

2022-23 COURSE GUIDEBOOK

FALL 2022

FYS 107

Dinosaurs! Science, art, and public understanding

Instructors: Amy Harwell and Gareth Hopkins

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, The Arts, Media & Current Events

Did you know that there is a dinosaur singing outside your window? By the end of this course you will know why we know that! This course will introduce fundamental scientific principles and explore how science and the arts interact to shape the public understanding of science using this iconic group of animals. We will use dinosaurs as a case study of evolution, and explore how our understanding or mis-understanding of these animals through time has shaped our perceptions of these legendary creatures. Exploring dinosaurs takes a multidisciplinary investigative approach, introducing how we evaluate evidence across the sciences, and how the arts and media can shape our understanding of the way science works, for better or for worse.

Fast zombies vs. slow zombies: the biology of fear

Instructor: Erin Baumgartner

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, True crime & Horror, Storytelling

Explore the biology of fear. Find out what happens in your body during a good fright and explore

the evolutionary advantages of fear in humans. Dig into the biological roots of classic frighteners like werewolves, vampires and the walking dead to learn how myths arise from real phenomena. Use your new knowledge to argue your case for the scariest horror books and films of all time. Join with your fellow students to tackle some of your biggest fears about the college experience. Because while creepy clowns are always to be avoided, class projects, office hours and Hamersly Library are nothing to be afraid of.

Logic, Language, and Alice

Instructor: Ryan Hickerson

Keywords: Conflict, Debate, & Revolution, Storytelling

A lesser-known fact is that Alice's Adventures in Wonderland was written by an Oxford logician. It is filled with logical fallacies and whimsically named creatures. In this seminar we will study some logic through examination of some seriously silly arguments, but we will also investigate a serious philosophical question about whether names can have meaning, by reading Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and *Through the Looking Glass*, alongside Plato and John Stuart Mill.

Me, Myself, and I. Who the Heck am I?

Instructor: Tracy Powell

Keywords: Self & Identity, Health & Wellness

This course examines the perplexing question of what constitutes the self from a philosophical, psychological, existential, and biological lens. Consideration will progress from a broad theoretical understanding of self to an individually focused look at one's own self-identity. Deeper self-understanding should lead to better decision-making and overall well-being in life here at WOU and beyond.

Moving in the Movies

Instructor: Corrie Cowart

Keywords: The Arts, Media & Current Events, Policy, Culture, & Society

What do the feel-good song and dance moments in movie musicals tell us about American culture? How do the popular dance forms highlighted in these films reflect and challenge social trends of the 20th century? These are some of the questions this FYS seeks to explore. We will examine a selection of American movie musicals analyzing how the story and the dance within the film excavate "the temper of the age." Movie musicals reflect back to us shifting American values and cultural trends in relation to race, gender, economics, class, history and religion. While grappling with this seemingly light-hearted genre we will have the opportunity to analytically examine a distinctly American genre at different points in American history.

Oregon History Detectives

Instructors: Kim Jensen and Ken Carano

Keywords: Historical Perspectives, Local Connections, Teaching & Education

Oregon History Detectives introduces students to the tools they need to discover and analyze the lives of diverse Oregonians in our history and teach others about their experiences to build a richer understanding of our past. Methods for students to gain these analytical, comprehension, and teaching skills, including gallery walks with primary source documents, role-playing through literature, comparing and contrasting worldviews through human stories, self-reflection activities, story mapping, and gaining observation, reflection, and questioning skills during field studies. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources through discussion and in writing.

Play: It's not just for kids

Instructor: Jennifer Taylor-Winney

Keywords: Health & Wellness, Hands-on, Self & Identity

This first year seminar will explore the role of lifetime play from global to local through multiple lenses - historical, cultural, political, sociological, relational, psychological, and physiological. These perspectives will be framed using Social Ecological Theory, Wellness Model, and Play Theory. The signature assignment will be a letter to your future self.

