: STUDIES IN THE GOTHIC IMAGINATION
Ljungquist, Kent P.
CRN #: 30042
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, Mary Wilkins Freeman, 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.

History

HU 3900-E INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY
Bullock, Steven C.
CRN #: 30045
This Inquiry Seminar in History examines Mason Locke Weems's Life of George Washington, the most popular early biography of America's first president—and the first to tell the story of Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on the book itself and on its connections to Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary America. They will also consider more broadly how to think and write about the past.

HU 3900-E INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM
Hanlan, James P.
CRN #: 30043
This Inquiry Seminar is intended as the culminating experience in Humanities and Arts for students who have completed five courses in Humanities and Arts, including at least two courses in American History (one at the 2000-level or higher). It is also suitable for students with interests in American Studies. The class will focus on a particular theme in the American experience to be chosen by the instructor, and students will write individual papers broadly centered on that theme. Students will develop the ability to think, discuss, and write about American history and American Studies.
Music

HU 3910-E PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC
Weeks, Douglas G.
CRN#:
Students will meet in a class setting to both discuss music performance techniques and to prepare for a final performance. Stylistic differences in performance for different periods of music will be studied. A portion of the class time will be spent performing and critiquing for each other. At the conclusion of the term, students will present a final recital.
TERM A, 2011

Art/Art History

HU 3910-A PRACTICUM IN HUA: ANIMATION SHORT FILM
Rosenstock, Joshua
CRN #: 10647
This practicum in Visual Art/IMGD focuses on the production of short animated films. Students will write scripts, draw storyboards, build characters, animate scenes, and edit soundtracks. They will also consider more broadly topics such as visual storytelling, artistic style, character design, and physical acting. Students should have taken AR/IMGD 2201 (Art of Animation), or have equivalent experience in 2d or 3d animation techniques.

English

HU 3900-A INQUIRY SEMINAR: REALITY LIT
Dempsey, James
CRN #: 10582
This is an approach to literature that examines the relationship between documentary materials and creative literary work. We will examine how those original materials—news stories, journals, reference works, videos, and official and unofficial documents of every kind both inspire and are transformed by the writer. The field of study is wide and the forms we may study numerous, including biography, documentary, historical fiction, science fiction, the New Journalism, and Modernism, to name a few. Students may choose to: Investigate the documentary sources behind a work of literature (for example, Melville's use of cetology in Moby Dick, T.S. Eliot's employment of Eastern and other myths and philosophies in "The Waste Land," or Kurt Vonnegut's treatment of the fire-bombing of Dresden during World War II in his novel "Slaughterhouse Five"). Write a creative piece of work based on documentary materials. I have many ideas for such projects in the Worcester area.

HU 3900-A INQUIRY SEMINAR: WRITING AND RHETORIC: RHETORICAL CRITICISM
deWinter, Jennifer
CRN #: 10981
Rhetoric in its broader definition is the art of symbolic communication—How do people communicate? What are the effects of communicative action? What are the tricks of the trade? Rhetorical criticism is a collection of approaches that allow the read/listener to analyze the rhetoric of a text for two purposes: 1) so that you see the rhetorical tricks and are therefore not manipulated by them, and 2) so that you can use those tricks once you know about them when you go to persuade others. This inquiry seminar will apply a number of rhetorical criticisms to something that you want to analyze, such as a favorite story, movie, television program, anime, videogame, and so forth. Courses to demonstrate depth should include courses in writing and rhetoric.

HU 3900-A INQUIRY SEMINAR: WRITING AND RHETORIC: USABILITY STUDIES
deWinter, Jennifer
CRN #: 10772
Usability studies analyzes whether people can use the thing that you give them. In writing in particular, usability is closely associated with technical writing where directions are given. For example, when writing a sequence of steps for a scientific experiment or a design project in engineering, how do you know that people can follow the directions and do them correctly? How do you know when they get confused? How do you know when they think it's all too easy and self-evident? In many ways, this is the humanist intervention into documentation for it places the user (or
human) back into the equation as an important pillar for consideration. In this seminar, we will write and test documents using usability studies in order to critique and revise documents that better consider the user audience. Courses to demonstrate depth should include courses in writing and rhetoric and ideal candidates will have taken Technical Writing and/or Introduction to Professional Writing.

