

## FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - FALL 2019

### FS-111 The Examined Life

In this course we will examine our lives by writing about them, using "lenses" from various fields (literature, history, philosophy, or psychology, for instance) to see ourselves from different angles. We will write personal narratives/memoirs of our own, using what we have learned to further explore the writing process and examine our own lives. **CORE: First-Year Seminar.**

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### FS-113 Creative Writing

This is a course in creative writing. An essay (from the French essayer, to try) is a try, an attempt to articulate a world. We will read models in a variety of genres and then write our own tries, in a workshop format. No previous experience in creative writing is required. **CORE: First-Year Seminar.**

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### FS-117 Joan of Arc

Illiterate peasant, mystic, and military leader during the Hundred Years War, Joan of Arc (d.1431) was captured and eventually executed for witchcraft and heresy. Her life and death allow us to explore issues associated with gender, war, heresy, and politics in the pre-modern world. Contemporary literature and films will also demonstrate her influence today. **CORE: First-Year Seminar.**

### FS-118 Performance, Art & Social Justice

This course examines how various forms of artistic performance and visual art are uniquely equipped to engage us in dialogue about divisive issues and lead us toward action to fight social injustice. **CORE: First-Year Seminar.**

### FS-128 Journey Stories

We use stories to make sense of our world and to share that understanding with others. This seminar reads, examines, and listens to the stories people tell. Students will tell their own stories, attend a Moth Story Slam, and interview other people to give them an opportunity to tell their own story. We will use these stories to develop a common language and understand both the inner and outer landscapes of our lives. **CORE: First-Year Seminar.**

### FS-140 Place and Placelessness

This seminar examines conceptions and experiences of place. We live in a world of distinct, memorable and meaning-infused places. By exploring spaces and places which seem to resonate with meaning, we will probe how the essence of the meaning of place can be imposed and maintained (or resisted and denied?), and how we define ourselves and others through and within places. **CORE: First-Year Seminar.**

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### FS-147 Skull Wars

This course examines how celebrity-seeking, competition, sexism, and racism dominate knowledge production in physical anthropology and the hunt for human ancestors. We will explore how numerous scientists and popularizers leverage academic publishers and the media for selfish ends and explore how historical western imperialism, and its attendant racisms, have plagued, and continue to plague, the science of paleoanthropology.

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### FS-153 Peace and Justice

This course is designed as an introduction to the subject of social justice through the study of social justice issues in the context of the lives of individuals who envision(ed) a more just society and endeavor(ed) to live by that vision. We will study issues such as nonviolence, racism, and social and economic inequality, and individuals such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Paul Farmer. **CORE: First-Year Seminar.**

### FS-153 Peace and Justice (HONORS)

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### FS-158 Society, Identity & Race

This course examines race, power dynamics in society, the creation of identity, and the nature of racial injustice. We will explore the formation of racial identity and the power of radical critique in response to powerful external forces and the inherent human drive to shape and determine one's own self. **CORE: First-Year Seminar**

### FS-161 Technology & Ethics in Society

The interplay of technology, sociology, and ethics will be considered in this seminar course. We will consider both recent and historical impacts of technological innovation on the American landscape as well as the broader and more recent influence of globalization. Course participants will study current research and trends in computing and consider their impact on our society and the world. We will consider the ethical, sociological and economic dilemmas created by the introduction of new technologies. **CORE: First-Year Seminar.**

### FS-182 Social Construction: Humanness

This course will introduce students to the questions: What makes us human? To what extent do variations in characteristics (e.g., sex, gender, dis/ability, stature, body morphology, and race) impact our perceptions of humanness? To what extent is being human biologically determined, socially constructed, or an emergent property of both? Have notions of what it means to be human been fixed or have they varied throughout history?

***This course must be taken along with the lab science course BI 106 The Cellular and Developmental Biology of Being Human. CORE: First-Year Seminar.***