Poets, Playwrights & Revolutionaries: Lessons From the Soviet Bloc

Instructor: David Doellinger

Keywords: Historical Perspectives, Conflict, Debate, & Revolution, Global Exploration

Did you know that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was an actor and comedian before he became the wartime leader of Ukraine? In fact, he named his real-life political party – “Servant of the People” – after the name of the 2015 television program that he produced and starred in to challenge the corruption and abuses that had shaped Ukrainian politics. This First Year Seminar explores how playwrights, poets, students, workers, novelists, filmmakers and pacifists also challenged the authoritarian political systems of Communist Central Europe after 1945. In this seminar, students will engage in a study of this recent history through a critical analysis of primary source materials such as poetry, music, art, & film that shaped these transformations in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, East Germany – and of course Ukraine.

Serial Killers

Instructor: Miyuki Arimoto

Keywords: True crime & Horror, Communication & Humanity, Media & Current Events

This seminar examines different types of serial killers and explores possible reasons behind

their killings. By exploring concrete cases, it defines different degrees of homicide and circumstances of homicide in the United States. The diversity in offenders' demographic characteristics and motivations are also discussed.

The Creative Process: How to Think Like an Artist

Instructors: Jodie Garrison and Gregory Poulin

Keywords: The Arts, Communication & Humanity, Hands-on

Learn creative thinking strategies used by some of the world's greatest innovators, artists, and inventors. In this studio art course, you will learn to develop a creative mindset that will benefit any major or career. This course will occasionally join together with the other section of the course to complete in-class workshops and art projects. No art experience is necessary: anyone can learn how to "think like an artist"!

Travelers of Latin America

Instructors: Ricardo Pelegrin-Taboada

Keywords: Global Exploration, Communication & Humanity, Historical Perspectives

This course unveils the different approaches and interpretations that foreigners visiting Latin American territories have made of significant historical events taking place in the region since colonial until modern times. During the class, we will examine, in chronological order, primary sources such as diaries and memories written by travelers during their stay in South and Central America, and the Caribbean. The course will also include secondary sources such as monographs or collections of articles describing the experiences of travelers during their stay in the region. Differences of gender, race, religion and purpose among these travelers will show to the students the diversity and mobility that has existed in Latin America since colonial times. This course will

develop analytical and critical thinking of the students, their formal and informal writing, as well as their oral skills through classes' discussions and presentations.

Started from the Bottom, Now We're Here*

Instructors: SEP Staff

Keywords: Policy, Culture, & Society, Self & Identity, Teaching & Education

In this class, we will research and write about what it means to be first-generation or low-income in the current U.S. educational system. How are members of these populations, traditionally underrepresented at college, impacted by policy and the Higher Ed experience? We will examine what a modern "War on Poverty" would look like and what role education would play. We will explore issues of identity and culture (including gender, race/ethnicity, and class) and potential solutions to the barriers that underrepresented students face.

The Future Is In Our Hands**

Instructors: TPSSS Staff

Keywords: Policy, Culture, & Society, Self & Identity, Teaching & Education

In this class we will research and write about what it means to be a first-generation or low-income student pursuing an Education degree in the US. We will explore issues of identity and culture and potential solutions to the barriers that underrepresented students face in the K-12 school system. Example topics may include: inequity of resources in neighborhoods and communities and the impact on k-12 schools or cultural bias in standardized tests.

FYS 207

#SlayingPublicHealth

Instructor: Loren Wisniewski

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Health & Wellness, Policy, Culture, & Society

This course showcases all the ways public health impacts living conditions and quality of life around the world, in Oregon, and on our campus. Through hands-on fieldwork, multimedia and guest lectures, students will explore ways to get involved locally and globally to make a positive difference in their communities.

