

FIRST YEAR SEMINARS--FALL 2009
DESCRIPTIONS (all courses are 3 credits)

BOT F107 – THE KENTUCKY CREATION MUSEUM

(Prof Money; MPF IVA, CAS D-BIO) The Creation Museum is committed to the following principle: “The account of origins presented in Genesis is a simple but factual presentation of actual events and therefore provides a reliable framework for scientific research into the question of the origin and history of life, mankind, the earth, and the universe.” Students in this seminar will engage in a critical but objective evaluation of the museum exhibits, study the intentions of the museum designers, and consider social contexts that help explain the museum’s popularity. This analysis will stimulate a broader inquiry upon science, politics, and religion.

EDT F105 – THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF INTEGRITY

(Prof Heuberger; MPF IIIA) Culture, broadly defined to include the complex relationships between values, beliefs and practices of people and institutions, is a major determinant of integrity behavior. Academic integrity, for example, is impacted by the implicit and explicit messages of the academic institution, by student beliefs about the purpose of education and their own role and responsibilities in learning, and by the policies and behaviors of everyone within the institutional culture. This course will present a framework for defining and understanding integrity from a cultural perspective, and will apply the framework to current issues and in-depth case studies from academic and other settings.

FRE F106 – THE FANTASTIC IN MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE

(Prof Rose; MPF IIIB; CAS B-LIT) Studies the Jewish legends about the golem, Frankenstein’s Jewish precursor, and dybbuks and other spirits that possess and haunt the living; Examines the representation of supernatural beings and uncanny occurrences in Jewish drama, fiction, poetry, film, and commix. Explores the Jewish fantastic as a source of cultural heritage, topic of humor and irony, or as a signifier of displacement and alienation.

GEO F104 – DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

(President Hodge; MPF IIC) Developing Leadership Skills for a Changing World There is a common misperception that leaders are born and not made. While it is true that some individuals have a greater inherent orientation to leadership, everyone can benefit from studying elements of leadership. This seminar is focused on developing an understanding of the qualities of leadership that build institutions in a world of rapid change. All individuals can contribute more effectively to their work and community, regardless of the role they play, by learning how to initiate, organize, produce, and present. They can also contribute more effectively by understanding the role of culture in shaping an organization, and learning how to motivate others to achieve common goals. This seminar is aimed at encouraging first year students to advance their leadership skills through examples and reflections on what it takes to be an effective leader.

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GLG F108 – GEOLOGY AND GEOPOLITICS: SILK ROAD

(Prof Dilek; MPF IVB; CAS D-PHY) Examines changes in cultural, historical, and natural landscapes along the *Silk Road* and explores how these have affected the rise and demise of civilizations and world cultural heritage. Focuses on the ancient *Silk Road* nations in today’s global economy, transfer of information technology, and geopolitical development in the Middle East and Near East.

MBI F107 – INFECTIOUS DISEASE: PATHOGENS, PROCESS, PROGRESS AND POLICY

(Prof Phillips; MPF IVA; CAS D-BIO) Infectious diseases have plagued mankind throughout history, but only in the last 50-75 years have scientists elucidated the mechanisms (progress) microbial pathogens use in the process of causing disease. Thorough appreciation of these mechanisms is important when microbiologists, physicians and policy makers design strategies for the treatment and control of infectious diseases, especially today as we face the medical, economic and social problems raised by the AIDS pandemic and the threatened avian influenza pandemic.

MUS F107 – A MUSICAL MELTING POT: MAKING AMERICAN MUSIC

(Prof van der Merwe; MPF IIA or IIIA; CAS B-HUM OTHER) In this course, students will explore the variety of musical traditions that have contributed to the sound and style of American music in all its forms. Folk music practices of African Americans, Native Americans, and European Americans will provide a foundation for the study of popular and art music derived from these forms. Students will also have the opportunity to explore their own musical heritage and to consider their personal relationship to the history of American musical culture.

PHL F110 – CULTURAL DIFFERENCES; WORLDS APART

(Prof McKenna; MPF IIB or IIIA; CAS B-PHL) Using philosophical theories about the self, objectivity, truth, and reality, the students and the instructor will critically explore the idea that people with vastly different beliefs may live in different worlds. We will critically examine the practical implications of that idea.

PHY F108 – DISCOVERING PHYSICS USING THE HUMAN BODY

(Prof Urayama; MPF IVB; CAS D-PHY) Our bodies are machines, not of metal and gears, but subject to the same physical principles nonetheless. Here, we explore these principles by discovering physics using the human body. We gain insight into the physical world by exploring how our bodies can be both a measurement tool for understanding physics and a system on which to make physical discoveries. Learning physics using our bodies impacts our understanding of the scientific process, of our place in the physical universe, and of the ubiquitous role physics plays in our lives.

SOC F104 – CURRENT EVENTS: A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

(Prof Wagenaar; MPF IIC; CAS C-SOC) Systematic examination of current events and relevance of the news for liberal education and citizenship; critical look and assessment of the news and how it is reported. Uses basics of sociology to explore how social contexts affect our lives.

THE F113 – THE ARTS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT: FREEDOM SUMMER 1964

(Prof Armstrong; MPF IIA or IIIA; CAS B-OTHER) The Civil Rights movement inspired a vast body of artistic work. This interdisciplinary seminar will explore art as a medium for social justice advocacy, a method of community building and as a means of interpreting and commemorating history. Students examine the photographs, visual arts, music and theatrical performances, specifically those relating to Freedom Summer 1964.