HU 3900-A INQUIRY SEMINAR: LITERATURE: STUDIES IN THE GOTHI IMAGINATION
Ljungquist, Kent P.
CRN #: 10645
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.

History

HU 3900-A INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY
Bullock, Steven C.
CRN #: 10646
This Inquiry Seminar in History examines Mason Locke Weems's Life of George Washington, the most popular early biography of America's first president--and the first to tell the story of Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on the book itself and on its connections to Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary America. They will also consider more broadly how to think and write about the past.

HU 3900-A INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF SPORT
Hansen, Peter H.
CRN #: 10778
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-A INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE U.S., GLOBALIZATION, AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD
Robertson, Thomas
CRN #: 11294
During the twentieth century and especially since World War II, Americans and their government have become increasingly engaged -- politically, economically, culturally, and militarily -- with the peoples and governments of the developing world. Although the term "globalization" is often used for the period after 1990, it's clear that the world has been globalizing for decades, if not centuries. In this research seminar, students will pick either a place, an American development project, a pivotal event, or a commodity through which to analyze the larger patterns of American relations with the developing world. After discussing a common set of readings on the Cold War, economic development, and cultural encounters, students will devote most of their time and energy to researching and writing their papers, and offering feedback to classmates. This seminar will be particularly good for students planning to study overseas for part of their time at WPI. (This seminar is excellent preparation for many of WPI's overseas project centers, especially Costa Rica, Thailand, Namibia, Morocco and South Africa.)
Music

HU 3900-A INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: ALGORITHMIC MUSIC COMPOSITION
Bianchi, Frederick
CRN #: 10982
The seminar will investigate various algorithmic processes used in music composition, sound design, and networked sound installations. The seminar will also explore the relationship between sonification, automation, aesthetics, and psychology.

HU 3910-A PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSICAL THEATRE (INTO THE WOODS)
Delorey, John F.
CRN #: 10648
This practicum will involve all of the aspects of mounting a full production of a major musical theatre work, Stephen Sondheim's "Into The Woods." Students wishing to perform in the Practicum MUST audition in C Term 2011. Students wishing to be part of the crew for this Practicum must contact Professor Delorey for registration. Students wishing to play in the orchestra MUST contact Professor Weeks for registration.

Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900-A INQUIRY SEMINAR: RELIGION IN AMERICA
Eddy, Bethel L.
CRN #: 11293
The U.S. has one of the most religious cultures to be found around the globe. Religious life, for better or worse, has always seemed to shape American culture. Students in this inquiry seminar will pursue an independent research topic that explores some aspect of religious life in America, either historical or contemporary. Individual topics may fall within the categories of religion and race or gender issues, religion and American politics, aspects of American religious history, American religious philosophy and religion, or American culture and religion, to name a few possibilities.

HU 3900-A INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE CONCEPT AND PRACTICE OF SPIRITUALITY
Gottlieb, Roger S.
CRN #: 11287
It is easy to find hundreds of books on this concept. While millions of people describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious," some of the world's most revered religious figures are revered as "spiritual teachers." We talk of spiritual social activists (King, Gandhi), find spiritual power in nature, learn "spiritual lessons" from life's difficulties, discuss the "spiritual" (rather than the literal) meanings of the Bible, and see that spiritual practices like meditation and yoga have been integrated into western medicine. In this seminar students will read selected different perspectives on the concept of spirituality and then explore in depth a particular teacher, problem, idea, or spiritual practice. Examples of possible topics: the spiritual dimension of yoga or meditation; the writings of contemporary or traditional Buddhists; spiritual interpretations of the Gospels or encounters in the Torah; the relation between spirituality and political non-violence; the role of spirituality in environmentalism; the tensions between traditional religion and contemporary spirituality.
TERM B, 2011

Art/Art History

HU 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR: INTERACTIVE MEDIA ART
Farbrook, Joseph H.
CRN #: 10650
This seminar will be a survey of the history of interactive media including many of the most recent developments in digital art. The primary focus will be on fine art and the use of computers and the Internet as an artistic medium. Political and social ramifications of electronic media and network delivery systems will also be explored. Students will be able to write a research paper, create their own interactive artwork, or a combination of the two.

