

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Number and Title:

HU 3900 Inquiry Seminar
HU 3910 Practicum in Humanities and Arts

For ALL Seminars and Practicums:

- Limit 12
- One 2-hour meeting/week
- Instructor will check for the five required HUA courses
- Special approval registration only, by instructor signature on Course Change form; no online registration

NOTE:
The dates and times for each seminar will be posted on the Registrar's website later this spring.

Inquiry Seminars and Practicums in Humanities and Arts
2008-2009
Humanities and Arts Department
Revised 02-27-08

E TERM 2008

History

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

Bullock, Steven C.

This Inquiry Seminar in History focuses on Mason Locke Weems's Life of George Washington, the most popular early biography of America's first president and the book that introduced the story of the young Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on both the volume itself and on the larger Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary worlds in which it was written. They will also consider more broadly how to think, discuss, and write about the past.

Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ANIMALS AND SOCIETY

Sanbonmatsu, John

For students wishing to complete their Humanities and Arts requirement. Open only to students who have already taken five prior courses in Humanities and Arts, including at least two in Philosophy and Religion. This course explores the ethics, theology, epistemology, and politics of our relationship with other sentient beings. Students will be invited to explore such questions as the phenomenology of nonhuman experiences; differing theological interpretations of human duties to other beings; the global political economy of meat production; the ethics of using animals for scientific research; the philosophy of mind and consciousness; theories of power, authority, and extreme violence; and the intersection of speciesism with other ideologies of domination and subordination. Are other animals capable of being "persons"? Can we know what it is like to be a bat? Do we have an evolutionary imperative to eat other animals? Students will focus on a research theme of their choice and write a term paper in conversation with other students. Limited to 12 students, by permission of Instructor. Course meets one day per week, for 2 hours.

A TERM 2008

English

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE LITERATURE OF FACT: A DOCUMENTARY APPROACH TO POETRY AND PROSE

Dempsey, James

This seminar/practicum will provide a forum in which students may examine the relationship between reality and literature. This may take the form of an investigation into the documentary sources behind a particular work or in the student, working from examples in the literary canon, producing a creative piece of work based on reality. (This will not include Memoir, which is treated in another seminar.) Other possible avenues of study include the New Journalism, Literary Journalism, Biography, Documentary Poetry and the use of documentary materials in Modernist and other literatures.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: SHAKESPEARE AND COMPANY

Ephraim, Michelle K.

This Inquiry Seminar focuses on the texts and contexts of Elizabethan and Jacobean England. Students will be required to write one 20-30 page paper analyzing literary texts, English history, or cinematic adaptations of Shakespeare. Students may also choose a "creative writing" option (for example, an original adaptation or collection of sonnets) to fulfill the seminar's writing requirements. This course is for students who have taken at least one Shakespeare course or The Literature of Sin. During the draft writing process, students will read each others work and provide verbal feedback in a "writing workshop" format.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE: STUDIES IN THE GOTHIC IMAGINATION

Ljungquist, Kent P.

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 Arthur Conan Doyle, Mary Wilkins Freeman, Stephen King, and Patrick McGrath. 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.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WRITING

(New Faculty)

This Inquiry Seminar will focus on an aspect of writing to be chosen by the instructor. Students will engage in discussion about a common set of readings. The latter part of the course will be devoted to significant writing and revision of individual student works.

A TERM 2008 (continued)

History

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

Bullock, Steven C.

This Inquiry Seminar in History focuses on Mason Locke Weems's Life of George Washington, the most popular early biography of America's first president and the book that introduced the story of the young Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on both the volume itself and on the larger Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary worlds in which it was written. They will also consider more broadly how to think, discuss, and write about the past.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Clark, Constance A.

This Inquiry Seminar in the History of Science and Technology will explore representations of Darwinism and evolution in American and British popular and mass culture since 1859. We will examine some representative scholars' approaches to these issues, and will explore a variety of primary sources, discussing ways in which historians can learn from these sources. Students will write their own analyses of focused aspects of popular representations of evolution, drawing on primary source materials, with some attention to 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 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF SPORT

Hansen, Peter H.

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.

Interactive Media and Game Development

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: GAME DESIGN DOCUMENTS

O'Donnell, Dean M.