A Solar System Odyssey

Instructor: Jeremiah Oxford

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Historical Perspectives, Media & Current Events

Exploration of the solar system is the first step to understanding our place in the universe. We will take a journey through time and see how our perception of the solar system has evolved over the centuries and how a revolution in astronomy led to the birth of modern science. With a gift for pattern recognition, humans formulated the laws of physics which are essential for predicting the motions and properties of celestial bodies. By analyzing the structure and composition of the solar system, we can discover what this information reveals about the origin and evolution of the solar system. We will explore the surface geology of planets and moons and learn what physical processes have shaped these unique worlds. In addition, we will examine the latest observations acquired from spacecraft, assess the significance of these recent discoveries and what they mean for the future of humankind.

Energy Issues: An Environmental Perspective

Instructor: Phil Wade

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Policy, Culture, & Society

This course will focus on the origin, production and development, distribution, uses and impacts of energy in contemporary society. The course is a natural interdisciplinary topic and links all chemistry, earth science, physics, biology. Additionally, this course links the science of energy with societal costs and benefits, policy, and law.

Forensic Science: Fact vs. Hollywood

Instructor: Graham Rankin

Keywords: Media & Current Events, Science, Tech, & Data, Hands-on

Crime shows, like CSI, have significantly increased public interest in forensic science over the last several decades and more. However, these shows present forensic science as though it were an almost magical solution to all problems and that results come back during the commercial break. Some prosecutors have even claimed juries expect a mountain of forensic evidence in every trial, the “CSI Effect”. In this course, we will review what is presented in movies and TV shows versus how forensic science is actually performed. The field of forensic science has evolved over the decades with new and more reliable tests being developed. We will cover some examples where new methods have been used to overturn convictions based on earlier and less accurate methods.

Get Woke to Being Broke*

Instructors: SEP Staff

Keywords: Teaching & Education, Self & Identity, Conflict, Debate, & Revolution

In this class, we will research and practice what it means to be first-generation or low-income in the current U.S. educational system. What are the financial mechanisms that make Higher Education possible for those coming from low-income backgrounds? What is the financial impact of a college education, positive and negative? Students will calculate these costs and rewards from an individual perspective exploring cost of attendance, impact of financial aid, inflation in both cost of attendance and local economy, and planning for future financial needs.

Illuminating the Code of Dance

Instructor: Darryl Thomas

Keywords: The Arts, Science, Tech, & Data, Hands-on

This course will explore the parallels between

dance and coding and will culminate in creating an iPuppet dance using basic tools from dance choreography, illuminated puppet pieces, and basic coding skills. No previous dance or coding experience is needed.

Impact of Video Games on Modern Society

Instructor: Luke Cordova

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Policy, Culture, & Society, Media & Current Events

Video games are having an undeniable effect on modern society. This course examines how video games are impacting culture, art, education, medicine, rehabilitation, and communication as well as their role in societal issues such as sex, sexuality, gender, and race.

Lies, Damn Lies, and Statistics: Cultivating Numerical Media Literacy

Instructor: Maren Anderson

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Media & Current Events, Communication & Humanity

We are confronted with an astronomical amount of information in the modern era. Much of this information is tied to numbers and statistics, yet often little or no context is offered so people can truly understand what the data shows. Worse yet, there are entities that are purposefully obfuscating the truth by misstating the data or presenting them in a misleading way. This course will focus on how data and statistics are used in the media and modern culture and how to view data through a critical lens to understand what the information means and whether it is being presented in a truthful manner.

Rocking the National Parks

Instructor: Grant Smith

Keywords: Careers, Policy, Culture, & Society, Science, Tech, & Data

America's National Parks and Monuments

preserve some of the most iconic landscapes on Earth. The historical reasons of why these places have been set aside will be explored and we will investigate what makes some of them geologically significant. Students will also learn how to use online map and navigation tools for exploring the parks. Challenges to park preservation both now and in the future will also be discussed. Finally, strategies for those seeking employment with the National Park Service will be investigated.

Superheroes or Supercriminals?

