



Spring 2017  
**FRESHMAN SEMINAR PROGRAM**  
 UNCG *College of Arts and Sciences*

**Marker Abbreviations:**

WI: Writing Intensive  
 SI: Speaking Intensive  
 GL: Global Perspectives  
 GN: Global Non-Western Perspectives

These seminars are open only to students who will be freshmen in the Spring 2017 semester. For the most current information including location of the class, see UNCGenie on the web: [www.uncg.edu](http://www.uncg.edu). (TBA means To Be Announced) We encourage students not to sign up for a seminar without first reading the course description and not to sign up for more than one seminar. **You may not receive credit for more than one seminar under the same course number, even if the contents of the seminar are different.** Talk with your advisor about registering for a seminar. A more in depth description of the class is available on the web at <http://www.uncg.edu/aas/fms>.

**REASONING AND DISCOURSE I**

**GEC category: GRD**

Also carries credit equivalent to ENG 101. You may not receive credit for both FMS 115 and ENG 101.

Course	Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 115-01	SI T, R 9:30-10:45	<b>Writing as, with, and about Technology.</b> The Summer of 2016 saw the release of Pokémon GO, what is arguably the most widely adopted "augmented reality" app to date. During this same period, virtual reality hardware has become affordable for the mainstream consumer. The coming years will see new virtual, augmented, and mixed reality technologies that offer increased possibilities for the ways we communicate. This course will critically examine how current and emerging technologies, including Pokémon GO, affect how we communicate with one another, whether these technologies offer different possibilities for representing messages, and how these new media affect relationships between texts, people, and space. We will look at forms of writing we have used in the past, examine what writing we do now, and speculate on what forms of writing we may need in the future. This Speaking Intensive course will include a variety of assignment types ranging from analytical and argumentative essays to informative podcasts to a research-based augmented reality project. This class will teach you how to create and to write for each of these projects.	Brenta Blevins
115-02	T, R 11:00-12:15		
FMS 115-03	SI T, R 2:00-3:15	<b>Discourses in Popular Culture.</b> This seminar specifically focuses on critically questioning the discourses taking place in popular culture. The world around us shapes us; conversely, we have the power to influence that world. This is an exciting realization that also carries responsibility. Therefore, we will rhetorically and critically analyze advertisements, music, film, and social media. Through critiquing reasoning and discourses, we will explore what is popular, to whom, and why. Finally we will analyze what those answers say about our current culture. Throughout, you will choose your own topics and share your analyses in informal talks. The course will end with formal presentations.	Amanda Bryan
FMS 116-01	SI T, R 11:00-12:15	<b>War &amp; Media: How Technology Shapes American Responses to Conflict.</b> Radio. TV. Internet. These are the technologies that shape the way we encounter war in American society, and each of them rhetorically works in different ways to influence whether or not we think a war is justified. In this course, we'll look at American involvement in 4 wars—World War II, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the Iraq War—to better understand how our own feelings and responses to war have been, and still are, shaped by different electronic technologies. We'll critically and rhetorically analyze how these media work on the American psyche by looking at diverse genres ranging from radio clips, to television footage, to Internet sites, and more. Throughout the semester, we'll participate in a range of viewing, writing, and speaking activities that help us better understand how national responses to war—as well as our own individual responses to war—are shaped by technology.	Stacy Rice

**LITERATURE**

**GEC category: GLT**

Course	Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 120-01	WI M, W, F 10:00-10:50	<b>Drawing Identities: Graphic Novel's Exploration of Diversity.</b> Tired of reading long novels with no pictures? Looking for an exciting new form of storytelling? Are you just dying to discuss comics with other people? Whether you're new to comics, curious about them, or a life-long reader of them, this writing-intensive freshman seminar is for you. Beginning with Art Spiegelman's Pulitzer Prize-winning <i>Maus</i> (1992), this course serves two purposes: to understand the history of the graphic novel and to learn what graphic novels have to teach us about drawing personal stories and illustrating diverse identities. Our guiding questions will be "What is the history of comics and race, gender, class, and sexuality?" "How can graphic novels help us understand one another better?" and "Why do authors choose to draw their life stories?" In addition to <i>Maus</i> , other readings will include (but are not limited to) Wilson's <i>Ms. Marvel</i> , Bechdel's <i>Fun Home</i> , and Satrapi's <i>Persepolis</i> . We will also hear from guest speakers. Course work involves short essay responses, written reviews of graphic novels, construction of a graphic memoir, and potential participation in the UNCG's Thomas Undergraduate Research Expo in April. No drawing skills required.	Lauren Shook
FMS 120-02	WI M, W 2:00-3:15	<b>From Vice to Virtue?: Navigating Modern Conceptions of Greed and Lust Through Medieval Literature.</b> Medieval literature is full of stories of intense desire and not always for things that we might consider virtuous. Although we probably don't focus on the concept of vice as much as early authors did, we're confronted with our societies' less than virtuous characteristics through the Internet or via apps on our smart phones on a day-to-day basis, especially those related to the medieval vices of greed and lust. Since greed and lust seem to be pervasive, interconnected, and arguably virtuous in our current society, this class endeavors to go back in time and explore a wide range of medieval texts in translation, including Arthurian legends and bawdy romances, in order to understand how this historical period, so far removed from our own, conceived of lust and greed. Therefore, while this course will focus on medieval literature, our semester long question will concern how our own conceptions of these two vices, if we even consider them vices at all, is different or similar to that of their manifestations in the texts we read. This reflection will help us begin to understand how two of the Seven Deadly Sins transformed into arguably modern virtues.	Jessica Ward
FMS 121-01 121-02	WI T, R 9:30-10:45  T, R 11:00-12:15	<b>The Fantastic and the Real: Exploring the Role of Magical Realism in Literature and Film.</b> In this course, we will explore the middle ground where the normal, real, and everyday occurrences meet with the unreal, the fantastic, and the delirious. Our venture into this middle ground, known as Magical Realism, will lead us to consider the magic in recent blockbuster films, both foreign and American. We will also journey into imaginative short stories from around the world such as Argentina, Columbia, Mexico, Nigeria, Germany, and Australia, among others. We'll encounter the fantastic in the ordinary, the awesome in the average, and how these literary works offer not only an escape from reality, but also challenge societal structures. We will tackle questions such as: What is the difference between Magical Realism and Science Fiction/Fantasy? What literature and films can be considered Magical Realism?	Rafael Gamero

