



Spring 2018
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 2018 semester. For the most current information including location of the class, see UNCGenie on the web: 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.

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	M, W, F 11:00-11:50	<i>The Truth is in the Lie.</i> Anaïs Nin once said, "We see things not as they are. We see things as we are." History, as well as the interpretation of current events, frequently undergoes revision until they resemble something people agree with. We see such alterations all around us. It may be "fake news," removal of monuments, facts being sanitized to conform to a socially acceptable (i.e. politically correct) standard, or believing in free speech only if we agree with the message. Can we really know anything at all with certainty, or is everything open to interpretation and an "alternative set of facts"? Sifting through rhetoric to locate the truth often constitutes a daunting task. In this class we will examine and deconstruct arguments to determine which ones are the most accurate, objective, and reliable and learn to craft arguments of your own in a credible manner.	Richard Warren
FMS 115-02	T, R 9:30-10:45	<i>Visual Rhetoric in the Age of YouTube.</i> How does what we experience through screens persuade us? How do content creators and sharers gain our views, our trust, even our money? Through an evaluation of various video genres and other visual texts, this freshman seminar will analyze the rhetorical strategies used by various content creators to appeal to a potential audience and retain their viewership.	Matt Phillips
FMS 115-03	T, R 3:30-4:45	<i>Lies, Conspiracies, and 'Fake News'.</i> With so much information available to us in the twenty-first century, how do we know what is true and what is false? How can we determine which sources are reliable and which ones are propaganda? Can we really know anything at all, or is everything open to interpretation and "alternative facts"? This course helps students develop information literacy and analytical reasoning skills that they will need in an age that is already being called the "post-truth era." It introduces students to the concepts of truth, evidence, and rationality, as well as the basic rules of logic and argumentation. It then asks students to identify and evaluate arguments contained in news articles and speeches—both past and present—to determine which ones are the most accurate, objective, and reliable.	Joseph Ross

LITERATURE

GEC category: GLT

Course	Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 120-01	WI M, W, F 11:00-11:50	<i>Literary Modernism: The Age of Alienation.</i> A common theme in literary modernism is alienation. In this section of FMS 120, we will be interrogating the way this theme manifests and engages with other modernist concerns in the poetry and prose of authors who came to prominence in the late nineteenth/first two decades of the twentieth century, including W.B. Yeats, Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Hilda Doolittle, and Ernest Hemingway. In addition to literature, we will also discuss the historical factors that gave rise to the Modernist movement as well as the biographical details of our focus authors, who were as intriguing as the texts they so carefully crafted.	Elysia Balavage
FMS 120-02	WI M, W, F 9:00-9:50	<i>The Monsters We Make.</i> This course prepares students to identify ways in which the stories we tell demonize certain peoples, and how these stories have real-world actions. In short and long form papers as well as classroom discussion, students will develop techniques to identify both the structure and play of sympathies in these narratives. Readings from philosophers such as Judith Butler and Roberto Esposito will provide a critical structure that students will apply to novels and films by creators such as Mohsin Hamid, Octavia Butler, Leslie Marmon Silko, Jordan Peele, and Kathryn Bigelow.	Joseph George
FMS 121-01	WI M, W, F 10:00-10:50	<i>Monsters and the Monstrous in the Ancient Greek and Roman World.</i> Medusa, Cerberus, the Cyclops – these and other legendary monsters of the ancient Greco-Roman world have been capturing the imaginations of audiences for millennia. This course examines monsters and concepts of monstrosity in the literature and thought of ancient Greece and Rome. Through readings and discussions of ancient plays, poetry, history, rhetoric, and artwork, as well as modern theoretical approaches, we will consider how depictions of mythical beasts and monstrous behavior reflect, reinforce, or challenge cultural attitudes towards ethnicity, gender, political authority, and other issues.	Derek Keyser
FMS 121-02	WI M, W, F 2:00-2:50	<i>Writing 'Woman'/'Women Writing.</i> This course introduces students to feminist literary analysis by focusing on representations of 'woman' in literary and theoretical texts written by women. In our analysis we will focus on the ways gender, race, and class (among other categories) intersect and inform the construction of identity. We will begin by examining several larger questions: What attempts were made to write the identity 'woman' and challenge the universal concept of 'man'? What liberating, yet limiting, factors accompanied such texts? What developments in feminist thought led to more inclusive understandings of 'woman'? With this background in mind, we will turn to several literary texts from contemporary U.S.-American and European contexts to examine how creative outlets engage hybrid identities and serve as a space for exposing, confronting, and potentially resisting social norms.	Ben Davis
FMS 121-03 121-04	WI M, W 2:00-3:15 3:30-4:45	<i>Identity, Authorship, and Globalization in the Contemporary Novel.</i> As freshmen, you are creating new identities as adults, students, workers, and even individuals perhaps leaving home for the first time. The writers that we'll read for this class are also working to understand their identities, as they are moving from their homelands to attend new schools or live in an unfamiliar country. We'll read works like <i>Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> , where the main character copes with leaving his reservation with dairy-writing and illustrations and <i>Americanah</i> where the protagonist leaves Nigeria to live in the United States, blogging the whole experience along the way. We'll ask questions like: why do these characters use writing and art to cope with their new surroundings? How are their identities re-forged when they assimilate into new cultures? How does the genre of the novel shape our understanding of individuals making global moves to unfamiliar places? Finally, how does globalization shape our understanding of the stories we tell about ourselves and others?	Emily Hall
FMS 121-05 121-06	WI T, R 9:30-10:45 2:00-3:15	<i>In the Land of the Firebird: Russian Folklore.</i> Folklore is the traditional art, literature, knowledge, and behavior that is disseminated largely through oral communication and behavioral example. In this course, we will question how traditional Russian customs, beliefs, and tales that derive from ancient pre-Christian cultural and religious practices were altered, changed, or uprooted upon interaction with Orthodox Christianity. We will learn not only to recognize the richness and intricacy of such texts and practices but also to discern the patterns and meanings behind what at first seem to us exotic and even strange narratives and behaviors. From learning the lifecycle rituals of traditional Russian villagers to reading the fairy tales still told before bedtime, from cooking special ritual foods to performing village dances, we will seek to understand more deeply the rich culture of traditional Russia. All readings in English or with English subtitles!	Sarah Krive

