First Year Seminars
Fall 2020
Updated August 6, 2020

FYS 100-01 (10842) MW 8:00-9:50 **Music and the Social World [online synchronous]** (Harkness)
This discussion-based first-year seminar explores how music infiltrates your world through pop culture, weddings, movies, video games, birthday parties, festivals, social media, sports, and more. Grounded in a series of student-led conversations, we will explore how music both reflects society and how social issues are described and debated in the music we love (and love to hate!). Topics may include music in the 20th and 21st centuries, the historical roots of contemporary music, musical subcultures, specific artists, festivals, audiences, authenticity, the music business, and how music and musicians have been shaped by the Internet and globalization. Students will improve their interpersonal communication, research, and writing skills, while gaining a new appreciation for how music shapes society.

FYS 100-03 (11444) MW 4:00-5:50 **Raid the Collections: Making Discoveries in Rhode Island College Collections [online synchronous]** (Barlow)
This course invites you to examine an array of fascinating materials, such as artifacts, art objects, and digital archives, from the collections of the James P. Adams Library. Together we will conduct original research and develop fresh perspectives on selected items for exhibition on campus and online. You will explore what it means to collect and curate, and will discuss issues surrounding cultural property.

FYS 100-05 (10845) MTh 12:00-1:50 **Shock Therapy: Drama as Action [online synchronous]** (Abbotson)
Throughout history, rulers have viewed the communal opportunity offered by theater as a dangerous form of communication, and have striven to censor anything perceived as threatening the social order. Students will explore socio-cultural boundaries enforced and broken by drama from the Greeks to contemporary works, as playwrights provoked attention toward a variety of inequities and wrongs. Protest drama is by its very nature shocking, but can it go too far, does it still work, and can we create some of our own?

FYS 100-08 (11896) TTh 2:00-3:50 **Not for Political Junkies Only: Making Sense of the 2020 Presidential Campaign [online synchronous]** (Endress)
We will not wait for history books to make sense of the 2020 presidential election. Instead, we will peel away each layer of this campaign, decode the images the candidates project, analyze the political and message strategy, and look at each candidate’s roadmap to an electoral victory. To accomplish this task, we will immerse ourselves in strategy, polls, issues, and media. We will dissect the role of citizenship, rhetoric, stagecraft, and image making. Our view of the campaign will be broad and deep, and we will approach it with the perspective of an historian, the scrutiny of an adversarial journalist, and the insight of a backroom political strategist.

FYS 100-09 (10848) MW 2:00-3:50 **Language and Gender [online synchronous]** (Basile)
This course will explore the concept of gender as a social construct, and how men and women use language to reflect cultural expectations of masculinity and femininity. It will analyze a varied of materials that illustrate how we perform our gendered identity through language, and provide a critical discussion of theories of this interdisciplinary field of study.

FYS 100-10 (11445) MW 6-7:50 **Performance in the First Person: This is ME!** [in person] (Pennell)
This class will explore a variety of methods of research, personal narrative/memoir writing, and storytelling. It will include theatrical exercises and methods for presentation tapping into your creativity and confidence building. The course will culminate in a final class presentation.

FYS 100-11 (10849) TF 12-1:50 **Food and Medicine of East Asia** [online synchronous] (Kim)
Can food be preventive medicine? Are so-called “healthy foods” good for everyone? What are the problems we face in our food culture and medical practices? This class starts with these questions in order to examine the history and the philosophical foundation of East Asian food and medicine. Class discussions and research will be focus on East Asian food as preventive medicine and their traditional medical practices including acupuncture, reflexology, and herbal medicine. Students will investigate the history of East Asian medical practices in Western society in order to understand the current issues on East Asian medicine as an alternative medicine in our society.

FYS 100-12 (11446) TTh 8-9:50 **Sex Rights, Sex Wrongs** [online synchronous] (Edelman)
When it comes to sex, sexuality, and even gender, how do we know what is ‘right’ versus what is ‘wrong’? The legal system, our families, schools, and our communities all have a hand in telling us what we are to think about or do with our bodies. In this course 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 through films, art, and graphic novels.