This seminar will look at the various styles and ways of writing game design documents, both for internal use, and as "vision documents." Students will create a vision document, then break it down into team design documents.

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: ANIMATION SHORT FILM

Rosenstock, Joshua

This inquiry practicum in Visual Art/IMGD focuses on the production of short animated films. Students will write scripts, draw storyboards, build characters, animate scenes, and edit soundtracks. They will also consider more broadly topics such as visual storytelling, artistic style, character design, and physical acting. Students should have taken AR 3000 (Art of Animation), or have equivalent experience in 2d or 3d animation techniques.

A TERM 2008 (continued)

Music

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: MUSICAL THEATRE, THREE PENNY OPERA

Delorey, John F.

Students may audition for an on-stage part, audition for a seat in the orchestra, or with permission, be part of the backstage support team (live sound reinforcement, costuming, make-up, lighting, scenic design, ushering).

Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: TOPICS IN AMERICAN RELIGION

Eddy, Bethel L.

In this seminar we will address a wide range of issues in American religion including particular moments in its history, its connections with politics and culture, its interaction with issues of race, the increasing prevalence of religious pluralism, native American religions, religion and popular culture. We will read a short amount of material in common to spur individual interests, then each student will focus their research on a particular aspect and share it with the rest of the seminar group.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: OPEN TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION, AND RHETORIC

Smith, Ruth L.

Open topics, in consultation with professor, invites students to identify your own project area. The emphasis is on conversation across topics with attention to issues of writing and thinking as social acts that themselves change and effect other changes. This approach prompts critical attention the difference in kinds of questions, the power of cultural assumptions, ways research sources map ideas, the surprise of the unexpected turn, the feel of finding your way about. We'll work in relation to your topics, along with shared reading.

B TERM 2008

English

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: BRITISH LITERATURE

Brattin, Joel J.

Charles Dickens's first, best, and most popular Christmas book, A Christmas Carol (1843), had a profound effect on the culture of Victorian England, and continues to exert a strong influence on our own. Participants in this Inquiry Seminar in British Literature will study the book itself, and also its context, examining Dickens's manuscript for the book, and his adaptation of the book for the Victorian stage. Students will explore the rich collection of materials in WPI's Robert D. Fellman Dickens collection, and will conduct and present original research on topics related to A Christmas Carol.

B TERM 2008 (continued)

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

Ephraim, Michelle K.

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 others work and provide verbal feedback in a "writing workshop" format.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: NEWSPAPER OF THE FUTURE: ADAPTING PRINT NEWS FOR A NEW GENERATION

Higgins, Lorraine D.

Students will work as a research team, investigating and reporting on the recent decline of print newspapers and identifying new ways of delivering news to younger generations, including online news sites, news games and blogs, and other platforms. What are the rhetorical considerations when designing these alternative, interactive news delivery systems? How does the nature of news, reader, and reporter change? How might particular youth communities use news platforms to create, circulate, and respond to news that matters to them?

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE AND SENSE OF PLACE

Ljungquist, Kent P.

There is a respected tradition in American Literature--from Thoreau to Cather, Wharton, Frost, Steinbeck, Austin, and Faulkner--of writers who endowed their works with a strong sense of place. This seminar will explore literary works that highlight local, regional, and cosmopolitan settings. After reading brief nonfiction sections that set forth the value and importance of "sense of place" in American literary history, students will examine works by Henry James, Willa Cather, Wallace Stegner, and Wendell Berry. In a series of readings, discussions, writing exercises, and essays, students will analyze and assess Berry's provocative statement affirming the value of being a "placed person": "If you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are."

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR : PLAYWRIGHTS' WORKSHOP

O'Donnell, Dean M.

Each student will write either a 30-minute one act, or three 10 minute plays. Students will be assigned various plays to read that tackle the same problems as one of the plays in the workshop. Students will also read and critique each others' work.

B TERM 2008 (continued)

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: TECHNICAL THEATRE

Sands, Jessica T.

This Inquiry Practicum in Technical Theatre 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, or other production areas with the approval of the professor.

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: DRAMA/THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Vick, Susan

This Inquiry Practicum in Drama/Theatre Performances 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 acting, directing, dramaturgy, or other performance areas with the approval of the professor.

