First Year Seminars
Spring 2020

FYS 100-01 (20661) MW 8-9:50 Self, Mind, Heart in Eastern Philosophies
(Shogenji)
There are deep differences between Eastern and Western understandings of self and related
categories such as mind and heart. This course examines how self, mind, and heart are viewed in
Eastern philosophies, and explores implications of these views in goals of life, moral conduct,
and social relations. Eastern philosophies to be examined include Hinduism, Buddhism,
Confucianism, and Daoism, and the concepts in these philosophical systems are studied in
comparison with their Western counterparts.

FYS 100-02 (20662) MW 8-9:50 Exploring Cultural Landscapes: Placing Power, Symbolism
and Identity
(Dixon)
They say a picture is worth a thousand words. The same visual literacy that is used to
understand, analyze, and critique pictures is needed as we examine places. Places manifest
power, symbolism and identity. We will evaluate what the cultural landscape that a society
creates says about it, and how public spaces are used to shape communal identities. In this
course, students will explore symbolism and meaning embedded in cultural landscapes, both
everyday places close to home and internationally iconic landscapes.

FYS 100-03 (21702) TTh 8-9:50 Native Arts
(Lawrence)
Explore contemporary Native American culture through storytelling, literature, films, images,
music, dance, and various forms of object art.

FYS 100-05 (21703) MW 10-11:50 Fantastical World Travel Adventures
(Goodwin Gomez)
Where in the world would you like most to visit? Explore some of the most exciting places on
the planet without leaving campus. Learn how to plan every aspect of a trip abroad. You choose
your dream destination, and this course will prepare you for your unique experience. You and
your classmates will plan travel adventures of a lifetime.

FYS 100-06 (21704) TTh 10-11:50 From Cy Young to Cyborgs: Mathematics in Sports and
Gaming
(Abrahamson)
In the 19th century, it was batting averages in baseball and simple probabilities at the casino. In
the 21st, it is everything from points-per-possession in basketball to “wins above replacement” in
baseball to astronomical dollar amounts in lottery games and athletes’ contracts. In this course,
students will investigate a variety of mathematical topics in sports and gaming, including topics
of their choosing. (Note: If you dislike mathematics, this course will not be a good fit for
you. The work for this course will include calculations, algebra, and mathematical
thinking. The mathematical content should, however, be accessible to a student with a good high
school mathematics background.)
Precise reading:

FYS 100-07 TTh 10-11:50 Exploring Wellness + Building Community at RIC
(Pepin)
Wait, you’re telling me eating pizza at midnight and going to bed at 3 am are not recommended in college?! We live in an age where health and wellness trends are broadcast daily, but we usually make choices on our own. This seminar is designed to investigate concepts of wellness and the culture of wellness at college. Through course readings, reflection, and class dialogue, students will jointly explore these ideas and co-construct a model of wellness to guide their college experience.

FYS 100-08 (21698) MTh 12-1:50 Equality Matters
(Schuster)
Are we all equal in the US today? And why does it matter? Students draw on the lenses of race, gender, and class to consider how equality matters for people in different social classes and how it determines our resources and opportunities, from President Trump to RIC students.

FYS 100-09 (20664) MTh 12-1:50 FYS-100 Game Design and Manufacturing
(Kraus)
In this class, students will study contemporary board game design (Euro-style and American) and then design their own games, including the manufacturing and testing of a prototype.

FYS 100-10 (20665) TF 12-1:50 Food and Medicine of East Asia
(Kim)
Students will examine the food culture, dietary habits, and medical traditions of East Asia (China, Korea and Japan). In addition to the chronological and geographical examination of various food resources and cooking/eating methods, students will explore East Asian food as preventive medicine, and the medical tradition of diagnoses and practices, such as acupuncture, reflexology, and herbal medicine.

FYS 100-11 (20671) MW 2-3:50 Twice-Told Tales: Ancients Stories in Modern Retellings
(Golden)
Ancient stories still entertain us today. But are these the stories the ancients would recognize? In this seminar, we will read the original versions and view the modern adaptations of famous stories, such as the Trojan War, in order to see if we are still telling the same stories or changing them for our own time.