**FINE ARTS**

**GEC category: GFA**

Course	Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 130-01	WI M, W, F 10:00-10:50	<b>Acting Change in America: Human Rights Onstage.</b> In this seminar we will look at the rich legacy of American plays that have, at their center, the struggle for equality in a chaotic world. These dramas reflect the nation's political, social, and moral norms which have been in constant flux in the tumultuous 20 <sup>th</sup> century and they bring into sharp focus the troubling prejudices and conformities that have influenced and sometimes dominated our culture.	Jeff West

FMS 131-01	WI	T,R 11:00-12:15	<b>History and Art of Animation.</b> Animation is an art form that brings fanciful imaginings to vivid realization. As a popular form of entertainment for children and adults, animation captivates our imagination and influences our way of perceiving the world. In this class we will look at the historical progression of animation techniques, the social characterizations presented in popular cartoons, and the artistic brilliance of animators from around the world.	Eleanor Cowen
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**PHILOSOPHICAL, RELIGIOUS, AND ETHICAL PRINCIPLES**

**GEC category: GPR**

Course		Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 141-01	WI	T, R 3:30-4:45	<b>Blood and Belief.</b> Multiple religions use blood, both real and symbolic, to do strange things. When we use wood to make houses, that's straightforward; when we use blood to make atonement, what does that mean? The Aztecs used the blood of human sacrifice to feed their gods. The New Testament cites the "blood of Christ" three times as often as his "cross" and five times as often as his "death." The blood from the cross is the blood of Christ; the wine of communion is the blood of Christ; the means of atonement is the blood of Christ; the unity of the church is the blood of Christ; the kinship of believers is the blood of Christ; the cup of salvation is the blood of Christ; icons ooze the blood of Christ; and the blood of Christ is the blood of God. Blood becomes "natural" for Christians to think with, and they come to use blood as language in which to conduct disputes, even on topics--like gender and sexuality, cleanliness and defilement--far removed from blood's reality. That's why conservatives invoke the language of blood and liberals at first avoid and then at length reclaim it. In this seminar we will examine blood in a variety of social, religious, and political contexts.	Eugene Rogers
FMS 142-01	WI	T, R 9:30-10:45	<b>Gnostic Gospels.</b> Early Christianity developed within diverse communities, and produced literatures that expressed wide ranging ideologies and theologies. Through a survey of select "gnostic" literature, this course introduces students to the diversity and debates surrounding the development and analysis of early Christianity. Students will utilize diverse writing strategies to critically engage the study, analysis, and categorization of literatures popularly known as "gnostic," and the debates surrounding its definition.	Art Carter

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES: Pre-Modern**

**GEC/CAR category: GHP/GPM**

Course		Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 150-01	WI	T, R 9:30-10:45	<b>Zero to Hero: Hercules and the Role of the Hero in the Ancient World.</b> This course examines the role and nature of Hercules, the Greek demigod and son of Zeus, as a "hero" in the ancient world. We explore the life and exploits of Hercules through Greek and Roman literature (plays, hymns, poems), art, architecture, and religious practice. The class also considers Hercules' legacy for leaders in the ancient world, and his modern day appeal in appearance in movies, comic books, video games, and novels.	Robyn LeBlanc

