

2017-2018 Inquiry Seminars and Practicums in Humanities and Arts
(Days and times of courses will be available on the Registrar's website.)

Update: October 16, 2017

Registration form:

<https://www.wpi.edu/sites/default/files/inline-image/NEW%20HUA%20req%20FILLABLE%20registration%20form%204-2017%20revised.pdf>

E 2017 Art/Art History/Architecture

E 2017 English (see also Writing)

HU 3900-E102 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN FICTION AND THE PULITZER PRIZE CENTENNIAL

Ljungquist, Kent P. (contact info: kpl@wpi.edu, office SL 223D)

CRN: 30543

2016-2017 marks the centennial of Pulitzer Prize, awarded each year for excellence in fiction, poetry, drama, history, and journalism. After an opening discussion of the purpose and history of the award, named for the editor Joseph Pulitzer, students will read Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* (1920), the first prize winner for a work of fiction by a woman writer. Students will then have the option of reading Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men* (1946) or Wallace Stegner's *Angle of Repose* (1970), novels that stirred controversy and debate upon publication and in the years after their initial appearance. Reading, discussion, short reports, and written analysis will address and evaluate the appeal of these novels to readers of their time and their enduring value as notable works of fiction. Each student will develop a portfolio of two medium length essays that deal with the novels under discussion.

E 2017 History

HU 3900-E104 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

Bullock, Steven C. (contact info: sbullock@wpi.edu, office SL 235)

CRN: 30557

This Inquiry Seminar in History and American Studies examines Mason Locke Weems's *Life of George Washington*, the most popular early biography of America's first president--and the first to tell the (perhaps made-up) story of Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on the book itself and on its connections to Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary America. They will also consider more broadly how to think and write about the past.

HU 3900-E106 INQUIRY SEMINAR: LONDON PROJECT CENTER

Manzo, V.J. (contact info: vjmanzo@wpi.edu, office AH 209)

CRN: 30955

E 2017 Music

HU 3910-E102 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC IN MULTIMEDIA AND GAMING ENVIRONMENTS

Manzo, V.J. (contact info: vjmanzo@wpi.edu, office AH 209)

CRN: 30674

This practicum focuses on interactive music environments in multimedia installations and gaming engines. Existing projects will be examined and students will work in teams in a variety of ways on a music oriented gaming project including programming and designing music gaming environments in Unity 3D, creating text and video narrative for these environments, graphic and 3D modeling for game levels and other elements, developing virtual instruments within the gaming world and more.

HU 3910-E202 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC IN MULTIMEDIA AND GAMING ENVIRONMENTS

Manzo, V.J. (contact info: vjmanzo@wpi.edu, office AH 209)

CRN: 30725

This practicum focuses on interactive music environments in multimedia installations and gaming engines. Existing projects will be examined and students will work in teams in a variety of ways on a music oriented gaming project including programming and designing music gaming environments in Unity 3D, creating text and video narrative for these environments, graphic and 3D modeling for game levels and other elements, developing virtual instruments within the gaming world and more.

HU 3900-E101 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC AND SOCIETY

Shim, Eunmi (contact info: eshim@wpi.edu, office AH 211)

CRN: 30005

This seminar will examine the intersection of music, culture, and society, focusing on the issues of race, gender, and sexuality, by exploring the interconnected nature between these socio-political issues and music from historical, social, and cross-cultural

perspectives. Students will choose a topic for an individual paper from various styles of music, including Western classical music, popular music, and non-Western music, and conduct independent research.

HU 3910-E101 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Weeks, Douglas (contact info: dweeks@wpi.edu, office AH 212)

CRN: 30545

HU 3910-E201 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Weeks, Douglas (contact info: dweeks@wpi.edu, office AH 212)

CRN: 30717

A 2017 Art/Art History/Architecture

A 2017 English (see also Writing)

HU 3900-A08 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PHILIP K. DICK

Cocola, James (contact info: jcocola@wpi.edu, office SL 26)

CDR: 16779

Philip K. Dick (known to many of his readers as PKD) was one of the most prolific authors of the twentieth century, producing over 40 novels and 120 short stories in his lifetime, many of which have since been adapted into prominent feature films. In this seminar we will examine several of PKD's key works, exploring questions of speculative fiction--as alternate history, science fiction, and theological mysticism--and touching on key themes from pharmacology and psychiatry to posthumanism and the singularity. Project options include critical essays, digital humanities initiatives, and genre adaptations.

HU 3900-A09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: CREATIVE WRITING: SCI-FI, HORROR, AND FANTASY

Ephraim, Michelle K. (contact info: ephraim@wpi.edu, office SL 237)

CRN: 16799

In this inquiry seminar we will study three genres of fiction writing: sci-fi, horror, and fantasy. In addition to reading examples of these genres and analyzing their use of literary conventions, students will write their own 20-30 page creative project. This seminar is for students who have taken previous courses at WPI in both literature and writing. During the draft writing process, students will read each other's work and provide verbal feedback in a "writing workshop" format.

A 2017 History

HU 3900-A02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

Bullock, Steven C. (contact info: sbullock@wpi.edu, office SL 235)

CRN: 11017

This Inquiry Seminar in History and American Studies examines Mason Locke Weems's Life of George Washington, the most popular early biography of America's first president--and the first to tell the (perhaps made-up) story of Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on the book itself and on its connections to Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary America. They will also consider more broadly how to think and write about the past.

HU 3900-A04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM

Hanlan, James P. (contact info: jphanlan@wpi.edu, office SL 028)

CRN: 11019

This Inquiry Seminar is intended as the culminating experience in Humanities and Arts for students who have completed five courses in Humanities and Arts, including at least two courses in American History (one at the 2000-level or higher). It is also suitable for students with interests in American Studies. The class will focus on a particular theme in the American experience to be chosen by the instructor, and students will write individual papers broadly centered on that theme. Students will develop the ability to think, discuss, and write about American history and American Studies.

A 2017 Music

HU 3910-A01 PRACTICUM: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: MULTICHANNEL AUDIO AND COMPOSITION TECHNIQUES

Bianchi, Frederick (contact info: bianchi@wpi.edu office AH205)

CRN: 13376

The Practicum explores, investigates, and researches the practice and implications of multi-channel audio sound playback. Of particular interest is furthering our knowledge of the aesthetic, psychoacoustic, perceptual, and technical aspects of the discipline.