History

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EUROPEAN HISTORY

Addison, W. A. Bland

This Inquiry Seminar in History will focus upon economic, political, and cultural aspects of social struggle during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Europe. Students will prepare an analytical research paper on an appropriate topic.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICA'S WARTIME LEADERSHIP

Baller, William A.

This seminar will examine presidential leadership during some of America's most important wars. Students will write a paper on a common text and a longer research paper on one of a number of US presidents and their military and political subordinates.

B TERM 2008 (continued)

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: STUDIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Rawson, David A.

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.

Interactive Media and Game Development

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: INTERACTIVE MEDIA AND NET.ART

Farbrook, Joseph H.

This seminar will be a survey of the history of interactive media including many of the most recent developments in digital art. The primary focus will be on fine art and the use of computers and the Internet as an artistic canvas. Political and social ramifications of electronic media and network delivery systems will also be explored. Students will be able to write a research paper, create their own interactive artwork, or a combination of the two.

Music

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Falco, Richard G.

Students will meet in a class setting to both discuss music performance techniques and to prepare for a performance. A portion of the class time will be spent performing and critiquing for each other. At the conclusion of the term, students will present a final recital.

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: ARRANGING

Weeks, Douglas G.

Students will use previously acquired skills to arrange works for instrumental or vocal ensembles. The works will be performed at the conclusion of the course and students will evaluate each other's arrangements.

B TERM 2008 (continued)

Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THEMES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Gottlieb, Roger S.

The environmental crisis challenges basic moral values, ways of understanding relations between humanity and the rest of life, and political norms. For example: can a society be "democratic" if it does not heed the calls or interests of the non-human? With human activity affecting all of the earth, does it make sense to distinguish between humanity and nature? In the face of 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? In this seminar we will do some shared reading exploring these challenges, and then each student will focus on a particular problem.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: DESIGNATING PLACES

Smith, Ruth L.

With built and natural places, humans designate imaginations and arguments about religious and social philosophical significance; many conflicts involve competing claims on places. From shared reading and individual research, we'll develop ways to talk about multi-sensory-thinking-performing matters of places - markers of entrance and exit, borders made risky and safe, obligations and inventions of architecture, orienting directions, locations of image and text, motion and stillness. The site is your choice, be it sacred, civil, utopic, public, domestic, migratory, or....

C TERM 2009

Art History/Architecture

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ART HISTORY - METHODS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE: MCKIM, MEAD & WHITE AND THEIR TIMES

Samson, M. David

This Inquiry Seminar is structured around the work and times of Charles McKim, William Mead and Stanford White, partners in one of the most accomplished and important firms in the history of American architecture. The firm was founded in 1879, created daringly innovative buildings throughout the 1880s (the "Shingle Style" era), and became a highly influential force for Classical Revival architecture, which it upheld into the 1930s. The firm influenced many American and Worcester architects, including Stephen Earle, architect of much of WPI. This seminar will let students explore formal, technical, institutional, biographical and social-history methods in architectural history, and offer paper topics in American and local architecture.

C TERM 2009 (continued)

English

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE LITERATURE OF FACT: A DOCUMENTARY APPROACH TO POETRY AND PROSE

Dempsey, James

This seminar/practicum will provide a forum in which students may examine the relationship between reality and literature. This may take the form of an investigation into the documentary sources behind a particular work or in the student, working from examples in the literary canon, producing a creative piece of work based on reality. (This will not include Memoir, which is treated in another seminar.) Other possible avenues of study include the New Journalism, Literary Journalism, Biography, Documentary Poetry and the use of documentary materials in Modernist and other literatures.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MEMOIR WRITING

Higgins, Lorraine D.

In this seminar, students will read about the art of memoir writing, discussing a variety of sample memoirs and experimenting with various styles and strategies as they write from their own experiences. Weeks 1-3 will focus on reading and discussion; the latter part of the term will be devoted to significant writing and revision. Student drafts will be "workshopped" by the group in later meetings. The final product will be polished memoir of 20-50 pages.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN STUDIES: LITERARY UTOPIAS

Mott, Wesley T.