Instructor: Jennifer Moreno

Keywords: True crime & Horror, Policy, Culture, & Society, Storytelling

Superheroes are here to save the day and do whatever is necessary to defeat forces of evil. But what if “whatever’s necessary” crosses the line into criminal activity? In this course we examine epic good versus evil battles and analyze the criminal implications of being a superhero.

WOU Earth Corps: Beginner's Guide to Environmental Stewardship

Instructor: Steve Taylor

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Hands-on, Policy, Culture, & Society

This course engages service-based learning with a focus on environmental restoration of water, land and soil. Students apply basic principles of Earth Science and Permaculture design to hands-on environmental restoration projects in the community. Four hours of active learning and group discussion per week.

WINTER 2023

FYS 107

Color and Expression in Art

Instructor: Jodie Garrison

Keywords: The Arts, Hands-on, Communication & Humanity

A studio art course that explores basic color theory and how color is used in visual communication and expression.

Digital Storytelling and Narratives

Instructor: Tiara Good

Keywords: Storytelling, Self & Identity, Communication & Humanity

Digital Storytelling and Narratives explores what is at the heart of our human experience--stories and ways we share those stories. Exploring various disciplines takes on digital storytelling, narrative, and technology to share them, this course gives students theoretical and application of digital storytelling and narratives through readings, case studies, and crafting digital storytelling projects of their own. The course will also provide hands-on technology experience and exploration of real-life issues, questions, and narratives true to their life experiences.

Fairy Tales: From the Brothers Grimm to Disney

Instructor: Kristen Klay

Keywords: Storytelling, Communication & Humanity, True crime & Horror, Historical Perspectives

Talking mirrors, glass slippers, and the Big Bad Wolf are all elements found in Grimm's Fairy Tales. Collected in Germany in the early 1800s by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, these stories have endur-

ing appeal and are a vital part of Western literary tradition. And yet, in the British-occupied sector of Germany following World War II, Grimm's Fairy Tales were banned because they were deemed to be feeding "a bloodthirsty German imagination." In this course we will analyze literary fairy tales from continental Europe and trace the history of the fairy tale from oral tradition to print and film. Although our focus will be on literary tales, we will also have an opportunity to look at fairy tale illustrations and to compare some of these stories to modern Disney film versions.

Islam and Immigration in Contemporary Europe

Instructor: Patricia Goldsworthy-Bishop

Keywords: Historical Perspectives, Global Exploration, Policy, Culture, & Society

This course examines the historical, social, and political factors involved in immigration from the Muslim World to Europe from the colonial era to today. What are the driving factors behind immigration? How are Muslim immigrants perceived and treated? How do immigrants integrate into European societies? How has immigration shaped European society and politics?

My Diverse Life: Examining personal experiences that form our individual narrative

Instructors: Alicia Wenzel and Cindy Ryan

Keywords: Self & Identity, Storytelling, Communication & Humanity

This course introduces students to the tools they need to discover and analyze the diverse lives of others, peers, and themselves to build a richer understanding of our past, including adversity-type events, and how it forms one's individual narrative. Methods for students to gain analytical, comprehension, and communication (writing and oral) skills include: journal, prompts, and formal writing; use of technol-

ogy tools for research, writing, collaboration and presentation; fiction and non-fiction text and media analysis; comparing and contrasting human experience stories; reflection activities; story mapping; gaining observation, reflection, and questioning skills.

Started from the Bottom, Now We're Here*

Instructors: SEP Staff

Keywords: Policy, Culture, & Society, Self & Identity, Teaching & Education

In this class, we will research and write about what it means to be first-generation or low-income in the current U.S. educational system. How are members of these populations, traditionally underrepresented at college, impacted by policy and the Higher Ed experience? We will examine what a modern “War on Poverty” would look like and what role education would play. We will explore issues of identity and culture (including gender, race/ethnicity, and class) and potential solutions to the barriers that underrepresented students face.