HU 3910-A02 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC IN MULTIMEDIA AND GAMING ENVIRONMENTS

Manzo, V.J. (contact info: vjmanzo@wpi.edu, office AH 209)

CRN: 15245

This practicum focuses on interactive music environments in multimedia installations and gaming engines. Existing projects will be examined and students will work in teams in a variety of ways on a music oriented gaming project including programming and designing music gaming environments in Unity 3D, creating text and video narrative for these environments, graphic and 3D modeling for game levels and other elements, developing virtual instruments within the gaming world and more.

A 2017 Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900-A03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PHILOSOPHY AND THE CITY: URBAN HUMANITIES

Eddy, Bethel L. (contact info: bleddy@wpi.edu, office SL 223E)

CRN: 11018

How do we shape our cities and how do they shape us in turn? An urban environment presents unique challenges and opportunities—and the world is becoming increasingly urban. How did cities come into being and how have they changed over time and why? What's distinct about urban cultures for better or worse? How can we make them more livable places? Urban planning and theory, urban public health, urban environmental concerns: these and many other aspects of human city life are on the table for examination in a seminar-style class. We will use *The City Reader* to give us a common point of reflection, but from there, students will pick a topic of individual interest and develop a researched and persuasive paper to share with our seminar group. This seminar should be of interest to students looking to follow-up on a Livable Cities GPS class, looking at visiting an urban global IQP site, or seeking to pursue a concentration in urban studies.

A 2017 Writing (see also English)

HU 3900-A06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: INQ EFFCT WR/RHET STRA

Madan, Ryan (contact info: rmadan@wpi.edu, office SL 02)

CRN: 16892

B 2017 Art/Art History/Architecture

HU3910-B02 PRACTICUM: LIGHT ART

Rosenstock, Joshua (contact info: jrosen@wpi.edu, office SL 208)

CRN: 16900

This studio art practicum will introduce students to techniques and practices in the creation of works of light art. Students will explore the application of creative lighting technology to objects, spaces, and fashion, culminating in the creation of an original work of electronic light art. Topics may include light painting, working with LEDs and electroluminescent wire, 3d printing, programming for art with Arduino and Processing, and basic electronics skills.

B 2017 English (see also Writing)

HU 3900-B11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: FLINT, MICHIGAN, 2014-2020: DEVELOPING A TEACHING GAME

Boudreau, Kristin, (contact info: kboudreau@wpi.edu, office SL 129)

CRN: 17189

This Inquiry Seminar will focus on the development of an interactive role-playing history game focused on the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. We will begin by studying a "Humanitarian Engineering Past & Present" game developed by WPI students and faculty. We'll spend our first two class periods playing this game, based on Worcester's sewage management challenge at the end of the 19th-century. At the same time, students will begin researching the technical and non-technical context of Flint's water quality crisis and developing roles for a Flint-based role-playing history game. Our goal is for the class to develop a pedagogical game that immerses students in the cultural, political, economic, and social context of Flint, Michigan and the larger national context of post-industrial decline, economic crises, racial and economic inequities, and failing infrastructures. Students will work together to identify the cause, scope, and impacts of the problem(s), then to invent opportunities for game players to take part in understanding and resolving them. At the same time, each student will develop three separate identities for the game, complete with supplementary readings, scenarios for debate, and particular game features. Students will use primary source materials available through the Gordon Library, interlibrary loan, digital resources, and even interviews with the people involved in Flint's problems. By the end of the term, each student will have contributed to the game and will also have written a reflective essay on the experience. This seminar is appropriate for students who have achieved depth in history, literature, digital media, philosophy, or art history, or for students who are pursuing an "urban humanities" approach to the HUA Requirement. If you're interested but don't know whether you're eligible, please contact the professor.

HU 3900-B09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Brattin, Joel J. (contact info: jjb@wpi.edu, office SL 024)
CRN: 16781

HU 3900-B03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PLAYWRIGHTS' WORKSHOP
Ciaraldi, Michael (contact info: ciaraldi@wpi.edu)
CRN #: 11035

Students will learn about the essential building blocks of play structure: plot, story (not the same thing!) character, action, motivation. We'll study some examples from the masters and then plunge in, writing our own 10 minute (or longer) plays. Goal is writing next year's New Voices pick!

HU 3900-B04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: CAPTIVE, PRISONER, SLAVE
Cocola, James (contact info: jcocola@wpi.edu, office SL 26)
CRN: 13341

What can be learned from narratives about people forcibly held against their will? The captivity narrative, sometimes described as the founding genre of American literature, recounts experiences of those held by Native tribes or North African states, and of those held in American, Asian, and European camps. Such texts range from the seventeenth century up to the present day. In the slave narrative, which emerges in the eighteenth century and gains increasing visibility in the nineteenth century, African American writers and their collaborators turn from escape or emancipation to accounts of earlier bondage, impassioned calls for abolition, and reflections on the meanings of slavery and liberty. The more recent genre of prison literature has an increasing footprint, especially in the United States, where today almost seven million Americans are incarcerated, on probation, or on parole. Authors to be considered in this seminar may include Mary Rowlandson, Solomon Northrup, Bethany Veney, Antonio Gramsci, Ezra Pound, Michel Foucault, Jimmy Santiago Baca, and Mohamedou Ould Slahi. Project options include critical essays, creative writing projects, digital humanities initiatives, and genre adaptations.

HU 3900-B06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE POETICS OF WALKING
Harmon, Joshua (contact info: jharmon@wpi.edu, office SL 022)
CRN: 13585

Walking as a form of writing practice has a long tradition: "Poets," A.R. Ammons once noted, "not only do a lot of walking but talk about it in their poems." This seminar will consider various examples from this tradition—possibly including writers such as Basho, Hazlitt, Thoreau, Baudelaire, Woolf, Kafka, Jacobs, O'Hara, Mayer, Solnit, and various other contemporary poets and essayists. We will investigate the links between walking, thinking, and writing; between pedestrian trespass and literary trespass; and between walking and writing as forms of resistance to the culture of productivity. Students will write poems and/or essays inspired by their own walks during the term. Note that this seminar will require students to take walks both on- and especially off-campus, both during and outside of seminar time.

HU 3910-B03 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ACTING, DIRECTING, DRAMATURGY FOR MAJOR PRODUCTION IN THE LITTLE THEATRE (6)
Vick, Susan (contact info: svick@wpi.edu, office SL 017)
CRN: 11344

In this practicum qualified undergraduates have the opportunity to act, direct, work in dramaturgy, or otherwise artistically participate in the annual major B term production performed in the Little Theatre. For more information, please contact the professor.