This inquiry seminar in Literature is appropriate for students interested in American Studies (e.g., courses in history and/or philosophy/religion as well as American literature). Literary utopias pervade American literature, expressing visions of the good life and the ideal society. Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Blithedale Romance, a semi-autobiographical novel about the Brook Farm community at West Roxbury (1841-1847), provides the base for our exploration of tensions between individual and communal values, and conflicts between perfectionism and pragmatism. Students will write papers on the novel and on its social historical contexts.

History

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN HISTORY

Baller, William A.

This seminar will examine some aspect of recent American social history, perhaps race, sports, or the experience of the common soldier. Students will write a paper on a common text and a longer research paper, using primary sources, on a number of possible social history topics related to the seminar topic.

C TERM 2009 (continued)

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EMPIRE IN HISTORY

Hansen, Peter H.

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 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN PLACES THROUGH TIME

Robertson, Thomas B.

History is too often the study of political figures and legislation. In this seminar, students will use the tools of environmental history to conduct in-depth research of a particular place - a neighborhood, city block, park, road, dam, farmhouse, or stream. You will trace this place through time, analyzing the three or four most important events in its history, and thereby shed light on much larger historical patterns and processes. You can pick any place from around the U.S., although you are encouraged to pick a place that you already know or have some intellectual or personal connection to. Writing about a part of Worcester would also work very well. It will be important to pick a place for which source materials are readily available. The seminar will begin with a common set of readings about doing environmental history, after which our time will be devoted to research skills, writing workshopping, presentations, and peer feedback sessions.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ASIAN HISTORY

Rudolph, Jennifer

This Inquiry Seminar in Asian 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? Common readings will provide a foundation for individual exploration of specific research questions. This seminar is appropriate for students with a background in world Asian history.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF SCIENCE

Spanagel, David I.

This inquiry seminar in the History of Science will examine the motives and results of scientific exploration, focusing in upon some specific case studies of individual scientists whose discoveries and adventures were intended to bring about not only new scientific understandings of natural phenomena, as well as additional resources or prestige for whatever nation or organization sponsored the expedition(s). Students will write brief individual papers analyzing primary source materials; will collaborate in small groups in the composition of more substantial historical research papers; and will participate in a culminating set of research presentations. The final grade will depend heavily on engagement in all aspects of the seminar experience.

C TERM 2009 (continued)

Interactive Media and Game Development

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: INTERACTIVE MEDIA AND NET.ART

Farbrook, Joseph H.

This seminar will be a survey of the history of interactive media including many of the most recent developments in digital art. The primary focus will be on fine art and the use of computers and the Internet as an artistic canvas. Political and social ramifications of electronic media and network delivery systems will also be explored. Students will be able to write a research paper, create their own interactive artwork, or a combination of the two.

Music

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: MUSIC PERFORMANCE INTERFACES

Bianchi, Frederick

The seminar will investigate developments in technology that can detect physical gesture and monitor the conditions of a musician during performance. This technology is particularly relevant to designing advanced interfaces for music and interactive media applications.

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: CONDUCTING

Delorey, John F.

Qualified students (must be able to sight-sign or play an instrument) will be instructed in fundamentals of conducting, both instrumental and choral.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: JAZZ HISTORY

Falco, Richard G.

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 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC HISTORY

Shim, Eunmi

This seminar will focus on various issues involved in Western classical music, popular music, and world music. Students will write an individual research paper on an appropriate topic.

C TERM 2009 (continued)

Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MORAL DIFFICULTY

Gottlieb, Roger S.

In a number of personal and social contexts it may be particularly hard to be moral: when caught between conflicting moral values, in the face of war or injustice, when long held habits make a moral point of view difficult to practice, or when family or religious obligations seem to take precedence over ethical behavior. We will look at some contexts of moral difficulty, and while each student will find a particular context on which to focus, we will also put energy in seeing what different contexts reveal about each other.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS OF WAR

Sanbonmatsu, John

This interdisciplinary Inquiry Seminar explores the ethics, and social origins of warfare. Students will research and write term papers on a topic of their choice, such as just war theory, theories of nonviolent resistance, imperialism and American Foreign policy, masculinity and rape in wartime, state propaganda and truth, virtual warfare, and so on. Uppermost in our minds will be the ethics of political violence and the question of when, if ever, violence is a morally legitimate means for achieving political objectives. In addition to completing a term paper and some short assignments, students will be required to participate fully in seminar discussions.

