FYS Course Descriptions Fall 2018

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PRELIMINARY LIST OF COURSES AND DESCRIPTIONS. ANY AND ALL DETAILS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PRIOR TO REGISTRATION. VERIFY COURSE NUMBER, DAYS, AND TIME ON MYRIC BEFORE REGISTERING.

Course #11093  FYS 100-01 MW 8-10
**Peter Little**  
*Dynamics of Disaster*  
This course takes an interdisciplinary look at natural and manmade disasters, looking at the multiple ways in which culture, economy, and environment are both impacted by disasters and in turn shape disaster response and recovery.

Course #11099  FYS 100-09 MW 8-10
**Jeslyn Lemke**  
*Rage Against the Machine: Activism and Social Movements for Social Change*  
The #MeToo movement, Black Lives Matter movement, the Arab Spring or the Zapatista rebels all have one factor in common: activism for social change. This course explores how social movements form and why. We will consume pop culture, social media and documentaries on mass protests to pull apart why populations mobilize for a better world.

Course #12582  FYS 100-38 MW 8-10
**Elijah Edelman**  
*Sex Rights, Sex Wrongs*  
We explore how gender, sex and sexuality-specific ideologies shift and morph over time, as well as how they broadly impact and structure our lives in important ways. We will explore these complex topics through a diverse selection of theoretical and ethnographic texts, as well as films, zines and graphic novels.

Course #11105  FYS 100-19 TuTh 8-10
**Sue Abbotson**  
*Shock Therapy: Drama as Protest*  
This course will explore some of the socio-cultural boundaries enforced upon and broken by drama from the Greeks to contemporary works, as playwrights have striven to bring attention to a variety of social ills and inequities. Protest drama is by its very nature shocking, but can it go too far, does it still work, and can we create some of our own?

Course #11649  FYS 100-30 TuTh 8-10
**Maria Lawrence**  
*Native Arts*  
Explore Native American arts such as music, crafts, film, dance, and storytelling by performing them. You’ll weave a sash, make a rattle, learn a song and dance. Learn about current events in Indian Country and how traditional cultures are positioned in contemporary society.
Course #11838  FYS 100-35 TTh 8-10

Chris Kunkel
Leadership Studies Through The Biography
Look at the dimensions of leadership through the study of biographies and biographical portraits. Explore qualities of various leaders though online sources, print and media. Students will conduct research as well as read a biography of their choice and share portraits of their subject based on their original research.

Course #11095  FYS 100-03 MW 10-12

Ron Dufour
Cultures Collide: Indians and Europeans in Early North America
This course tells a story very different from the one most of us associate with “colonial” America. It examines the interaction of indigenous Americans and European invaders in 17th and 18th century North America. The course explores what these people thought of each other, and how their lives changed, dramatically, as a result of their contact.

Course #10913  FYS 100-04 MW 10-12

Christine Connolly
Health Communications: I Wonder What They Really Mean
Students will become familiar with health care initiatives and will learn how to target health messages using scholarly resources to research, assess, critically analyze, create and communicate information.

Course #11096  FYS 100-05 MW 10-12

Tanni Chaudhuri
From the “Raja” to the “Desi” Romance: 100 years of Bollywood
While we focus on the historical trajectory of Bollywood, its socio-political context will also be explored through more contemporary Bollywood films. In debunking the Bollywood cinema, we read into the socio-cultural-political and economic context of an entertainment industry that reaches out to the national, pan-national and international millions.

Course #11097  FYS 100-07 MW 10-12

Amy Berg
Ethics in the family: From birth to death
Should you have children? What marriages should be legal? Is it ever okay to commit assisted suicide? In this course, we will talk about these and other ethical questions many people face during their lives, from birth to death.

Course #10914  FYS 100-18 TuTh 10-12

Desiree Ciambrone
Tattoos aren’t just for sailors anymore: Men, Women, and Bodies
Our sociological study of the body will focus on three broad areas: 1) body representation and modification, 2) social control, 3) and illness and disability. We’ll discuss how bodies are central to our everyday experiences and critically analyze the body in terms of social institutions (e.g., medicine, law) and identities (e.g., gender, race, class, age, and sexuality).
Course #11108  FYS 100-22 TuTh 10-12
Geoff Harkness
Music and the Social World
This course explores how music infiltrates your world through pop culture, weddings, birthday parties, festivals, social media, sports, and more. We will explore how music both reflects society and how social issues are described and debated in the music we love (and love to hate!).