FINE ARTS			GEC category: GFA	
Course		Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 130-01	WI	M, W, F 10:00-10:50	Acting Change in America: Human Rights Onstage. 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 th century and they bring into sharp focus the troubling prejudices and conformities that have influenced and sometimes dominated our culture.	Jeff West

PHILOSOPHICAL, RELIGIOUS, AND ETHICAL PRINCIPLES			GEC category: GPR	
Course		Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 142-01	WI	T, R 11:00-12:15	Gnostic Gospels. 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
FMS 142-02	WI	T, R 2:00-3:15	Introduction to Buddhism. This course presents a survey of historical and contemporary Buddhist traditions. We will examine the rise and development of Buddhism throughout Asia in areas such as India, Southeast Asia, Tibet, and East Asia. Through closely examining doctrines, rituals, ceremonies, and scriptures, we will compare and contrast key similarities and key differences among diverse Buddhist traditions such as Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana Buddhism. We will also explore how Buddhist communities throughout Asia have adapted to changing social, political, and historical contexts.	Rohit Singh

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES: Modern			GEC/CAR category: GHP/GMO	
Course		Days/Time/Place	Course Title/Description	Instructor
FMS 160-01 160-02	WI	T, R 9:30-10:45 11:00-12:15	Historical Roots of the Contemporary South. 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 160-03	WI	T, R 2:00-3:15	The Cold War in Fact and Film. 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 9:00-9:50	Environmental Issues and Politics. 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 20th century and continue into 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.	Liz McNamara
FMS 170-02	WI	M, W, F 11:00-11:50	War and Conflict. 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 170-03	WI	M, W, F 11:00-11:50	God and the Constitution. 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 170-04 170-05	WI	M, W, F 11:00-11:50 12:00-12:50	Fans, Athletes, and Sports in Modern Society. 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
FMS 170-06	WI	T, R 9:30-10:45	Understanding Autism: Science, Culture, & Media. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder characterized in part, by difficulty in communication and social interaction. The number of children diagnosed with ASD increased markedly in recent years, from roughly 1 in 150 in the year 2000 to the current estimate of 1 in 68. In this seminar, we will explore how both science and culture shape our understanding of the history, diagnosis, and treatment of ASD. We will also examine the portrayal of ASD in popular media such as literature and film in order to identify common misconceptions about the disorder.	Sara Estle
FMS 170-07	WI	T, R 11:00-12:15	Hello, I'm ____: Creating and Communicating the Self. 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