HU 3910-B01 PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT
Vick, Susan (contact infosvick@wpi.edu, office SL 017)
CRN: 16806

This Practicum in Theatre Technology will involve participants in the rehearsal and staging of the annual Humanities and Arts, Drama/Theatre, and Masque collaborative production. This practicum is part of the academic theatre program. The Drama/Theatre professors work together every year to stage a play chosen for its high regard from world dramatic literature. The production opens in the fourth week of the term, with the following three weeks devoted to assembling a project portfolio which documents the results of the study. Students may enroll in this practicum for design, technology, stage management, management, or other production areas with the approval of the instructor.

B 2017 History

HU 3900-B02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: GLOBAL ISSUES
Addison, W.A. Bland (contact info: addison@wpi.edu, office SL 238)
CRN: 16801

This Inquiry Seminar in History will focus upon the historical roots of contemporary conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa. The conflicts arise from ethno-cultural hostilities, from decades of oppressive governments, and the many failures of Western governments to promote democratic stability in the region. Students will prepare an analytical research paper on an appropriate topic.

HU 3900-B07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MEDIA REVOLUTIONS IN HISTORY**Clark, Constance** (contact info: ccclark@wpi.edu, office SL 408D)**CRN: 16802**

The notion that we are currently immersed in a “digital revolution” has stimulated a lot of discussion lately. Many commentators write as if this were the first media revolution in human history. It is not. This inquiry seminar in the History of Science and Technology will explore the history of a series of media revolutions—alphabets, moveable type, books, photography, the telegraph, the graphic revolution in newspapers and magazines, radio, movies, sound recording, and television, in order to gain a historical perspective on our own contemporary digital revolution, and try to come to a better understanding of its implications and ramifications. The course will culminate in a more historically informed contemplation of our own contemporary media revolution. Students will individually examine focused aspects of that history for individual research projects. We will draw on primary source materials, informed by study of the methods of analysis historians have devoted to such material. This will be a writing-intensive course, including a “workshop” setting in which students will help each other improve their writing and revising skills.

HU 3900-B08 INQUIRY SEMINAR: URBAN DIGITAL HISTORY**Cullon, Joseph F.** (contact info: jcullon@wpi.edu, office SL 241)**CRN: 16930**

This practicum will guide students through the use of recent digital history applications and provide them the opportunity to create a complete digital history site on some aspect of Worcester’s industrial, urban or social history. At the end of the term, the site will go live to enrich public understanding of Worcester’s rich and diverse history. The theme for academic year 2017-2018 will be on Institute Park’s recreational and industrial uses in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In addition to developing the historical elements of the site at the Worcester History Museum, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester Public Library and WPI’s Gordon Library, students will deploy a set of digital history tools, including but not limited to collections management (e.g. Omeka and Zotero), quantitative analysis (R Studio), visual storytelling (Juxtapose), spatial history (Map Warper, Neatline) as well as crowding sourcing and user generation (Omeka plug-ins, Scribe and Zooniverse). Students will determine the selection and appropriate deployment of these tools to digitally narrate how Institute Park blended pastoral landscape design with the industrial demand of providing water and steam power for Washburn and Moen’s North Works.

HU 3900-B10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRANT LIVES**Galante, John** (contact info: jsgalante@wpi.edu, office SL 234)**CRN: 16988**

This Inquiry Seminar will examine migration and immigrant experiences around the world and across periods of time. Students will select a historical or present-day case study for analytical examination through the placement of migration in social, political, economic and/or cultural contexts. Among the topics addressed will be: factors that drive migratory flows; characteristics of settlement, assimilation and discrimination; and relationships between immigrant communities and their homeland

B 2017 Music**HU 3900-B04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PRODUCER AS COMPOSER****Barton, Scott** (contact info: sdbarton@wpi.edu, AH 208)**CRN: 11476**

In this course, each student will produce, compose, record and mix an EP of his own music (three to four songs). We will devote time to higher-level ideas involved in music production and composition, specific production techniques, and project presentations. We will consider what a music producer does and what a composer does through reading, discussion and listening. We will explore the spaces where the producer and the composer overlap in the context of modern music making. We will consider the aesthetics of modern recordings in a variety of genres so that our own musical choices will be more thoughtful. Because it is assumed that students have familiarity with at least one DAW platform, we will spend time furthering our abilities and knowledge in specific musical and production areas such as composing rhythms, form, EQ, compression, and sound synthesis. Ultimately, students will use this information to compose and produce an EP of their own music. This will involve composing, orchestrating, arranging performers, recording, sound design, mixing, and mastering. Each student will present her project each week, which will then be discussed by the class. In seven weeks, students will complete their own EP.

HU 3900-B05 INQUIRY SEMINAR: JAZZ HISTORY DATABASE**Falco, Richard G.** (contact info: rfalco@wpi.edu, AH 210)**CRN: 16778**

This Inquiry Seminar in Jazz Music History will assemble a team of students to conduct field research by visiting the homes of New England based jazz artists and their families. Data collected in the field will include oral history interviews, old photographs, recordings, print media, and radio and television shows. Materials will be processed according to specific guidelines and added to an online permanent collection at jazzhistorydatabase.com.

B 2017 Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900-B10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ANIMAL ETHICS

Sanbonmatsu, John (contact info: js@wpi.edu, office SL 023)

CRN: 16803

We are living through the greatest mass species extinction event in over 60 million years; meanwhile, humans annually kill over 50 billion animals for food and profit. Why? And what are the moral, political, and existential implications of speciesism, or human domination, as a system as a mode of producing human life? Students will get to devise a research project of their own choosing, based on one of the following areas of inquiry: cognitive ethology, or the scientific study of animal minds; the phenomenology of nonhuman being; moral philosophy (animal ethics), including the ethics of conducting animal research; Marxist critique of speciesism as a mode of political economy; and political theories of power and citizenship.

B 2017 Writing (see also English)

C 2018 Art/Art History/Architecture

HU 3910-C02 PRACTICUM IN HUA: DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM PRODUCTION

Bigonah, Roshanak (contact info: rbigonah@wpi.edu, office SL 031)

CRN: 20837

This practicum focuses on the process of producing a short documentary video. The genres of short film, documentary, and promotional video will be discussed. The students will develop their own proposal, scripts, and storyboards and produce their own documentary videos. Topics such as visual communication, storytelling, and effective audio and non-linear video editing techniques will be explored. This course is appropriate for students with 'depth' in film-related coursework or art.