D TERM 2009

Art History/Architecture

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: SEMINAR IN THE VISUAL ARTS: THE COLLECTIONS OF THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

Samson, M. David

This Inquiry Seminar will have students investigate and write about works in the collections of the Worcester Art Museum. Selecting art objects on display in the Museum's galleries, students will explore visual, biographical, historical and curatorial issues as they are studied by historians of art. The media to be studied will be painting and sculpture and may also include prints, photography, furniture, and useful objects.

D TERM 2009 (continued)

English

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: BRITISH LITERATURE

Brattin, Joel J.

Charles Dickens's last novel, The Mystery of Edwin Drood (1869-70), was left unfinished when Dickens suddenly died of a stroke on 8 June 1870.

Participants in this Inquiry Seminar in British Literature will examine the surviving portion of the novel closely - not just a mystery or literary puzzle, but as an important work of the creative imagination. Students will explore the rich collection of materials in WPI's Robert D. Fellman Dickens collection, and will conduct and present original research on topics related to The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: AMERICAN LITERATURE: TRANSATLANTIC LITERARY ENCOUNTERS

Mott, Wesley, T.

American writers often have called for a national literature worthy of our distinctive experience. Great literature, however, engages with many global cultures and traditions, from ancient classics to the contemporary. This seminar explores a specific kind of cross-cultural exchange: transatlantic social commentary by well-known writers. Our case studies will be Washington Irving's The Sketch-Book (mostly about England) and Charles Dickens's American Notes. Students will write papers on how each writer encountered the other's land, and the influence of their books on both sides of the Atlantic.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: LITERATURE IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Nikitina, Svetlana

This Inquiry Seminar in Literature will focus on the analysis of modern authors whose work in some ways integrates or foreshadows the use of the digital medium. Students will consider the changing relationship between the author and the reader in the interactive computer medium. They will look at hypertext fiction, experimental writings by Borges and Nabokov, Queneau and Michael Joyce as well as the most recent works of electronic literature.

Narrative strategies used in computer games and in film will be critically assessed and considered. What are the limitations of the digital media in delivering a story? What are the opportunities? How could a computer enhance the most ancient craft of storytelling? How and why does it currently fall short of the standards of high print culture? The seminar takes you to the cutting edge of literature and offers opportunities both for creative work and critical analysis. For a Final Project, students could choose a) to develop a creative fictional/poetic piece that integrates a digital element; or b) write a more traditional critical essay looking at one of the existing works of experimental literature.

D TERM 2009 (continued)

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WRITING

(New Faculty)

This Inquiry Seminar will focus on an aspect of writing to be chosen by the instructor. Students will engage in discussion about a common set of readings. The latter part of the course will be devoted to significant writing and revision of individual student works.

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: TECHNICAL THEATRE

Sands, Jessica T.

This Inquiry Practicum in Technical Theatre 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. In 2006, New Voices celebrated its 25th year as part of the WPI academic theatre program. The Drama/Theatre professors work together every year to stage the festival. New Voices 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, or other production areas with approval of the professor.

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: DRAMA/THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Vick, Susan

This Inquiry Practicum in Drama/Theatre Performances 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. In 2006, New Voices celebrated its 25th year as part of the WPI academic theatre program. The Drama/Theatre professors work together every year to stage the festival. New Voices 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 acting, directing, dramaturgy, or other performance areas with the approval of the professor.

History

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: WORLD HISTORY

Addison, W. A. Bland

This Inquiry Seminar in History will focus upon the historical roots of contemporary world conflicts arising from disparities in global wealth and/or hostilities over ethno-cultural differences. Students will prepare an analytical research paper on an appropriate topic.

D TERM 2009 (continued)

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

Bullock, Steven C.

This Inquiry Seminar in History focuses on Mason Locke Weems's Life of George Washington, the most popular early biography of America's first president and the book that introduced the story of the young Washington chopping down the cherry tree. Students will write papers on both the volume itself and on the larger Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary worlds in which it was written. They will also consider more broadly how to think, discuss, and write about the past.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Clark, Constance A.

