

Course list for brochure:

Fiction Writing Workshop *Marshall Boswell, Ph.D., English*

Everybody has a story to tell, but what's the best way to tell it? In this course, we'll try to figure that out. Through daily readings and short writing exercises, we'll explore all the major elements of short fiction, from character to theme, from plot to point of view. Then we'll put these elements to the test as we write and discuss original short stories of our own.

Jane Austen's Courtship Novels *Jennifer Brady, Ph.D. English*

In this course, we will focus on three of Austen's novels, published in the Regency period, beginning with her classic comedy, *Pride and Prejudice*, whose ironic premise is that "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a large fortune, must be in need of a wife." It is, in a sense, the premise of the novel of manners. We will also read the shorter and very funny *Northanger Abbey*, whose heroine is a thoroughly ordinary but avid reader of schlock novels, and *Mansfield Park*, whose heroine is the shy, moral Fanny Price. Students in this class will write a 4-5 page analytical paper on each novel.

The Bible and the Koran in Conversation *John Kaltner, Ph.D., Religious Studies*

The Qur'an (Koran), the sacred text of Islam, contains many stories that are also found in the Bible. This course will study some of these stories that treat figures like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Mary, and Jesus. Students will engage in comparative study of the versions in an attempt to gain a better understanding of the relationship between them. Please bring a Bible to class.

Appalachian Coal Miners *Chad Montrie, Ph. D., History*

This course focuses on the portrayal of Appalachian coal miners in song lyrics, pictures, works of fiction, and films. Students will make short, written evaluations of various portrayals, culminating in a longer, comprehensive assessment at the end of the two-week term. Topics to be considered include exploitation and resistance, racial and ethnic divisions, as well as gender roles.

Playwriting *Brad Shelton, MFA, Drama*

Through a series of writing exercises based on a workshop originally designed by the Tony Award winning playwright Jean Claude Van Italie, students will develop several short scripts and one 20-25 page one

act script exploring the idea of "home." Daily writing assignments will be performed each evening by fellow students.

Reading the Fairy Tale *Judith Haas, Ph.D., English*

In this course we will look critically at a selection of well-known fairy tales, including those of the Brothers Grimm, Charles Perrault, and Hans Christian Andersen, and examine their dark side-what it is that makes them unsettling. We will consider the common conventions of fairy tales, like evil stepmothers and orphaned children, in order to analyze the kinds of problems and fears the stories might be addressing. In analyzing the fairy tales we will pay attention to the representation of women as well as themes of violence and the grotesque.

Special Interests and the U.S. Congress: The Real Scoop on Power in Washington D.C. *Jay Mason, Ph.D., Political Science*

This course undertakes a systematic look at the ways special interest groups exert influence in what is supposed to be the most democratic of our national institutions in Washington D.C. We will first survey the evidence that has been offered in support of the thesis that Congress is "captive" to special interests. Next, the class will study the accuracy of this evidence and discuss how members of Congress react to the charge. Throughout the course, each student will be studying and writing about the efforts and activities (successful and unsuccessful) of one "powerful" interest group with a presence in Washington. Students will study their group with an eye toward how and in what ways it confirms or rejects the thesis that special interests exert uncontrolled power in the U.S. Congress.

Writing on the Road Movie *Thomas Cohen, Ph.D., Film Studies*

The genre of the "road movie" includes films as diverse as *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Road Warrior*, and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Despite their differences, all such movies depict the adventures of travelers, drifters, or exiles. In this course, we will take a close look at some road movies in order to explore through our writing the themes of seeking, wandering, and returning home.