HU 3900-C02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MODERN ARCHITECTURE

Samson, David, M. (contact info: samson@wpi.edu, office SL 14)

CRN: 20401

C 2018 English (see also Writing)

HU 3900-C05 INQUIRY SEMINAR: LITERATURE: GOTHIC FICTION

Ljungquist, Kent P. (contact info: kpl@wpi.edu, office SL 223D)

CRN: 24230

With his novel *The Castle of Otranto*, Horace Walpole initiates literary Gothicism, a tradition in English and American literature that stresses mysterious or unexplained happenings, eerie atmosphere, and strange characters. The reach of this seminar will be broad to include fiction by both British and American practitioners in the supernatural genre. Students will read recognized landmarks of Gothic horror (e.g., Bram Stoker's *Dracula*) alongside works by Shirley Jackson, Ira Levin, and Stephen King. Students will explore the diverse manifestations of the Gothic— affective, symbolic, and psychological— via discussions, reports, and a series of related writing exercises and formal essays.

C 2018 History

HU 3900-C19 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MOROCCO

Addison, W.A. Bland (contact info: addison@wpi.edu, office SL 238)

CRN: 24950

HU 3900-C11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY

Baller, William A. (contact info: baller@wpi.edu, office SL 408C)

CRN: 24116

This seminar will focus on the social history of the 1960s, especially the Vietnam War's effect on young Americans. Students can investigate the war's effect on the common soldier and the anti-war movement. Students can also research and examine the decade's impact on women, civil rights, or sports.

HU 3900-C10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF POPULAR SCIENCE

Clark, Constance (contact info: cclark@wpi.edu, office SL 408D)

CRN: 20986

This inquiry seminar in the History of Science and Technology will explore the history of American popular science, science controversies, and the relationship of science, technology and the media. Students will individually examine focused aspects of that history: individual projects might focus on some form of popular science or science fiction; on media coverage of a particular science controversy; or on representations of science and technology in the media at some period in our history. We will draw on primary

source materials, informed by study of the methods of analysis historians have devoted to such material. This will be a writing-intensive course, including a "workshop" setting in which students will help each other improve their writing and revising skills.

HU 3900-C07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: DDT, SILENT SPRING AND RISE MOD. AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTALISM

Cullon, Joseph F. (contact info: jcullon@wpi.edu, office SL 241)

CRN: 20498

In 1948, the developer of DDT won the Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine. In 1962, Rachel Carson attacked the pesticide for its deleterious environmental effects in the pages of *Silent Spring*, giving force and focus to an emergent modern American environmental movement. In 1972, the agricultural use of DDT was banned in the United States. Yet, DDT continued to be manufactured and exported as part of US-supported international development projects addressing problems of disease and famine. Further, the controversy surrounding Rachel Carson's book persists to the present as critics continue to mount attacks on the science and politics behind the very laws and regulations that *Silent Spring* helped initiate. Beginning with *Silent Spring*, this seminar addresses the myriad issues surrounding the balance of risks and benefits of DDT within and beyond America's borders. Readings will balance primary and secondary sources, while students will write one short paper and a longer, independent interpretative essay on a topic relating to the on-going controversies surrounding DDT.

HU 3900-C17 INQUIRY SEMINAR: GLOBAL CITIES

Everett, Parker (contact info: pdeverett@wpi.edu, office SL 241)

CRN: 24723

The Formation, Society and Culture of Global Cities in the Modern Era. This research seminar will explore the development of large cities as key nodes of economic, social and cultural life. We will study the key factors that led to their rise and, in some cases, fall and we will examine the various strategies and policies used to vault aspiring global cities into prominence.

HU 3900-C14 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM

Hanlan, James P. (contact info: jphanlan@wpi.edu, office SL 028)

CRN: 24231

This Inquiry Seminar is intended as the culminating experience in Humanities and Arts for students who have completed five courses in Humanities and Arts, including at least two courses in American History (one at the 2000-level or higher). It is also suitable for students with interests in American Studies. The class will focus on a particular theme in the American experience to be chosen by the instructor, and students will write individual papers broadly centered on that theme. Students will develop the ability to think, discuss, and write about American history and American Studies.

HU 3900-C06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EMPIRE IN HISTORY

Hansen, Peter H. (contact info: phansen@wpi.edu, office SL 107)

CRN #: 20729

This Inquiry Seminar will focus on empire in history with an emphasis on recent comparisons of the British and American empires. Students will give presentations and research and write about a topic related to the theme of empire in history. This seminar is appropriate for students with a background in any area of U.S., European, or world history.

HU 3900-C16 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF SPORT

Hansen, Peter H. (contact info: phansen@wpi.edu, office SL 107)

CRN #: 24316

This Inquiry Seminar will focus on the historical and cultural studies of sport. Students will give presentations and research and write about a topic related to the history of sports. This seminar is appropriate for students with a background in any area of U.S., European, or world history.

HU 3900-C08 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE SPACE RACE YEARS

Spanagel, David I. (contact info: spanagel@wpi.edu, office SL 239)

CRN: 24121

This inquiry seminar in the history and politics of rocketry and space exploration will examine how science, technology, and national pride got bound up together during the Cold War. Weekly meetings will be devoted to uncovering and understanding the varying perspectives of key historical figures who were active in (or who provided contemporary commentary about) the competition. Students will write brief individual papers analyzing scholarly historical works that have analyzed the space race; will collaborate in small groups in the composition of more substantial historical research articles; and will design and/or participate in a culminating historical simulation activity. The final grade will depend heavily on engagement in all aspects of the seminar experience. [NOTE: Any students who have acquired HUA "depth" in history, history of science/technology, or global history are invited to apply for a spot in this inquiry seminar. Aerospace engineering majors may find this seminar a particularly valuable humanities and arts project experience. Preference will be extended to anyone who successfully completes any regular 3000-level History "topics" seminar course prior to the inquiry seminar.]

HU 3900-C12 INQUIRY SEMINAR: BUSINESS HISTORY MODERN CHINA**Rudolph, Jennifer (contact info: jrudolph@wpi.edu, office SL 408B)****CRN#: 24117**

In the Reform Era, China's economy has experienced a growth rate that has been unparalleled in history. This inquiry seminar examines the role of business, both state-owned and private, in achieving China's economic transformation. Class time will be devoted to acquiring a common foundation on approaches to the study of business in social and economic transformation and exploration of issues critical to understanding China's current economic landscape. Each student will then research and analyze a specific business history topic or case study of his or her choice. Most students will focus on China, but topics from other post-socialist economy countries, like Vietnam, are also welcome. Presentation of student work will open discussion to a diverse set of business and economic history topics. Students are expected to share their work with the class and help critique fellow classmates' work. This seminar is appropriate for students with depth in history.