FYS 100-12 (20666) MW 2-3:50 Language and Gender
(Basile)
This course will explore the concept of gender as a social construct, and how people 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.
Global Perspectives on Health
(Pfeiffer)
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.

Bill Nye the Science Guy, Norman Lear, Sesame Street, EE and Me
(Galvez)
This course is an exploration of how we learn, and what we learn through popular television. Dominant themes associated with early childhood development, health communication, and social justice, as portrayed by popular television, will be examined.

Understanding & Achieving Personal Wellness
(Pearson)
The value and benefits of your whole-body wellness will be explored through self-assessment, goal setting and physical movement experiences. While improving and unpacking the principles of wellness, how is y(our) community supporting the wellness of its residents?
Note: this class will include physical movement as a requirement.

Ethics in the Family: From Birth to Death
(Berg)
Should you have children? How should people organize their marriages? Should assisted suicide be legal? In this course, we will go chronologically over the course of a life, discussing some of the ethical questions many people face between birth and death.

Evaluating Headline News: Current Events and Political Controversies
(Noh)
Are you interested in the world around you? This class will explore current political events and global controversies regarding migration, war, race, gender, terrorism, and more. Students will read and watch a variety of news sources to study these issues from different viewpoints. We will also critically evaluate the degree of bias and prejudice in news reports.

It’s Not Easy Being Green
(Gullapalli)
Concern about the environment and the future means that we are increasingly focused on “going green.” “Green” practices and technologies are supposed to save the earth. Can they? What does each type of green alternative do and what issue(s) does it not address? Which one(s) should we adopt? Does any single technology offer a silver bullet solution? Is technology the answer at all or are there issues that we are overlooking? In this class we will investigate a variety of green practices and technologies and evaluate which (if any) can deliver on such promises. As we do this, we also discuss other ways we can approach goals of sustainability and minimal environmental impact globally, locally, and at RIC.
FYS 100-19 (20670) MW 6-7:50 **Performance in the First Person: This is ME!**
(Pennell)
This class will explore a variety of methods of research, personal narrative/memoir 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 presentations.

FYS 100-20 (22229) TTh 2-3:50 **Food for Thought: How a pinch of science matters in cooking and nutrition**
(Towle-Weickel)
Inspired by the works of Alton Brown and America’s Test Kitchen, we will explore ideas of flavor, nutrition, and cooking techniques. Activities will include cooking, taste testing, and a visit to the RIC Apiary with relevant discussions on diets, GMOs, and where our food comes from.

FYS 100-21 (22230) TTh 10-11:50 **Loving Nature—Protecting Nature: Romanticism’s Legacy to the Environment**
(Schneider)
This course introduces students to the study of Romanticism’s legacy to modern day environmental awareness and activity. It begins with the Romantic poets and painters of Europe and America and their love of nature. It then proceeds to those who helped identify the modern ecological movement such as Henry David Thoreau and John Muir. Twentieth-century topics include the creation of the National Parks system, the founding of the Audubon Society, the environmental activism of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the U.S. government’s response to the Dust Bowl, the publication of Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, and the Earth Day Initiative, among other activities.

FYS 100-25 (22293) TTh 8-9:50 **Technological Design and Innovation**
(McLaughlin)
Technology! We are surrounded by it, but do we understand it? Technology is one of the greatest liberating forces in human history. We are consumers of technology without equal, but we have a certain lack of knowledge about the materials and processes used to make the things we use on a daily basis. During this seminar, we will research historical technological design and innovations that make our lives better. The class activities will require us to explore the processes of innovation and invention, design, building, and programming simple machines. This course will contribute to our understanding of technology.

FYS 100-26 (22328) MW 4-5:50 **Raid the Collections!: Making Discoveries in Rhode Island College Collections**
(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. You will conduct original research and develop fresh perspectives on selected items for exhibition on campus and online. Together we will explore what it means to collect and curate, and will discuss issues surrounding cultural property.