English

HU 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR: BRITISH LITERATURE
Brattin, Joel J.
CRN #: 10585
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 adoption 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 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE: THE SHADOW OF FACT IN FICTION
Ljungquist, Kent P.
CRN #: 10584
Fiction writers are generally identified as purveyors of imagined characters and invented situations, but this seminar will focus on novels that are based on or shaped by actual persons and events. Readings will come from selected spheres of human experience: the realm of art, the domain of economics and business, and the arena of politics. Readings will be selected from such fact-based novels as Willa Cather's The Song of the Lark, 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-B PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY
Stone, Erika A.
CRN #: 10999
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-B INQUIRY SEMINAR: PLAYWRIGHTS’ WORKSHOP
Zinn, Jeff
CRN #: 11302
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!

History

HU 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR: EUROPEAN HISTORY
Addison, W. A. Bland
CRN #: 10583
This Inquiry Seminar in History will focus upon economic, political, and cultural aspects of social struggle during the French Revolution. Students will prepare an analytical research paper on an appropriate topic.

HU 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR: MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM
Hanlan, James P.
CRN #: 10997
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-B INQUIRY SEMINAR: ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY, AT HOME AND ABROAD
Robertson, Thomas B.
CRN #: 10649
History is too often the study of political figures and legislation. In this seminar, students will use the tools of environmental history to conduct in-depth research of a particular place – a neighborhood, city block, park, road, dam, farmhouse, or stream. You will trace this place through time, analyzing the three or four most important events in its history, and thereby shed light on much larger historical patterns and processes. You can pick any place from around the U.S. or around the world, although you are encouraged to pick a place that you already know or have some intellectual or personal connection to (such as an overseas IQP site). Writing about a part of Worcester would also work very well. It will be important to pick a place for which source materials are readily available. The seminar will begin with a common set of readings about environmental history, after which our time will be devoted to research skills, writing workshopping, presentations, and peer feedback sessions. THIS SEMINAR IS IDEAL FOR SOMEONE WHO IS THINKING OF DOING AN OVERSEAS IQP OR WHO HAS JUST FINISHED ONE.

HU 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF GLOBAL EXPEDITION SCIENCE
Spanagel, David I.
CRN #: 10998
This inquiry seminar in the history of science will examine the motives and results of scientific exploration, focusing in upon some specific case studies of individual scientists whose discoveries and adventures were intended to bring about not only new scientific understandings of natural phenomena, but also additional resources and prestige for whatever nation or organization sponsored the expedition(s). Students will write individual papers involving close readings and analysis of primary source materials. They will also collaborate as pairs in the composition of more substantial research papers, each focused on a different specific aspect of how
interacting cultures shaped the history of thought in Europe and elsewhere. Finally, each pair will present their group research papers (like a panel at a history of science professional meeting). The final grade will depend heavily on engagement in all aspects of the seminar experience.

Music

HU 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR:  JAZZ HISTORY
Falco, Richard G.
CRN #: 11299
This Inquiry Seminar in Jazz Music History will assemble a team of students to conduct field research by visiting the homes of New England based jazz artists and their families. Data collected in the field will include oral history interviews, old photographs, recordings, print media, and radio and television shows. Materials will be processed according to specific guidelines and added to an online permanent collection at jazzhistorydatabase.com.

HU 3910-B PRACTICUM IN HUA:  ARRANGING
Weeks, Douglas G.
CRN #: 10652
Students will use previously acquired skills to arrange works for instrumental or vocal ensembles. The works will be performed at the conclusion of the course and students will evaluate each other's arrangements.

Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR:  THEMES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY
Gottlieb, Roger S.
CRN #: 10773
The environmental crisis is not only a threat to our health and to that of the rest of life on earth, but a challenge to virtually all aspects of our civilization. It raises a host of philosophical problems, from the question of whether or not we have a moral obligation to respect nature, to the role of a consumerist personal identity in the environmental crisis; from questions of how traditional understandings of religion and science have contributed to our problems, to what an ecological democracy might look like; from the impact of environmental problems on political perspectives like liberalism and Marxism, to the new environmental perspectives of environmental justice and ecofeminism. Students will do some shared reading and then find a particular author or problem on which to focus.