C 2018 Music**HU 3910-C01 PRACTICUM HUA: MUSICAL ROBOTICS****Barton, Scott (contact info: sdbarton@wpi.edu, AH 208)****CRN: 20839**

In this course, we will design, build and compose for musical robots. In the design component of the project, we will research acoustic and mechanical principles of traditional instruments as well as of the technologies used in more current systems. We will consider the strengths of these designs, how they can be improved and how they can be modified to explore new musical territory. We will imagine musical gestures that we want our instrument(s) to be able to perform, paying particular attention to those gestures that are idiomatic and unique to machines. In the building component of the project, we will fabricate parts, design circuits and program the code necessary to realize our instruments. Each student will then compose a piece for the robotic / mechatronic instrument(s) that illuminates its expressive capabilities. Students should have experience in both music and at least one of the core robotics disciplines (electrical and computer engineering, computer science, mechanical engineering).

HU 3910-C03 PRACTICUM: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: MULTI-CHANNEL ALGORITHMIC MUSIC COMPOSITION**Bianchi, Frederick (contact info: bianchi@wpi.edu office AH205)****CRN: 22294**

The seminar will investigate various processes, methods, and strategies used for creating multi-channel music. This will include interacting in real time with multi-channel sound systems used for sound design, sound installations, and other creative applications. The seminar will also explore the relationship between sonification, automation, aesthetics, and psychoacoustics when composing for 40 channels of discrete audio.

HU 3910-C05 PRACTICUM: MUSIC, CREATIVITY, AND THE BRAIN**Bianchi, Frederick (contact info: bianchi@wpi.edu office AH205)****CRN: 25206**

The practicum will explore, investigate, and experiment with the topic of how the brain functions when engaged in creative activity. The practicum will consider the latest research and developments in brain function theory, brain network interaction, fMRI and various tools and resources aimed at gaining insight into the brain's role in creativity.

HU 3900-C01 INQUIRY SEMINAR: JAZZ HISTORY DATABASE**Falco, Richard G. (contact info: rfalco@wpi.edu, office AH 210)****CRN: 20399**

This Inquiry Seminar in Jazz Music History will assemble a team of students to conduct field research by visiting the homes of New England based jazz artists and their families. Data collected in the field will include oral history interviews, old photographs, recordings, print media, and radio and television shows. Materials will be processed according to specific guidelines and added to an online permanent collection at jazzhistorydatabase.com.

HU 3900-C03 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC AND SOCIETY**Blumhofer, Jonathan (contact info: jblumhofer@wpi.edu, office AH 215) **contact the HUA office SL 125******CRN: 20738**

This seminar will examine the intersection of music, culture, and society, focusing on the issues of race, gender, and sexuality, by exploring the interconnected nature between these socio-political issues and music from historical, social, and cross-cultural perspectives. Students will choose a topic for an individual paper from various styles of music, including Western classical music, popular music, and non-Western music, and conduct independent research.

HU 3910-C04 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ARRANGING**Weeks, Douglas G. (contact info: dweeks@wpi.edu, office AH 212)****CRN: 22371**

C 2018 Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900-C09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Gottlieb, Roger S. (contact info: gottlieb@wpi.edu, office SL 004)

CRN: 20441

The environmental crisis challenges basic moral values, ways of understanding relations between humanity and the rest of life, and political norms. For example: do mountains, trout, or monkeys have their own moral value, outside of their use for people? Can a society be "democratic" if it does not heed the interests of the non-human? With human activity affecting all of the earth, can we still distinguish between humanity and nature? In a culturally diverse world, does the environmental crisis provide the basis for a universal ethical code? How much consumption is morally legitimate and how much is, well, too much? How does the environmental crisis affect traditional religious, philosophical or political perspectives? Is there a way to face the future without despair? In this seminar we will do some shared reading exploring these challenges, and then each student will focus on a particular topic.

HU 3900-C15 INQUIRY SEMINAR: SELF AND NO-SELF

McWeeny, Jennifer (contact info: jmcweeny@wpi.edu office SL 330)

CRN: 24120

Who am I? Do I have a self? If so, what is the self? Is mind the seat of the self or do our bodies make us who we are? Is the self-determined by its relations or is it an independent entity? How do dominant conceptions of gender, race, sexuality, class, and ability contribute to our notions of selfhood? Is there an abiding self or are the contours of the self always in flux? Do entities like animals, trees, computers, robots, genes, and ecosystems have selves? Does selfhood entail consciousness? Is moral consideration contingent on selfhood? Students may pursue these questions and others in the context of this capstone project, which will familiarize students with several philosophical and religious theories of the self that have been developed within diverse intellectual traditions including modern philosophy, postmodernism, neuroscience, phenomenology, Buddhism, Confucianism, and feminist theory, among others. Project participants will then be encouraged to design and pursue independent research on a topic of their choosing that speaks to this theme. The seminar will culminate in the creation of a project paper, which will be presented to and reviewed by the author's peers.

HU 3900-C13 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PHILOSOPHY OF FILM

Sanbonmatsu, John (contact info: js@wpi.edu, office SL 023)

CRN: 24118

In this seminar, students will have the opportunity to explore some of the most exciting films in cinematic history, as they consider the use of film as a medium for expressing philosophical ideas, such as existentialism, the crisis of religious faith, women's subordination, Nietzsche's myth of the eternal return, suicide, terrorism, and the predicament of the working class. Students will learn how to watch and to analyze films using film theory, developing a portfolio of written philosophical meditations on a variety of films watched over the course of the term.

C 2018 Writing (see also English)

HU 3900-C04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HUMAN FACTORS OF MEDICINE

Faber, Brenton (contact info: bdfaber@wpi.edu, office SL 019)

CRN: 23328

In 2015, the MCAT exam expanded to include a new emphasis on the psychological, social, and biological foundations of behavior. At the time, Darrell Kirch, President of the Association of American Medical Colleges, stated that the new changes emerged from recognizing that "Being a good Doctor is about more than scientific knowledge. It also requires an Understanding of people." Kirch continued to say that these subjects will help aspiring clinicians to "build strong knowledge of the socio-cultural and behavioral determinants of health." In this Inquiry Seminar students will use their prior HUA courses to conduct examinations into the socio-cultural and behavioral determinants of health. Students will focus on one or more foundational Areas and prepare a final project that formalizes their learning in the topic area.