Course #11111  FYS 100-25 TuTh 10-12
Amy Barlow
Raid the collections!: Making discoveries in Rhode Island College collections
Invites students to examine an array of fascinating objects--artifacts, artworks, and digital archives drawn from various collections at Rhode Island College. Students will learn how to handle, evaluate, contextualize, and explore what it means to “collect” and “curate” one-of-a-kind objects.

Course #11098  FYS 100-08 MTh 12-2
Chris Kunkel
Leadership Studies Through The Biography
Look at the dimensions of leadership through the study of biographies and biographical portraits. Explore qualities of various leaders though online sources, print and media. Students will conduct research as well as read a biography of their choice and share portraits of their subject based on their original research.

Course #11112  FYS 100-26 MTh 12-2
Matt Duncan
Philosophy of Mind and Mental Disorder
We will seek to better understand the nature of the mind and the relationship between the mind and body. We will consider various classical arguments in the philosophy of mind, paying special attention to what mental disorder can teach us. That is, we will see how we can better understand the mind by studying what happens when it breaks down.

Course #11830  FYS 100-33 MTh 12-2
Brandon Hawk
Cuneiform to Cyberspace
We will survey the dramatic, controversial, and sometimes baffling history of human writing and reading from origins to our digital age. This exploration will include workshops with cuneiform tablets, medieval manuscripts, printed books, and contemporary computers, as we investigate how humans have organized knowledge over time.

Course #12473  FYS 100-16 TF 12-2
Jeannine Olson
Religions
The histories of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Atheism will be compared in this class through discussions with religious leaders and a field trip to a mosque during Friday prayers. We will also consider strategies for success in college and life, including the complexities of growing up LGBTQ within a religious setting.
Course #11104  FYS 100-17 TF 12-2
Patricia Cordeiro
Grimm and Glitter: The Books of Our Childhood
We review childhood books and stories and consider contexts in which childhood classics emerge. Through collaboratively-developed interview protocols, we will consider what books have had an influence on others, how stories and books influence people, how book choices change over time, and how old classics re-emerge in new formats and media.

Course #  FYS 100-37 TF 12-2
Moonsil Kim
Food, Diet and Medicine in East Asian Civilization
This course examines the food culture, dietary habits and medical traditions of China, Korea and Japan from anthropological and historical perspectives to reveal East Asian civilization through what and how they have been eating.

Course #11100  FYS 100-10 MW 2-4
Valerie Endress
So you want a revolution? Rhetoric, Culture and Politics of the 1960s
We will explore the major social movements and the political, cultural, and intellectual developments of the 1960s through a variety of rhetorical forms. We will not only view the decade through the eyes of its most notorious participants, we'll also look for relevance in the ideals and ideology of those who seek change in our culture today.

Course #12470  FYS 100-11 MW 2-4
Elizabeth Pfeiffer
Global Perspectives on Health
In this seminar, students will explore the diverse range of contexts through which experiences of health, wellness, and bodily disarray are shaped. In so doing, we will consider, ask, and seek answers to big questions related to issues of health, illness, and healing in our own communities, countries, and the globalized world.

Course #11102  FYS 100-14 MW 2-4
Tomoji Shogenji
Self, Mind, Heart in Eastern Philosophies
This course examines how self, mind, and heart are viewed in Eastern philosophies, and explores implications of these views in goals of life, moral conducts, and social relations. Eastern philosophies will be examined and the concepts in these philosophical systems are studied in comparison with their Western counterparts.

Course #11101  FYS 100-12 TuTh 2-4
Aaron Smuts
Philosophy of Death
In this course we will try to answer the question: Is death an evil? We will explore several major puzzles surrounding the value and nature of death: Can we be harmed after death? Is suicide ever rational? Is it conceivable that we could survive the death of our bodies? Would immortality be desirable?
Course #11113  FYS 100-27 TuTh 2-4  
**Sara Picard**  
*Art of the American Civil War*  
The Civil War is one of the foremost events in American history inspiring countless artworks and images. In this course, we will explore painting, sculpture, and other visual representations related to the Civil War by reading and writing about them using tools of art history.