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES: Modern**

**GEC/CAR category: GHP/GMO**

Course		Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 160-01	WI	T,R 11:00-12:15	<b>The Contemporary South.</b> The South has always stood as a region apart in popular imagination. Southerners, so they say, have one speed—slow. We have our own language, sprinkled abundantly with y'all, and we call everyone darlin', hon, or sweetie. We drive pickup trucks, listen to country music, go to church on Sunday morning, and gather for pig pickin's. We may be poor, but we know how to enjoy life. But the South of the twenty-first century is surprisingly modern and complex, with vibrant eclectic cities. In many ways, the stereotypes of the past no longer apply. This class challenges students to explore the Contemporary South with its new culture, new economy, new politics, and even new people. Welcome to today's South!	Susan Thomas
FMS 160-02	WI	T, R 2:00-3:15	<b>The Cold War in Fact and Film.</b> The Cold War, from the end of WWII in 1945 to the early 1990s, was one of the most dangerous period in recorded history. The very real possibility of an all-out military conflict between east and west, between the forces of Capitalism and Communism, and the looming threat of a global nuclear holocaust affected virtually every facet of geopolitics for more than four decades. The fact that we endured and survived the Cold War without destroying ourselves should serve as a wakeup call. Our collective experiences from the Cold War demand that we search for answers that may help us avoid a similar situation in the future. During the semester we will search for answers and a better understanding of our recent global past as we examine the major events of the Cold War from three very different perspectives: primary source documents, scholarly secondary sources, and finally, feature films containing Cold War themes. Major topics will include the origins of the Cold War, Soviet and American ideology, the nuclear arms race, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and numerous proxy wars fought around the globe. The primary objective of the course is to separate historical fact from historical fiction regarding this major period in world history.	Mark Moser

**SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL STUDIES**

**GEC category: GSB**

Course		Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 170-01	WI	M,W,F 11:00-11:50	<b>God and the Constitution.</b> Have you ever heard the adage "one should never discuss religion or politics"? I have heard it most of my life and I think it's crazy. Two of the most powerful forces in the history of man are religion and government. So, we will look at their relationship in America, beginning with the writing of the Constitution in 1787 and moving all the way forward to 2015.	M. Jeff Colbert
FMS 170-02	WI	M,W,F 12:00-12:50	<b>Fans, Athletes, and Sports in Modern Society.</b> This seminar investigates the place of sport in society with a special emphasis on identity. Social identities are clearly an important factor in how a person understands his or her sense of self and place in society—and identities formed in and around the issue of sport are becoming increasingly important in late modern societies globally. As such we'll be looking at how these identities are achieved and disengaged for both athletes and fans. Central to this discussion will be issues of race, gender, and sexual orientation	Steve O'Boyle
170-03	M, W, F 1:00-1:50			
FMS 170-04	WI	M,W,F 1:00-1:50	<b>Environmental Issues and Politics.</b> Clean air, fracking, nuclear power, global warming – so many of the topics people debate today come from discussions about the environment. Here's where we begin to explore and make sense of the environmental issues that arose in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century and continue today, resulting in public policy. For each topic, sustainability for example, we will investigate exactly why this is a subject for public debate, quickly summarize the basic science associated with it, where appropriate, and then how it may have been translated into public policy. Many of the topics have a global dimension.	Elizabeth McNamara
FMS 170-05	WI	T, R 9:30-10:45	<b>War and Conflict.</b> It has been estimated that there has been a war somewhere in the world 94% of the time since the dawn of civilization. Why does mankind periodically organize himself for armed conflict and warfare? This course will begin by asking these questions and try to answer them through an examination of the United States' involvement in war and conflict over the last hundred years.	A. Leigh Sink
FMS 170-06	WI	T, R 11:00-12:15	<b>Creating and Communicating the Self.</b> How do you know who you are? How do others know who you are? We'll be exploring the ways we create, interpret, and share our identities through discourse, nonverbal, and mediated communication. Do we create ourselves as members of society or does society create us? Could both be true? We will examine theoretical perspectives on human identity, focusing on communicative processes.	Jessica Sullivan
FMS 170-07	WI	T, R 2:00-3:15	<b>Who's Really Making my Decisions?</b> The Illusion of Free Will. In this seminar, we will analyze critically what is meant by controlled behavior, or "free will." We will study how our actions are highly influenced by our surroundings, our culture, and our prior beliefs even when we are unaware of this influence. A major component of this course will be devoted to our ability to make quick, complicated decisions outside of our conscious awareness, calling into question what aspects of our decision making makes us uniquely human. Discussion will focus on classic and contemporary works devoted to the topic, as well as video presentations.	Stuart Marcovitch
FMS 170-08	WI	T, R 2:00-3:15	<b>Building Communities: Leadership, Service, and Society.</b> This course is designed to provide students with a theoretical and applied understanding of community from a sociological perspective. The content and assignments of the course are driven by the essential question, "What makes a community?" This question is given applied significance through emphasis on service-learning experiences within the Greensboro nonprofit community, as well as through oral and written reflections. Students will study the structure of communities, why communities matter, and how communities may be formed, changed and/or dissolved. Students will examine the people, relationships, and institutions that create communities. Students will address the attitudes and behaviors of individuals through an exploration of society's responsiveness to pressing social issues facing our communities.	Lauren Cunningham