HU 3900-C INQUIRY SEMINAR:

Faber, Brenton (contact info: bdfaber@wpi.edu, office SL019)

HU 3900-C18 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WRITING FOR SOFTWARE

Lewis, Kevin (contact info: kmlewis@wpi.edu, office SL 241)

CRN: 24809

With modern user interfaces and easy-to-download apps, is there really a need for software documentation anymore? The answer is...Absolutely! In this seminar, you will learn about the different types of documents that are common to the software industry such as user guides, online help, quick start guides, and API documentation. You will study the general concepts and processes that apply to creating software documentation and focus on techniques in documentation planning, audience assessment, and product research. You will also learn about the industry-standard tools and platforms for documenting software, such as help-authoring tools and Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA). You will quickly take a hands-on approach by writing shorter examples of the sub-genres in software documentation, which means applying newly learned concepts in structured authoring, information design, and content

generation. All of this work will culminate in a final project that has you write a software user guide, API documentation, or similar commercial-grade document, demonstrating your knowledge and skills in writing for the software industry. This seminar is appropriate for students in the computer sciences; however, software programming skills are not required.

D 2018 Art/Art History/Architecture

HU 3910-D01 PRACTICUM IN HUA: VISUAL PERSUASION

Bigonah, Roshanak (contact info: rbigonah@wpi.edu, office SL 031)

CRN: 24240

In this practicum, students will produce a collection of art projects such as photography, 3D modeling, or non-digital/ traditional arts to promote an idea, a product, or a cause. Topics such as research, marketing, as well as examining the elements and principles of arts and visual culture could be integrated in this practicum to make an effective persuasive presentation. This course is appropriate for students with 'depth' in either traditional or digital art.

HU 3910-D12 PRACTICUM IN HUA: VISUAL PERSUASION

Bigonah, Roshanak (contact info: rbigonah@wpi.edu, office SL 031)

CRN: 24808

In this practicum, students will produce a collection of art projects such as photography, 3D modeling, or non-digital/ traditional arts to promote an idea, a product, or a cause. Topics such as research, marketing, as well as examining the elements and principles of arts and visual culture could be integrated in this practicum to make an effective persuasive presentation. This course is appropriate for students with 'depth' in either traditional or digital art.

HU 3910-D10 PRACTICUM IN HUA: PREPRODUCTION TECHNIQUES

Chery, Farley (contact info: fjchery@wpi.edu SL206)

CRN: 24243

This course will take students through the early stages of cinematic and film creation. The course blend 2D and 3D tools to experiment with shot angles, design characters and 3D models. The final project results in a feature length storyboard and animatic. Students will be expected to create dynamic shots, learn or know the proper camera technique. Work functionally as a group while work in an iterative purposeful manner to give a clear vision to the production team.

HU 3910-D07 PRACTICUM IN HUA: 2D DESIGN TO 3D SCULPTURE

Gutierrez, Ed (contact info: ergutierrez@wpi.edu, office SL 206)

CRN: 24241

Maquettes are 3-dimensional sculptures of characters that are used as guides for traditional animation and also used as a pre-visualization tool for developing CG models for video games and CG movies. Maquettes are small preliminary models or studies made of wire armature and clay – this is not a virtual/digital sculpting class. The basics of classical study in drawing, perspective, composition, and tonal drawing will have been practiced before sculpting a 3-dimensional clay maquette. Students will learn sculpting techniques to form their maquette by applying an anatomical understanding. Students will design and sculpt their own maquettes and all students will evaluate, critique, and collaborate to contribute to each other's work. A theme will be proposed so that all character/creature sculptures will exist in the same world and story. The following courses are excellent preparation for this practicum: Basic Drawing and Perspective and Figure Drawing.

The skills acquired in this practicum will equip students with the fundamentals of fine arts creativity in classical media, which they will be able to apply to their works with digital media.

HU 3910-D06 PRACTICUM: NATURE, DESIGN, and ART

Keller, Marie T. (contact info: mkeller@wpi.edu SL 031)

CRN: 22215

Nature has been a source of inspiration for artists throughout history. In this practicum, students will study forms and patterns found in nature and use their observations to solve design problems and create artwork. Related art and architecture will be reviewed for additional inspiration. The goal for each student is to develop a body of work suitable for professional presentation. Prospective students with traditional skills are encouraged to apply, as are students with non-traditional skills.

HU 3910-D09 PRACTICUM IN HUA: THE FIGURE IN MOTION

Reinhardt, Jo Ellen (contact info: jreinhardt@wpi.edu, office SL 114)

CRN: 22520

For this practicum, students will design a body-of-work consisting of four cohesive pieces centering on the figure. The figure may be human, animal, or an imaginary character. The work should display the figure in motion in four different positions or stages. Background imagery may be included. Students may choose their medium, which may include graphite, charcoal, pastel, paint, or digital. All materials and supplies are the responsibility of the student.

HU3910-D PRACTICUM: LIGHT ART

Rosenstock, Joshua (contact info: jrosen@wpi.edu, office SL 208)

CRN: 24139

This studio art practicum will introduce students to techniques and practices in the creation of works of light art. Students will explore the application of creative lighting technology to objects, spaces, and fashion, culminating in the creation of an original work of electronic light art. Topics may include light painting, working with LEDs and electroluminescent wire, 3d printing, programming for art with Arduino and Processing, and basic electronics skills.

HU 3900-D02 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE COLLECTIONS OF THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

Samson, David, M. (contact info: samson@wpi.edu, office SL 14)

CRN: 20407

This course explores the Worcester Art Museum's world-renowned holdings of 50 centuries of art. Special attention will be given to works demonstrating the Museum's pioneering role in collecting. These works range from ancient Roman mosaics to late 20th-century video art. The class consists of lectures at WPI and regular visits to the museum where students will sharpen their observation skills by focusing on original works. Students will select a work from WAM and use it as a touchstone to explore through a paper and gallery presentation the Museum's collection as an educational resource.

D 2018 English (see also Writing)**HU 3900-D12 INQUIRY SEMINAR: INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

Boucher, Esther (contact info: efboucher@wpi.edu office SL 109)

CRN: 23185

In a globalized and multilingual world which faces unprecedented challenges regarding social cohesion in a range of communities and the workforce, the need for intercultural dialogue, communication and competence is ever more apparent. In this inquiry seminar, we will examine how people from different cultural backgrounds communicate, in similar and different ways among themselves, and how they endeavor to communicate cross/inter-culturally. This seminar is appropriate for bi/multilingual students and students with cross cultural experiences.