This Inquiry Seminar in the History of Science and Technology will focus on the history of science, technology and the media, and students will individually explore focused aspects of that history: individual projects might focus on the technical history of some part of mass media, or on representations of science and technology in the media at some period in our history. We will focus predominantly on primary source materials, with some attention to 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 INQUIRY SEMINAR: STUDIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Rawson, David A.

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 INQUIRY SEMINAR: THE U.S., GLOBALIZATION, AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Robertson, Thomas B.

During the twentieth century and especially since World War II, American and their government have become increasingly engaged - politically, economically, culturally, and militarily - with the peoples and governments of the developing world. Although the term "globalization" is often used for the period after 1990, it's clear that the world has been globalizing for decades, if not centuries. In this research seminar, students will pick either a place, an American development project, a pivotal event, or a commodity through which to analyze the larger patterns of American relations with the developing world. After discussing a common set of readings on the Cold War, economic development, and cultural encounters, students will devote most of their time and energy to researching and writing their papers, and offering feedback to classmates. This seminar will be particularly good for students planning to study overseas for part of their time at WPI.

D TERM 2009 (continued)

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: URBAN HISTORY

Rudolph, Jennifer

This Inquiry Seminar in urban history will explore various aspects of large cities and their changing urban space. Common readings in city formation, urban planning, and urban transitions will form a foundation for discussion and for individual research projects. While special attention will be paid to the rise of global cities in Asia, the readings and seminar will be comparative in scope. This seminar is appropriate for students with a background in history (American, European, or Asian).

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Spanagel, David I.

This Inquiry Seminar in Environmental History will draw upon students' interests in the period from (roughly) 1850 to the present in U.S. and global history. Seminar meetings will be devoted to uncovering and understanding the varying perspectives of participants in a key environmental issue, natural resource problem, or land-use decision from the past, the specific topic or theme to be chosen by consensus among the seminar participants. Students will write brief individual papers analyzing contemporary source materials; 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.

Interactive Media and Game Development

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: ANIMATION SHORT FILM

Rosenstock, Joshua

This inquiry practicum in Visual Art/IMGD focuses on the production of short animated films. Students will write scripts, draw storyboards, build characters, animate scenes, and edit soundtracks. They will also consider more broadly topics such as visual storytelling, artistic style, character design, and physical acting. Students should have taken AR 3000 (Art of Animation), or have equivalent experience in 2d or 3d animation techniques.

Music

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC TECHNOLOGY: ALGORITHMIC MUSIC COMPOSITION

Bianchi, Frederick

The seminar will investigate various algorithmic processes used in music composition and sound design. In particular, the seminar will explore the musical relationship between sonification, automation, aesthetics, and psychology.

D TERM 2009 (continued)

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: MUSIC HISTORY

Shim, Eunmi

This seminar will focus on various issues involved in Western classical music, popular music, and world music. Students will write an individual research paper on an appropriate topic.

HU 3910 PRACTICUM: MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Weeks, Douglas G.

Students will meet in a class setting to both discuss music performance techniques and to prepare for a final performance. Stylistic differences in performance for different periods of music will be studied. A portion of the class time will be spent performing and critiquing for each other. At the conclusion of the term, students will present a final recital.

Philosophy/Religion

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Eddy, Bethel L.

This Seminar will focus on a wide variety of issues that bring religion and science together which will include (but not be limited to) bioethics, moral issues in the sciences, Darwin and his cultural context, the philosophical relationship between religion and science, psychological relationships, the relationships between theology and the natural world, etc.

HU 3900 INQUIRY SEMINAR: ANIMALS AND SOCIETY

Sanbonmatsu, John

This course explores the ethics, theology, epistemology, and politics of our relationship with other sentient beings. Students will be involved to explore such questions as the phenomenology of nonhuman experiences; differing theological interpretations of human duties to other beings; the global political economy of meat production; the ethics of using animals for scientific research; the philosophy of mind and consciousness; theories of power, authority, and extreme violence; and the intersection of speciesism with other ideologies of domination and subordination. Are other animals capable of being "persons"? Can we know what it is like to be a bat? Do we have an evolutionary imperative to eat other animals? Students will focus on a research theme of their choice and write a term paper in conversation with other students.