HU 3900-B INQUIRY SEMINAR:  MORALS AND LAWS IN THE PRACTICES OF A SOCIETY
Smith, Ruth L.
CRN #: 11301
Issues of public debate often involve tensions and concerns linking moral and legal quandaries about justice, fairness, protection, and wrong-doing; they involve deep feelings about the good and the right thing to do. In this seminar we'll take up issues that traffic heavily between moral and legal terms in public discussion along with how these might be thought about differently. Current re-considerations of capital punishment offer one such example, regarding shifting ideas of justice, fairness, punishment, retribution, distribution, and redemption as people wrestle with the process of devising and carrying out law in relation to moral claims. You will think of others as well. Everyone participates in shared reading-discussion and conducts individual research to develop a question about a topic that you select (in consultation). The final result is your individually prepared seminar paper that would give any reader a strong understanding of the question you address.
TERM C, 2012

Art/Art History

HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: INTERACTIVE MEDIA ART
Farbrook, Joseph H.
CRN #: 20639
This seminar will be a survey of the history of interactive media including many of the most recent developments in digital art. The primary focus will be on fine art and the use of computers and the Internet as an artistic medium. Political and social ramifications of electronic media and network delivery systems will also be explored. Students will be able to write a research paper, create their own interactive artwork, or a combination of the two.

HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: METHODS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE: MODERN ARCHITECTURE--WHAT WAS IT?
Samson, M. David
CRN #: 20543
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.

English

HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: LITERATURE, FILM, PLACE
Cocola, Jim
CRN #: 20992
This seminar will explore works of literature and film that highlight that ineffable quality known as "the sense of place," evoking connections between the local, regional, national, and planetary frames, and speaking simultaneously to environmental and social concerns. Whether by essayists, fiction writers, filmmakers, performance artists, playwrights, poets, or visual artists, these works will share in common an abiding concern for that "first ground" that Gary Snyder describes as "the 'where' of our 'who are we.'" Project options may include creative writing projects, digital humanities pursuits, interpretative essays, and research reports.

HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE LITERATURE OF FACT: A DOCUMENTARY APPROACH TO POETRY AND PROSE
Dempsey, James
CRN #: 20769
This is an approach to literature that examines the relationship between documentary materials and creative literary work. We will examine how those original materials--news stories, journals, reference works, videos, and official and unofficial documents of every kind both inspire and are transformed by the writer. The field of study is wide and the forms we may study numerous, including biography, documentary, historical fiction, science fiction, the New Journalism, and Modernism, to name a few. Students may choose to: Investigate the documentary sources behind a work of literature (for example, Melville's use of cetology in Moby Dick, T.S. Eliot's employment of Eastern and other myths and philosophies in "The Waste Land," or Kurt Vonnegut's treatment of the fire-bombing of Dresden during World War II in his novel "Slaughterhouse Five"). Write a creative piece of work based on documentary materials. I have many ideas for such projects in the Worcester area.
HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: SHAKESPEARE RULES THE WORD
Ephraim, Michelle K.
CRN #: 20770
This inquiry seminar focuses on the texts and contexts of Elizabethan and Jacobean England. Students will be required to write one 20-30 page paper analyzing literary texts, English history, or cinematic adaptations of Shakespeare. Students may also choose a "creative writing" option (for example, an original adaptation or collection of sonnets) to fulfill the seminar's writing requirements. This course is for students who have taken at least one Shakespeare course or The Literature of Sin. During the draft writing process, students will read each other's work and provide verbal feedback in a "writing workshop" format.

HU 3900-C Inquiry Seminar: Humanities and Hospitals
Faber, B.
CRN #: 22072
In September 2011, The New York Times reported that Carolyn and Matthew Bucksbum donated $42 million to the University of Chicago Medical Center to "create an institute devoted to improving medical students' handling of the doctor-patient relationship." As The Times reporter noted, "it seems like a lot of money for teaching good bedside manners." This seminar will look at the interface of the Humanities and Medicine and will specifically examine the doctor-patient relationship and the various efforts to, in the words of Dr. Mark Seigler, head of the new Bucksbaum Institute for Clinical Excellent, "put compassion and empathy on the same pedestal as science and technology. This inquiry seminar will examine the human issues involved in health care and study best practices for physician-patient interactions. The seminar will be useful for students interested in medicine but also those looking toward client-focused professions such as: veterinary medicine, hospital administration, or teaching.

HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN STUDIES: LITERARY UTOPIAS
Mott, Wesley T.
CRN #: 20635
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-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: NATURE WRITING: FORGING A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE THROUGH WRITING AND MEDIA
Nikitina, Svetlana
CRN #: 20771
This Inquiry Seminar aspires to forge a new attitude of partnership and collaboration with nature to replace the stance of pillage and consumerism, endemic in our culture. To this end, the students will engage in an in-depth inquiry into a particular form of plant or animal species of their choice and investigate its ecological significance, map its historical trajectory and elucidate its cultural meanings. Such animals as coyotes and bears, such plants as sequoias and birches have inspired many a poem, a story, a political debate, an environmental action and a mythological tradition. The scope of the seminar is not confined to a single literary or cultural tradition but has a global reach, inviting students to explore a variety of
cultural representations of plants and animals and find unique ways to communicate about them. The goal of the students' Final Project in this seminar will be to present the rich story behind a particular life form they choose to illuminate. Michael Pollan's "The Botany of Desire" as well as the writings of Annie Dillard and others will serve as an inspiration for writing about a plant or an animal with reverence and humility. Students' creative toolkit in this seminar will not be limited to expository writing they will be free to use poetry, literary narrative, film, photojournalism or digital media to help communicate their message in the Final Project. Literature and writing courses as well as Great Problems Seminars (Feed the World, Heal the World and The Grand Challenges) will provide a good preparation for this seminar. This seminar is also a good match for students who achieved depth in history and have taken at least one course in English and who have a strong background in biology and environmental studies.

History

HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY
Baller, William A.
CRN #: 20636
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-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA
Clark, Constance A.
CRN #: 20773
This inquiry seminar in the History of Science and Technology will focus on the history of science, technology and the media, and students will individually explore focused aspects of that history: individual projects might focus on the technical history of some part of mass media, or on representations of science and technology in the media at some period in our history. We will focus predominantly on primary source materials, with some attention to the methods of analysis historians have devoted to such material. This will be a writing-intensive course, including a "workshop" setting in which students will help each other improve their writing and revising skills.

HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF DARWINISM AND EVOLUTION IN AMERICAN CULTURE
Clark, Constance A.
CRN #: 20772
This Inquiry Seminar in the History of Science and Technology will explore responses to Darwinism and evolution in American culture since 1859. This may include scientists' responses to Darwinism, alternative theories of evolution, evolution controversies, and representations of evolutionary ideas in popular and mass culture. We will examine some representative scholars' approaches to these issues, and will explore a variety of primary sources, discussing ways in which historians can learn from these sources. Students will write their own analyses of focused aspects of American responses to evolution, drawing on primary source materials, with some attention to the methods of analysis historians have devoted to such material. This will be a writing-intensive course, including a "workshop" setting in which students will help each other improve their writing and revising skills.
HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: EMPIRE IN HISTORY
Hansen, Peter H.
CRN #: 20637
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 INQUIRY SEMINAR: URBAN HISTORY
Rudolph, Jennifer
CRN #: 20638
This inquiry seminar will examine the development of cities, urban spaces, and urbanization through the discussion of classic works on the city and individual research projects. Class time will be devoted to acquiring a common foundation on approaches to the study of the city and the exploration of issues critical to urban studies and urban history. Each student will then research and analyze a specific urban history topic of his or her choice. Presentation of student work will open discussion to a wide variety of urban history topics representing a geographically diverse set of cities. Students are expected to share their work with the class and help critique fellow classmates' work. This seminar is appropriate for students with a background in history (American, Asian, Central or South American, or European).

Music

HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC INTERFACES
Bianchi, Frederick
CRN #: 20540
The seminar will investigate developments in technology that can detect physical gesture, monitor the sonic conditions of various environments, and bio-sensing technologies suitable for creative applications. These technologies are particularly relevant to designing advanced interfaces for music and interactive media applications.

HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: JAZZ HISTORY
Falco, Richard G.
CRN #: 20541
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-C INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC HISTORY
Shim, Eunmi
CRN #: 20542
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.
This seminar examines the philosophy of cinema (aesthetic theory, narrativity and representation, film style and technique, etc.), as well as the use of film as a medium for expressing philosophical ideas (existentialism, the crisis of religious faith, Nietzsche's myth of the eternal return, suicide, the ethics of political violence, etc.). What makes a film "philosophical"? What is gained, and lost, when an artist expresses ideas in the imagistic language of film or video? Can philosophers write good film criticism? Students will be expected to watch and write critically about two films drawn from world cinema per week, in dialogue with short essays by such philosophers as Albert Camus, Walter Benjamin, Martin Heidegger, Kate Millet, Susan Sontag, etc., as well as film critics and scholars. At the end of the course, students will be graded on the quality of their "portfolio" of collected philosophical meditations.
TERM D, 2011

**Art/Art History**

**HU 3910-D PRACTICUM IN HUA:  ANIMATION SHORT FILM**
Rosenstock, Joshua
CRN #: 20544
This practicum in Visual Art/IMGD focuses on the production of short animated films. Students will write scripts, draw storyboards, build characters, animate scenes, and edit soundtracks. They will also consider more broadly topics such as visual storytelling, artistic style, character design, and physical acting. Students should have taken AR/IMGD 2201 (Art of Animation), or have equivalent experience in 2d or 3d animation techniques.

**HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR:  SEMINAR IN THE VISUAL ARTS:  THE COLLECTIONS OF THE WORCESTR ART MUSEUM**
Samson, M. David
CRN #: 20550
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.

**HU 3910-D PRACTICUM IN HUA:  ANIMATION**
West, David
CRN #: 21753
This practicum in Visual Art/IMGD focuses on the production of short animated films. Students will write scripts, draw storyboards, build characters, animate scenes, and edit soundtracks. They will also consider more broadly topics such as visual storytelling, artistic style, character design, and physical acting. Students should have taken AR/IMGD 2201 (Art of Animation), or have equivalent experience in 2d or 3d animation techniques.

**English**

**HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR:  BRITISH LITERATURE**
Brattin, Joel J.
CRN #: 20551
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-D INQUIRY SEMINAR:  EXPERIMENTAL LITERATURE, FILM AND MEDIA**
Cocola, Jim
CRN #: 20641
We tend to take the experimental ethic for granted in the sciences, but what does it mean to be experimental in the humanities and arts? In this interdisciplinary seminar we will address this question by exploring experimental works of literature, film, and media that will trouble our classificatory impulses while extending our understandings of the genres and mediums that such efforts straddle and upend. Our approach to this inquiry will be experimental in its own right, including a series of trial assignments in various modes (digital humanities, filmmaking, music,
performance art, photography, procedural and somatic poetry) and culminating in experimental humanities and arts projects, whether of a more creative, critical, scholarly, or sui generis type.

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: CREATIVE WRITING: SCI-FI, HORROR, AND FANTASY
Ephraim, Michelle K.
CRN #: 20777
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-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: WRITING AND RHETORIC: FUTURETECH
Faber, B.
CRN #: 22073
What is new? This inquiry seminar will examine the rhetoric of new technologies and the process of creating a social space for new innovations. The seminar will begin with a review of what is called “instantiation” and the introduction of electric lighting and the emergence of nanotechnology in popular media. From here students will consider their own strategy for launching a new idea. Prior HUA courses in rhetoric, writing, philosophy, or history would be applicable.

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE: TRANSATLANTIC LITERARY ENCOUNTERS
Mott, Wesley, T.
CRN #: 20640
American writers often have called for a national literature worthy of our distinctive experience. Great literature, however, engages with many global cultures and traditions, from ancient classics to the contemporary. This seminar explores a specific kind of cross-cultural exchange: transatlantic social commentary by well-known writers. Our case studies will be Washington Irving's The Sketch-Book (mostly about England) and Charles Dickens's American Notes. Students will write papers on how each writer encountered the other's land, and on the influence of their books on both sides of the Atlantic.