HU 3900-D06 INQUIRY SEMINAR: CREATIVE WRITING: SCI-FI, HORROR, AND FANTASY

Ephraim, Michelle K. (contact info: ephraim@wpi.edu, office SL 237)

CRN: 20501

In this inquiry seminar we will study three genres of fiction writing: sci-fi, horror, and fantasy. In addition to reading examples of these genres and analyzing their use of literary conventions, students will write their own 20-30 page creative project. This seminar is for students who have taken previous courses at WPI in both literature and writing. During the draft writing process, students will read each other's work and provide verbal feedback in a "writing workshop" format.

HU 3900-D14 INQUIRY SEMINAR: LITERATURE AND SCIENCE: PYNCHON'S *GRAVITY'S RAINBOW*

Schachterle, Lance E. (contact info: les@wpi.edu, office SL 027)

CRN: 20641

Like science and literature? Thomas Pynchon started at Cornell as an engineering major and graduated as an English major. His masterpiece, *Gravity's Rainbow*, is a wild, hilarious and profound meditation on human freedom and fatality, with the setting of an historical novel at the end of World War II. There's a lot of science and technology in the book too. This seminar is designed for students interested in British or American literature in the last two hundred years; we will work our way through a long novel to which students can relate virtually any previous interests or experiences in modern literature (or history, music, or film).

HU 3910-D02 PRACTICUM IN HUA: ACTING, DIRECTING, DRAMATURGY FOR NEW VOICES (6)

Vick, Susan (contact info: svick@wpi.edu, office SL 017)

CRN: 20732

In this practicum qualified undergraduates have the opportunity to act, direct, or work in other creative endeavors on the annual New Voices annual original play festival performed in D term in the Little Theatre.

HU 3910-D04 PRACTICUM IN HUA: THEATRE TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

Vick, Susan (contact info: svick@wpi.edu, office SL 017)

CRN: 20409

This Practicum in Theatre Technology will involve participants in the rehearsal and staging of the annual New Voices festival of original works, a collaboration of Humanities and Arts, Drama/Theatre, and Masque. The Drama/Theatre professors work together every year to stage the festival. New Voices opens in the fifth week of the term, with the following weeks devoted to assembling a project portfolio which documents the results of the study. Students may enroll in this practicum for design, technology, stage management, management, or other production areas with the approval of the professor.

D 2018 History

HU 3900-D23 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WORLD HISTORY & PROJECT CENTER

Addison, W.A. Bland (contact info: addison@wpi.edu, office SL 238)

CRN: 24131

HU 3900-D04 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE HOLOCAUST AND WORLD WAR II

Baller, William A. (contact info: baller@wpi.edu, office SL 408C)

CRN: 20884

This seminar will focus on Hitler's war against the Jews. Topics will include the origins and progress of the Holocaust, limited efforts among the Allies to assist its victims, and ways the event still reverberates throughout the world, including Holocaust denial. Students will read Holocaust memoirs as well as recent scholarly literature on the topic. A WPI professor who lived under Nazi and communist regimes will assist the seminar as a guest lecturer.

HU 3900-D10 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

Bullock, Steven C. (contact info: sbullock@wpi.edu, office SL 235)

CRN: 20445

This Inquiry Seminar in History and American Studies examines Mason Locke Weems's Life of George Washington, the most popular early biography of America's first president--and the first to tell the (perhaps made-up) story of Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on the book itself and on its connections to Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary America. They will also consider more broadly how to think and write about the past.

HU 3900-D09 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ROBOTS IN HISTORY

Cullon, Joseph F. (contact info: jcullon@wpi.edu, office SL 241)

CRN: 24239

Since the Enlightenment, artisans, mechanics and engineers have sought to create machines that worked like living creatures. From defecating ducks and harpsicord players in the eighteenth century to robotic vacuums and autonomous drones in the twenty-first century, automata/androids/robots have been and are fascinating technical achievements as well as existential sites for debates about the definitions and limits of what it means to be human. Just as engineers have endeavored to create working facsimiles of living organisms so too have futurists ventured to imagine a world shaped by artificial intelligence and robots. Therefore, this class explores both the real and the imagined to gauge the ways robots as technical creation and imaginative constructs have evolved. Beginning with the Enlightenment automata and concluding with the promise of autonomous cars, the seminar incorporates materials from engineering and computer science, philosophy, history of technology, and cultural studies to think about how people have used robots not just in theory but in art, film, fiction and everyday life.

HU 3900-D18 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PETROLEUM AND ITS ALTERNATIVES

Galante, John (contact info: jsgalante@wpi.edu, office SL 234)

CRN: 24337

This Inquiry Seminar will explore the questions, "How, why and to what degree is modern life dependent on petroleum use?" and "What paths might exist through which humanity can moderate its dependence on petroleum?" Students will review different approaches to these questions from the demand and supply sides of the market, and through an examination of alternative energy sources and demand efficiency technologies. They might examine a petroleum product of their choice and investigate its history, uses and future position in consumer markets relative to alternatives; they might choose a hydrocarbon resource, across geographies and periods of time, and study the history of its exploitation, current status and likely future amid changes in the global energy matrix; or they might foreground an alternative energy source or efficiency technology in their research, and address its likely impact on petroleum demand and supply.

HU 3900-D07 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MEN AND WOMEN OF EARLY 20TH CENTURY SCIENCE

Spanagel, David I. (contact info: spanagel@wpi.edu, office SL 239)

CRN: 20871

This inquiry seminar in the history of science will delve into scientific biography as a genre of scholarship. Weekly meetings will be devoted to analyzing and understanding various historians' attempts to present the lives and times of leading scientific figures from the first half of the 20th century. Attention will also be paid to the broader historical context of the natural sciences, as it impinged on the lives of these important researchers. Students will write brief individual papers analyzing a particular scientist's work. They will also collaborate in small groups in the composition of more substantial historical research articles that compare and contrast the lives and views of participants in scientific controversies of the early 20th century. Finally, each student will impersonate their chosen biographical subject in a culminating historical simulation event. The final grade will depend heavily on engagement in all aspects of the seminar experience. [NOTE: Any students who have acquired HUA "depth" in history, history of science/technology, or global history are invited to apply for a spot in this inquiry seminar. Preference will be extended to anyone who successfully completes any regular 3000-level History "topics" seminar course prior to the inquiry seminar.]

