Writing Fellows Courses
Spring 2009

Writing Fellows courses help students improve their writing skills by working with a Brown undergraduate who has been trained in composition and pedagogy. In a “fellowed” course, students receive detailed commentary on at least two paper drafts during the semester. Professors receive the first drafts, with annotations by the Writing Fellows, and the final papers, so that they may review the process of their students’ work. Writing Fellows courses for the spring 2009 term are listed below. First-year seminars are listed first, followed by additional courses that are served by Writing Fellows.

FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

ANTH 0066I-S01 - Human Trafficking (FYS)
In this seminar, students will retrace the development and impact of the 2000 UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Human Trafficking, especially of women and children. This set of norms was created as a supplement to the UN Convention against International Organized Crime. This seminar will deal with the protocol as both a legal as a living document that has both a history and ongoing political relevance.

Monday 3:00-5:20 p.m.
Instructor: Kay Warren, Professor of Anthropology

ECON 0180C-S01 - Punishment and Inequality in America (FYS)
This seminar uses social theory and social science evidence to help students understand how punishment works as a mechanism to produce inequality in American society. The institution of incarceration as a generator of social stigma is examined in this light. Zero-tolerance policing practices and racial profiling are discussed from this point of view as well. Questions about authority, legitimacy, deviancy, power, and social cognition will guide the discussion.

Monday 3:00-5:50 p.m.
Instructor: Glenn Loury, Professor of Economics

PHYS 0120-S01 - Adventures in Nanoworld (FYS)
Richard Feynman famously said, "There's plenty of room at the bottom," about the possibility of building molecular-size machines operating according to Quantum Mechanics. Scientists are now learning the art, and students in this course will use basic physics and simple mathematical models to understand the phenomena and materials in the nanoworld. Non-science concentrators and potential science concentrators alike will learn about important classes of nanosystems such as macromolecules, nanotubes, quantum dots, quantum wires, and films. We will learn how people make nanosystems and characterize them. We will consider existing and potential applications of nanotechnology, including molecular motors, nanoelectronics, spintronics (which received the latest Nobel prize in Physics), and quantum information.

Tuesday/Thursday, 1:00-2:20 p.m.
Instructor: Dmitri Feldman, Assistant Professor of Physics
ADDITIONAL COURSES

AMCV 1550-S01 - Methods in Public Humanities
This course offers a survey of the skills required for public humanities work. It incorporates presentations from local and national practitioners in a diverse range of public humanities topics: historic preservation, oral history, exhibition development, archival and curatorial skills, radio and television documentaries, public art, local history, and and more.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11:00-11:50 a.m.
Instructor: Steven D. Lubar, Professor of American Civilization

ARCH 0650-S01 - Islamic Civilizations
This introduction to early Islamic civilization will examine the interrelationship between the emerging Islamic religious tradition and the development of specifically Muslim social institutions, the role of ethnic and religious minorities, and the flowering of Islamic thought and material culture. Students will study archaeology, political and social histories, visual arts, and textual traditions to explore the evolution and institutionalization of Islam from Spain to Central Asia.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 2:00-2:50 p.m.
Instructor: Ian Straughn, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Joukowsky Institute of Archaeology

EDUC 1860-S01 - Social Context of Learning and Development
This course focuses on the social environment that contributes to the development of children's minds, language, self-understanding, relations with others, affect, and attitudes toward learning. The period from birth through young adulthood will be examined. Topics include children's social interactions, parental expectations and socialization practices, and the influences of family, peers, school, and media.
Prerequisite: EDUC 0800, EDUC 1710, EDUC 1270, COGS 0630, or PSYCH 0810.

Tuesdays 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Instructor: Monique LeBourgeois, Assistant Professor of Education

ENGN 2910Y-S01 - Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Creating Value Out of Graduate Research (primarily for graduate students)
This course focuses on innovation and entrepreneurship of embryonic ideas, pioneering technologies, and scientific breakthroughs emanating from the university research enterprise. All assignments center on graduate research, culminating with a full business plan. The course helps students to focus on graduate work while harvesting the commercial potential of their research.

Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:20 p.m.
Instructor: Danny Warshay, Lecturer, Department of Engineering

GEOL 0240-S01 - Earth: Evolution of a Habitable Planet
This course introduces students to the Earth's surface environment, evolution-climate, chemistry, and physical makeup. The Earth's carbon cycle is used to understand solar, tectonic, and biological cycles' interactions. We will examine the origin of the sedimentary record, the dating of the geological record, chemistry and life on early Earth, and the nature of feedbacks that maintain the "habitable" range on Earth. Two field trips; five laboratories arranged. Prerequisite: GEOL 0220 or 0230; or instructor permission.

Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:20 p.m.
Instructor: Timothy D. Herbert, Professor of Geological Sciences
ITAL 1420-S01 - Sex and the Cities: Venice, Florence, and Rome, 1450-1800
This course examines the politics of sexuality and the sexuality of politics in Italy between the Renaissance and the Enlightenment. Italy's urban settings saw the development of some of the most sophisticated political systems in Europe, and issues of gender identity and sexual practices figured prominently in the political symbolism, political criticism, and legal and social orders of these regimes. Lectures and course discussions also explore everyday practices and their implications for defining and defying the social and political norms of gender and sexuality in early modern Italy. Suggested prerequisites are HIST 0010 or any Italian Studies course at level 1000 or above. No prerequisites are required. Lectures in English. Discussion groups in English and Italian.

Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-11:50 a.m.
Instructor: Caroline Castiglione, Associate Professor of Italian Studies

PHIL 0360-S01 - Early Modern Philosophy
This course introduces students to central themes in Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant. Major topics we will cover include reason, experience, and knowledge; substance and the nature of the world as it really is; induction, causation, and the origin of our ideas; and skepticism, realism, and idealism. Connections are made with the scientific revolution of the 17th century.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11:00-11:50 a.m.
Instructor: Katherine Dunlop, Assistant Professor of Philosophy

SOC 0020 - Perspectives on Social Interaction: An Introduction to Social Psychology
An introduction to the discipline of sociology examining the individual in social situations. Explores the social development of the person, the development of interpersonal relationships, and the problems of integrating the individual and social system. For each area, the personal and situational factors that bear upon the issue are investigated. The objective is to deepen understanding of the behavior of people in a social context.

Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:20 p.m.
Instructor, Gregory Elliott, Associate Professor of Sociology

SOC 1330-S01 - Remaking the City
Cities are being reshaped by immigration, economic restructuring, and other forces. This course reviews these changes from several perspectives, including the patterns and causes of change, the role of politics and public policy, and how different groups of people (by class, race, and national origin) manage under the new conditions. Readings will emphasize historical and cross-national comparisons.

Monday/Wednesday 8:30-9:50 a.m.
Instructor: John Logan, Professor of Sociology

SOC 1950-S01 - Senior Seminar (for sociology concentrators)
This advanced research seminar is for sociology concentrators in the second semester of work on an honors thesis. Participants examine methods for analyzing, writing, and presenting thesis material and apply peer review techniques in assessing each other's work. The course culminates in students' presentation of their theses to the department. Students doing independent study research may also participate with the instructor's permission. This course is required for "honors" in sociology.

Wednesdays 3:00-5:20 p.m.
Instructor: Dennis Hogan, Professor of Sociology