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: LITERATURE AND SCIENCE: PYNCHON’S "GRAVITY'S RAINBOW"
Schachterle, Lance E.
CRN# 21004
Like science and literature? Thomas Pynchon started at Cornell as an engineering major and graduated as an English major. His masterpiece, Gravity’s Rainbow, is a wild, hilarious and profound meditation on human freedom and fatality, with the setting of an historical novel at the end of World War II. There's a lot of science and technology in the book too. This seminar is designed for students interested in British or American literature in the last two hundred years; we will work our way through a long novel to which students can relate virtually any previous interests or experiences in modern literature (or history, music, or film).
HU 3910-D PRACTICUM IN HUA: FEATURE WRITING FOR AN ONLINE NEWSLETTER
Boudreau, Kristin
CRN #: 21169
This practicum, open to students with "depth" coursework in writing, will introduce students to feature writing and will provide opportunities for students to write interviews, profiles, feature stories and historical pieces for the Department of Humanities and Arts' online newsletter. Students with "depth" in history may arrange to take this course, provided the stories they write involve archival research and take a historical perspective.

HU 3910-D PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY
Stone, Erika A.
CRN #: 20553
This Practicum in Theatre Technology will involve participants in the rehearsal and staging of the annual New Voices festival of original works, a collaboration of Humanities and Arts, Drama/Theatre, and Masque. In 2006, New Voices celebrated its 25th year as part of the WPI academic theatre program. The Drama/Theatre professors work together every year to stage the festival. New Voices opens in the fourth week of the term, with the following three weeks devoted to assembling a project portfolio which documents the results of the study. Students may enroll in this practicum for design, technology, stage management, or other production areas with approval of the professor.

HU 3900-D Inquiry Seminar: The Naturalist
Travers, R.
CRN #: 22074
From detailed observations to comprehensive species catalogues to grand theories of life on earth, naturalists are central to the human endeavor we call science. In addition, naturalists have contributed some of the most aesthetic and ethically informed reflections on “man’s” place in the world ever written. With Peterson Field Guides, Darwin’s “Origin of Species,” and the work of Rachel Carson, Jane Goodall, E.O. Wilson and Stephen Gould, among others, we will sample this great literature through reading, writing and discussion. You will keep a nature journal, familiarize yourself with at least one field guide, hone your naturalist intelligence, think a lot about the nature of science and the nature of naturalists, and write several short pieces, all toward the goal of creating a substantial essay titled “Naturalist as Scientist; Naturalist as Humanist.” In the end, we are in this class to remind ourselves how to keep our senses attuned to and our minds refreshed by the remarkable natural world around us. This seminar is appropriate for anyone with "depth" in the area of nature writing, history of science, American history, American literature (especially of the 19th century), writing, or environmental philosophy.

HU 3910-D PRACTICUM IN HUA: DRAMA/THEATRE: ACTING, DIRECTING, DRAMATURGY, OR OTHER CREATIVE PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES
Vick, Susan
CRN #: 20545
This practicum offers the student the opportunity to participate in New Voices 30, the academic theatre production for D term. A consultation with the professor is necessary prior to the term in order to confirm suitability for this level of participation in the production. Conclusion of the practicum requires a portfolio detailing the work of the term.
History

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: WORLD HISTORY
Addison, W. A. Bland
CRN #: 20547
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-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICA’S WARTIME LEADERSHIP
Bailer, William A.
CRN #: 20779
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-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY
Bullock, Steven C.
CRN #: 20548
This Inquiry Seminar in History examines Mason Locke Weems's Life of George Washington, the most popular early biography of America's first president—and the first to tell the story of Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on the book itself and on its connections to Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary America. They will also consider more broadly how to think and write about the past.

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: WAR AND SOCIETY
Gary, Deborah
CRN# 22061
The focus of this Inquiry Seminar will be the militarization of American society. After group discussion of a core set of readings each student will choose an individual topic which explores an aspect of the impact of war on society and/or society’s impact on the military. Using primary and secondary sources, each student will write an analytical research paper on his/her topic and will give a class presentation. Although the course emphasis will be on an American perspective, students may choose, with prior faculty approval, to investigate a related research topic in the context of another country. Situated within the framework of militarization, topics may encompass studies in social, military, political, diplomatic or economic history.