Course #11107  FYS 100-21 TuTh 2-4  
**Daniel Scott**  
*Black Homelands: Real and Imagined Spaces and Black Identities*  
This seminar is inspired by the repetition of the idea of home (real and imagined) in discourses about black experiences in the U.S. Experiments in the geography and psychology of space help us see some of the contours of the larger questions that have persisted about race, gender, and identity in the U.S.

Course #12469  FYS 100-06 MW 4-6  
**David Blanchette**  
*You, Inc.: The Business of You*  
We are all "brands," and as such, may apply business concepts in managing our personal, academic, and professional lives. Students earn "medals" in the areas of class engagement, content understanding, and project application to construct their grades.

Course #11106  FYS 100-20 MW 4-6  
**Elizabeth Henshaw**  
*Contributions of Individuals with Disabilities to Global Society*  
The focus of this course is to provide a platform for students to research and critically analyze issues confronting talented disable individuals. This will provide useful information regarding justice, equality and societal acknowledgement of the contributions of disable people in the global societies.

Course #12474  FYS 100-31 MW 4-6  
**Pierre Morenon**  
*Sustainability*  
Examines failed and successful solutions to critical world problems, using cases from ancient, simpler and contemporary cultures, such as the Narragansett of Rhode Island, ancient Sumer or the Amish of Pennsylvania. Imagine what it is like to live sustainably in our community, nation or world, and design realistic solutions.

Course #12471  FYS 100-13 TTh 2-4  
**Bob Cvornyek**  
*The Fix is In: Sports Page Scandals*  
Students will examine analyze the contested nature of modern American history and life through the nation’s major sports controversies and scandals. Topics include racism; gender identity; classism; community relations; and steroids & the culture of performance.
Course #11827  FYS 100-32 TuTh 2-4
Eliani Benaion Basile
Language and Gender
This course will explore the concept of gender as a social construct and how men and women use language to reflect cultural expectations of masculinity and femininity. It will analyze various materials that illustrate how we perform our gender identity through language and provide a critical discussion of theories in this field.

Course #12472  FYS 100-15 MW 6-8
Steven Pennell
Performance in the First Person: This is ME!
This class will explore a variety of methods of research, personal narrative/memoire writing and story telling. It will include theatrical exercises and methods for presentation tapping into your creativity and confidence building. The course will culminate in final class presentation.

Course #11410  FYS 100-29 TuTh 6-8
Praveena Gullapalli
Aliens Save Atlantis!
Scenarios of alien intervention in past human societies are all around us, but how do we decide whether or not aliens were responsible for the creation and/or destruction of various ancient monuments and civilizations? And what – if anything – do these scenarios tell us about the past, present and future?

Course #11837  FYS 100-34 TuTh 6-8
Peter Little
Dynamics of Disaster
This course takes an interdisciplinary look at natural and manmade disasters, looking at the multiple ways in which culture, economy, and environment are both impacted by disasters and in turn shape disaster response and recovery.
Honors First Year Seminar Offerings

M&W 4-5:50
Dr. Kalinak
Film Goes Green: Nature and Film
From Disney’s animated classic, Bambi, to the Oscar-winning documentary An Inconvenient Truth, from silent film’s The Wind to the 21st century’s Into the Wild, we will study filmic representations of nature to help us understand the natural world, our relationship to it, and what we can do to preserve it.

M&W 10-11:50
Dr. Christiansen
It’s a Small World: Refugees and Migrations in Historical Perspective
This seminar approaches the topic of refugees and other migrants primarily from a historical perspective, but students also will engage with contemporary issues, in part through RIC’s Open Books Open Minds selection for the year, Mohsin Hamid’s novel Exit West.

M&Th 12-1:50
Dr. Reddy
Dracula: The Monster (Always) Returns
This course focuses on the culture text of Dracula—that is, the life of the novel apart from its original form. We will consider possible responses to that question as we examine the original 1897 novel and some of its film adaptations along with two of the novel’s vampire precursors.