FYS 100-13 (11897) TTh 2-3:50 **Philosophy of Mind and Mental Disorder** [hybrid] (Duncan)
We will seek to better understand the nature of the mind and the relationship between the mind and body. We will consider various classical arguments in the philosophy of mind, paying special attention to what mental disorder can teach us. That is, we will see how we can better understand the mind by studying what happens when it breaks down.

FYS 100-14 (11898) TTh 10-11:50 **Mountains of Power and Culture** [online synchronous] (Little)
Mountains are powerful. They are places of spirituality and worship. They are the focus of sport and adventure. Mountains are primary sources of fresh water for our world’s growing population. Mountains are also sites of mining, resource extraction, and cultural resistance. Mountains are places of power and danger, nourishment and surprise, peace and resistance. Mountains are awesome!
Who will be President in 2020? This year's U.S. Presidential Election offers a terrific opportunity to better understand how democracy works in America and to consider what role you can play in it. In this course, you’ll have the chance to actively engage in the 2020 U.S. election by analyzing the arguments made by individuals and organizations about candidates and causes. We’ll draw on the tools of rhetoric, the study of human communication, to learn how to more meaningfully participate in democracy and we’ll track the election each step of the way.

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

Whose languages matter? Whose bilingualism is most valued? What is it like to be a bilingual student in U.S. schools? Is monolingualism the illiteracy of the 21st century? These questions and more will serve as a springboard for discussion in this course. We will examine policies affecting multilingualism and language education in U.S. schools, reflect on our own experiences within the context of these policies, and analyze and develop proposals for community-led responses to these policies.

How do we perceive our bodies? What do we do to our bodies and why? How have others manipulated and controlled our bodies? These are among the key questions addressed in this seminar. The study of the body in this course will be organized around three areas: 1. body representation and modification, 2. social control, body regulation and commodification, and 3. illness and disability. Our discussion of the body in social context will be guided by the examination of gender, race, class, and age. This course provides an opportunity to examine critically the body with the tools of the social science.

Most of us like some form of entertainment, whether it's music, web series or full length feature films. Films are one of the several methods of communicating social reality. It helps connect our culture to various others around the world, through themes we all can relate to. In this class we look at some recent Hollywood films and how their storytelling is relevant to our day-to-day lives. We review and have fun analyzing concepts including but not limited to race, gender, social class, crime and deviance, globalization (among other themes). We try to figure out...
whether films are pure entertainment or a medium that plays an important role in how we perceive society.

FYS 100-23 (12169) TTh 2-3:50 **From Europe to the States: humour, friendship, and love through film remakes [online synchronous]**
(Falangola)
This course will explore cultural differences by comparing American film remakes to their European originals (France, Italy, Spain, UK). The filmic adaptation from one culture to the other will allow students to question American cultural assumptions, biases, morals, and taboos. Topics considered will include love, sex, friendship, family, class, race, gender, and humor. We will also discuss cultural self-awareness and intercultural transposition, and introduce the concept of intercultural competence. Possible questions that will result from our class discussion will be: What is morally tolerable in France or Italy and intolerable in the US? How does a movie need to change in order to be “culturally accepted” by an American audience? What makes an American versus a French or British audience laugh? Why do some of these remakes sugarcoat the originals with a happy ending?
*Students signing up, please consider that some of the movies are rated R for sexuality, strong language, and drug use.*

FYS 100-25 (12322) MW 10-11:50 **Leadership Study Through the Biography [hybrid]**
(Kunkel)
This course will look at the dimensions of leadership primarily through the study of biographies and biographical portraits. The class will explore qualities of various leaders though online sources, print and media. For final projects, students will conduct research as well as read a biography of their choice and share portraits of their subject based on their original research.

FYS 100-26 (12323) TF 12-1:50 **Native American Arts [online synchronous]**
(Lawrence)
This course explores expressions of indigeneity through arts such as storytelling, literature, films, images, dance performance and objects, including the impact of climate change on Indigenous cultures in a contemporary society.