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM
Hanlan, James P.
CRN #: 20642
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-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: ASIAN HISTORY
Rudolph, Jennifer
CRN #: 20643
This inquiry seminar in Asian history will focus on national identity formation in the age of nation-states. Questions to be explored include both
the broad and the specific: What is modernity? What makes China a nation? Does Japan have particular national or cultural characteristics that contributed to it being the first non-Western country to industrialize and modernize? How does Korea maintain its identity in the age of globalization? What role does nationalism play in today's world? Common readings will provide a foundation for individual exploration of specific research questions. Presentation of student work will open discussion to various dimensions of identity in Asia. Students are expected to share their work with the class and help critique fellow classmates' work. This seminar is appropriate for students with a background in world or Asian history.

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: WATERWAYS HISTORY
Spanagel, David I.
CRN #: 20549
This inquiry seminar in the history of American science and technology will examine the development of waterways. Weekly meetings will be devoted to uncovering and understanding various American 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, 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.

Music

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: FILM SCORING
Delorey, John F.
CRN #: 21005
This seminar will trace the development of film scores from silent movies to today's orchestral and pop scores. In addition to class time, there will be ten (10) hours of film viewing per week. Final project will be paper on approved film and score.

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC HISTORY
Shim, Eunmi
CRN #: 20644
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-D PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC PERFORMANCE
Weeks, Douglas G.
CRN #: 20546
Students will meet in a class setting to both discuss music performance techniques and to prepare for a final performance. Stylistic differences in performance for different periods of music will be studied. A portion of the class time will be spent performing and critiquing for each other. At the conclusion of the term, students will present a final recital.
HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: RELIGION AND SCIENCE
Eddy, Bethel L.
CRN #: 20645
This seminar will focus on a wide variety of issues that bring religion and science together which might include (but not be limited to) issues in medical ethics or stem cell research, the moral impact of some particular technology, theological views about Darwinian evolution, the philosophical/moral implications of natural selection, historical interactions and conflicts between religion and science such as the Galileo affair or the Scopes Trial, theological approaches to the natural world, etc. We will read a short background book together, and then each student will work on an individual project within the broad subject area which will be presented to the seminar group. Admission to this seminar is by competitive application.

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY
Sanbonmatsu, John
CRN #: 20778
This seminar examines the nature of technology and its social and political consequences for human and nonhuman beings. Can we distinguish between technology as an artifact, as a social practice, and as a mode of life? Do we control technology, or does technology control us? Does technology have a politics? What makes one technology democratic and "appropriate," another anti-democratic or even dangerous? Using Scharff and Dusek's "Philosophy of Technology," we will review some of the major philosophical theories about the nature of technology and its relation to questions of normativity, epistemology, determinism, human nature and ontology, and power. Students will be required to submit a term paper based on their own original research based on a topic of their choosing.

HU 3900-D INQUIRY SEMINAR: MONEY TALKS BUT WHAT DOES IT SAY?
Smith, Ruth L.
CRN #: 21012
Money talks when we talk about—put into use: its goods, evils, expressions of human value and disvalue, effects on the human spirit. Modern money takes place in agreements about markets, borrowing, lending, equating. Philosophical and religious traditions struggle with money in associations with inequality, anxiety, and spiritual corruption and also have been sources of sanction for acceptance of money. The work of this seminar is to mine philosophical, civil, and religious claims on the character of modern money: ideas of freedom, rights, alienation, class, sacrifice, philanthropy, and what can be exchanged—that is, given price. Everyone participates in shared reading-discussion and conducts individual research to develop a question about a topic that you select (in consultation). Potential areas include: moral constraints and the emergence of capitalist markets; gender relations of domestic work; practices of servant and slave; ideals and ideas of poverty; arguments about charging interest; accounting and articulations of body, mind, and soul; concepts of gift and gratitude. The final result is your individually developed seminar paper along a line of inquiry that makes a case for money as something to think about. This seminar assumes a depth requirement in philosophy, religion, or rhetoric, though students with closely related HUA depth areas will also be considered.