What's the worst that could happen? Why we love dystopian stories

Instructor: Maren Anderson

Keywords: Storytelling, Communication & Humanity

Remember when your mother asked if you would jump off a bridge if all your friends did? The consequences of such an action are pretty clear, but some actions – like banning books – have complex consequences that aren't easily imagined. That's why dystopian stories are useful. Dystopian stories take ideas to extremes to examine how humans meet such dire conditions, and also to warn against certain actions. But why do we like stories about the end of the world as we know it?

FYS 207

An Ounce of Prevention

Instructor: Eric Wallace

Keywords: Careers, Health & Wellness, Self & Identity

Do you know how your dream job might affect your health? Every occupation comes with inherent risks to your health and happiness, whether it's typing at a desk, lifting objects, or working late to meet deadlines. All of these activities involve a web of stresses to your physical and mental health that impact your happiness and chance for a long and successful career. By learning to identify these risks you can begin making decisions that diminish them, and find your balance between health, happiness, and success.

Get Woke to Being Broke *

Instructors: SEP Staff

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Money Management: Make Your Money Work for You

Instructor: Bojan Ilievski

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Self & Identity, Hands-on, Careers

The goal of this class is to help students to

become financially responsible, conscientious members of society. To reach that end, this course develops students' understanding and skills in such areas as money management, budgeting, career planning, financial goal attainment, the wise use of credit, insurance, investments, and consumer rights and responsibilities. This course will give students the tools and resources needed to make wise financial decisions by evaluating the costs and benefits, recognizing their rights and responsibilities as consumers, and applying the knowledge learned to financial situations encountered later in life. Ultimately, they will learn how to put their money to work.

Notorious Trials - How Shocking Crimes Became Shocking Administrations of Justice

Instructor: Jennifer Moreno

Keywords: True crime & Horror, Communication & Humanity, Media & Current Events

Crimes that shocked the nation: bizarre defendants, strange case details, unbelievable defenses. In this course we examine the crimes that made headlines and how the trials became almost as notorious as the crimes.

Protecting the Living World and its Inhabitants

Instructor: Bryan Dutton

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Policy, Culture, & Society, Media & Current Events

This course will explore the reasons for protecting biological diversity along with particular places where biodiversity is found. The course will introduce important concepts through consideration of several ongoing conservation efforts while exploring the why and how behind these efforts.

Show me the Money **

Instructors: TPSSS Staff

Keywords: Teaching & Education, Self & Identity, Policy, Culture, & Society

In this class we will examine the financial impacts of being a first-generation or low-income student pursuing an Education degree in the US. We will learn about the principles of financial literacy, and we will also research the effects that economics have on education from K-12 to higher education.

Translating science through scientific controversies

Instructor: Melissa Kelley

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Policy, Culture, & Society

What are GMOs and are they dangerous? Are vaccines safe? Is Big Pharma trying to hide cancer cures from the public? How can you learn the truth about these and other controversial topics in science? In a world full of disinformation, what is the actual scientific basis behind some of these controversies, and how can we know what sources to trust? In this class, we will learn about some major scientific topics that cause fear or are controversial. We will learn how to find reliable scientific sources, how to read, and how to understand scientific sources. This course will include a lecture component, opportunities for group discussions, and coursework designed to increase your understanding of “how we know what we know” in science.

Well-behaved women (and a lot of other folks) Rarely Make History

Instructor: Becka Morgan

Keywords: Historical Perspectives, Policy, Culture, & Society, Conflict, Debate, & Revolution

Who gets credit for the important stuff in history? You may have noticed that some voices and identities show up more than others. Do you wonder

what everyone else was doing? In this class, we'll explore the contributions of people that history forgot, who helped shape the evolution of society, and how their exclusion shapes where we are today.

SPRING 2023

FYS 107

Digital Storytelling and Narratives

Instructor: Tiara Good

Keywords: Storytelling, Self & Identity, Communication & Humanity

Digital Storytelling and Narratives explores what is at the heart of our human experience--stories and ways we share those stories. Exploring various disciplines takes on digital storytelling, narrative, and technology to share them, this course gives students theoretical and application of digital storytelling and narratives through readings, case studies, and crafting digital storytelling projects of their own. The course will also provide hands-on technology experience and exploration of real-life issues, questions, and narratives true to their life experiences.