HU 3900-D13 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ASIAN HISTORY AND NATIONALISM**Rudolph, Jennifer** (contact info: jrudolph@wpi.edu, office SL 408B)**CRN: 24128**

This inquiry seminar in Asian history will focus on national identity formation in the age of nation-states. Questions to be explored include both the broad and the specific: What is modernity? What makes China a nation? Does Japan have particular national or cultural characteristics that contributed to it being the first non-Western country to industrialize and modernize? How does Korea maintain its identity in the age of globalization? What role does nationalism play in today's world? Common readings will provide a foundation for individual exploration of specific research questions. Presentation of student work will open discussion to various dimensions of identity in Asia. Students are expected to share their work with the class and help critique fellow classmates' work. This seminar is appropriate for students with depth in history.

D 2018 Music**HU 3910-D05 PRACTICUM IN HUA: MUSIC IN MULTIMEDIA AND GAMING ENVIRONMENTS****Manzo, V.J.** (contact info: vjmanzo@wpi.edu, office AH 209)**CRN: 24242**

This practicum focuses on interactive music environments in multimedia installations and gaming engines. Existing projects will be examined and students will work in teams in a variety of ways on a music oriented gaming project including programming and designing music gaming environments in Unity 3D, creating text and video narrative for these environments, graphic and 3D modeling for game levels and other elements, developing virtual instruments within the gaming world and more.

HU 3900-D11 PRACTICUM IN HUA: VOCAL PERFORMANCE**Rohde, Joshua** (contact info: jwrohde@wpi.edu, office FBC First Baptist Church)**CRN: 24336**

Class time will be spent with each student performing for the class and critiquing and discussing each other's performance. An accompanist will be provided for those that need one. All students will give a performance during a solo recital at the conclusion of the course.

HU 3900-D11 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC AND SOCIETY**Blumhofer, Jonathan** (contact info: jblumhofer@wpi.edu, office AH 215) **contact the HUA office SL 125****CRN: 20446**

This seminar will examine the intersection of music, culture, and society, focusing on the issues of race, gender, and sexuality, by exploring the interconnected nature between these socio-political issues and music from historical, social, and cross-cultural perspectives. Students will choose a topic for an individual paper from various styles of music, including Western classical music, popular music, and non-Western music, and conduct independent research.

HU 3910-D03 PRACTICUM IN HUA: INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE**Weeks, Douglas G.** (contact info: dweeks@wpi.edu, office AH 212)**CRN: 20403**

Students will each present a solo recital at the conclusion of the course. Class time will be spent performing for the class and critiquing and discussing each other's performance. An accompanist will be provided for those that need one.

D 2018 Philosophy/Religion**HU 3900-D19 INQUIRY SEMINAR: BIOETHICS AND MEDICAL HUMANITIES****Eddy, Bethel L.** (contact info: bleddy@wpi.edu, office SL 223E)**CRN: 24127**

This seminar will allow students to pursue an independent research project in humanistic aspects of the life sciences and/or medicine. The seminar group will provide feedback and help to each seminar participant along the way. Projects may take a literary, film-based, ethical, philosophical, historical, anthropological or religious studies approach, though they are not limited by this list of possibilities. Projects may also draw from the perspective of practitioners (such as researchers, doctors, nurses, therapists, etc.) or from the perspective of the ill patient or loved ones of the sufferer.

HU 3900-D08 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE MEANING OF LIFE**Gottlieb, Roger S.** (contact info: gottlieb@wpi.edu, office SL 004)**CRN: 20730**

Why are we alive? What is the meaning of human existence? What is the good, right or best way to live? Does such a thing exist? For nearly 4000 years humans have been asking these questions, which might seem to be the most important questions anyone can ask. In this seminar we will examine a variety of traditional and contemporary answers embodied in philosophy, religion, spirituality, political theory, and literature. Students will generate their own responses by interacting with other views and reflecting on their own experiences and beliefs.

HU 3900-D17 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ENDANGERED BODIES**McWeeny, Jennifer (contact info: jmcweeny@wpi.edu office SL330)****CRN: 24125**

Which kinds of bodies are endangered in our contemporary world? What does it mean for a body to be endangered, to be always at risk of violence and on the brink of a physical, psychological, or cultural extinction? What kinds of geo-political, economic, and social structures facilitate endangerment? Which moral, political, and spiritual practices bring hope and protection in the face of endangerment? This capstone seminar provides students with an opportunity to investigate a variety of endangered bodies and populations, including endangered species, refugees, immigrants, indigenous peoples, survivors of violence and trauma, war veterans, homeless people, the poor, transgender, intersex, and queer individuals, people with disabilities and illnesses, and many others. Seminar participants are required to design and pursue independent research on a topic of their choosing that speaks to this theme. The seminar will culminate in the creation of a project paper, which will be presented to and reviewed by the author's peers.

D 2018 Writing (see also English)**HU 3900-D16 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HUMAN FACTORS OF MEDICINE****Faber, Brenton (contact info: bdfaber@wpi.edu, office SL 019)****CRN: 24124**

In 2015, the MCAT exam expanded to include a new emphasis on the psychological, social, and biological foundations of behavior. At the time, Darrell Kirch, President of the Association of American Medical Colleges, stated that the new changes emerged from recognizing that "Being a good Doctor is about more than scientific knowledge. It also requires an Understanding of people." Kirch continued to say that these subjects will help aspiring clinicians to "build strong knowledge of the socio-cultural and behavioral determinants of health." In this Inquiry Seminar students will use their prior HUA courses to conduct examinations into the socio-cultural and behavioral determinants of health. Students will focus on one or more foundational Areas and prepare a final project that formalizes their learning in the topic area.

HU 3900-D19 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WRITING FOR COMPUTERS**Lewis, Kevin (contact info: kmlewis@wpi.edu, office SL 241)****CRN: 24810**

Why do we need to write product documentation in an age of automated computer devices, modern user interfaces, and the seemingly self-thinking Internet of Things (IoT)? While consumer electronics have evolved to the point where human interaction is often times unnecessary, computer and electronic devices still require multiple levels of documentation including set-up procedures, user-interface texts, product manuals, and engineering API references. This seminar explores how written documents are applied to and integrated with computer devices and consumer electronics. You will learn about the different types of documents that are common to the computer and consumer electronics industries such as online content, set-up guides, and API documentation. Building on your writing from other courses and projects, you will apply concepts and processes specific to computer and electronics documentation and focus on techniques in planning, audience assessment, and product research. You will also learn about the industry-standard tools and platforms, such as online content, help-authoring tools, and Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA). You will quickly take a hands-on approach by writing shorter examples of the sub-genres in computer and electronics documentation, which means applying newly learned concepts in structured authoring, information design, and content generation. All of this work will culminate in a final project that has you write a user guide, online content, or a similar commercial-grade document, demonstrating your knowledge and skills in writing for computers and consumer electronics.