Do Scientists Create Disasters?

Instructor: Jim Dawson

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Media & Current Events, Policy, Culture, & Society

The 2018 movie catalog of the streaming service Netflix offers an entire film category entitled "Science Gone Wrong". Why are scientists so often depicted in television and movies as evil or short-sighted? The alternative is not much better; a stereotypical representation as absentminded and ineffective at leadership. Is Michael Crichton entirely to blame or were the seeds of mistrust of science planted in the cinema long ago? Which films portray scientists in a positive way? At a time when mistrust of science is evident at the national level, the question of how the media treats scientists is relevant. This

seminar will examine how science is represented in selected films and television. We will then explore actual instances in which scientists have unleashed disaster and how they have helped avoid disasters. Finally, do perceptions and stereotypes promoted by the media influence the diminishing role of science in political debate and policy-making?

Introduction to Comedy Writing

Instructor: Lars Soderlund

Keywords: Storytelling, Media & Current Events, Communication & Humanity

Introduction to Comedy Writing introduces students to multiple media and genres of comedy writing and to the craft of writing in these genres. In addition, students will research the history of facets of comedy, such as tropes and comedy figures.

Nature and Photography

Instructor: Daniel Tankersly

Keywords: Media & Current Events, Hands-on, Local Connections

What is "nature" -- and what does it look like? This course explores ways in which images construct meaning, express beliefs, provide evidence, and illustrate cultural values. It surveys the uses of pictures in a variety of contexts that include science, art, journalism, propaganda, and social media. Special attention is paid to the conjoined histories of photography and the American West. Students hone foundational skills for college-level inquiry and discussion. Projects combine the creation of original photographs with other forms of writing and research. Includes instruction in photography.

Started from the Bottom, Now We're Here*

Instructors: SEP Staff

Keywords: Policy, Culture, & Society, Self & Identity, Teaching & Education

In this class, we will research and write about what it means to be first-generation or low-income in the current U.S. educational system. How are members of these populations, traditionally underrepresented at college, impacted by policy and the Higher Ed experience? We will examine what a modern “War on Poverty” would look like and what role education would play. We will explore issues of identity and culture (including gender, race/ethnicity, and class) and potential solutions to the barriers that underrepresented students face.

FYS 207

Are WOU the one? Logic and strategy in game and reality shows

Instructor: Ben Cote

Keywords: Media & Current Events, Science, Tech, & Data

Do you love games and puzzles? Become a contestant on popular game shows to challenge yourself, build your strategic thinking, and win big! Uncover strategies and knowledge that will help you out if you ever wind up on Survivor, The Price is Right, or Are You the One?

Born this way? Baby it's genetics and culture

Instructors: Dana Schowalter and Kristin Latham-Scott

Keywords: Science, Tech, & Data, Media & Current Events, Policy, Culture, & Society

This seminar will examine biological sex development, and how ones sex intersects with how we see gender and communication in our culture. We will examine what beliefs we hold about sex and

gender and why, what research is available to help us refine ideas, and investigate how to use new information about sex and gender in our daily lives.

Get Woke to Being Broke*

Instructors: SEP Staff

Keywords: Teaching & Education, Self & Identity, Conflict, Debate, & Revolution

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How to survive a mass extinction

Instructors: Erin Baumgartner and Jeff Myers

Keywords: Policy, Culture, & Society, Science, Tech, & Data, Conflict, Debate, & Revolution

Who lives, who dies, and why? What can we learn by exploring evidence from events millions of years in the past to help us understand what is going on in the world today? By using quantitative skills to explore and explain trends, build and test predictions, and estimate and evaluate outcomes, we will learn how to survive mass extinction, and also how to survive and succeed in college.