**1) New Course: FYI 102: Film and Difference**

**(Alder)**

4 credits

This course is designed to help you: 1) Develop skills in expressing yourself orally or in writing; 2) Develop

knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives, global awareness, or other cultures; 3)Continue to learn how to find, evaluate, and use resources to explore a topic in depth; 4) continue developing strong research skills and strategies; 5)Read and write critically about film and 6)Develop an awareness of your own understanding and enjoyment of film.

**2) New Course: FYI 102: Immigration, Memory, and Identity**

**(Al-wazedi)**

4 credits

In this course we will study the idea of multi-culture, immigrant experiences, and the cultural encounters with “others” in texts written by Asian Americans, Arab Americans, and Chicano

authors. Many of the texts we will study this semester will be of a more or less autobiographical nature;

some are deeply rooted in the author’s life experiences, and others are fictionalized histories and personal narratives. One common theme among these writers is that they are trying to figure out their individual position in their community as well as what that position means to others outside their own community. Throughout the semester I’d like us to consider several questions: (1) problems and possibilities of difference (racism and ethnic prejudice, “the melting/ khichuri pot”), (2) how does one construct a self? To what extent does a community shape a sense of self? and (3) the complexities of language choice and usage (dialect, formal, and dual languages). Drawing on a few theoretical texts about migration literature, ethnicity, and memory, we’ll discuss the following interrelated themes: diaspora and home(land); borders and border-crossings; exile and otherness; language and silence; gender and sexuality; trauma and memory; intercultural and generational conflict and reconciliation; race and ethnicity. Though the focus is of course on literature and film from the U.S., we’ll also explore the relevance of the insights gained to our own changing and globalizing communities today.

**3) New Course: FYI 102: The Art of Comedy**

**(Coussens)**

4 credits

This course will examine the evolution of comedy as a performing art from the satyr plays

of ancient Greece to the musical comedies of the contemporary Broadway stage. Through the

study of comic plays from various historical periods, the class will explore the things that make us

laugh and how the changing nature of comedy reflects the age in which it is produced. Special

emphasis will be given to the ways in which comedy in the present day often explores controversial and provocative issues based on differences in gender, religion, race, and culture.

**4) New Course: FYI 102: The Art of Modernism**

**(Goebel)**

4 credits

The Art of Modernism will examine works of art as historical documents across time and space. We’ll explore the meaning of Modernism and the ways in which artists, ancient through contemporary across the globe, construct works of art that reflect their respective contexts. A liberal arts education considers questions that have always confronted humans such as: “How is difference constructed and what differences matter?” To help us answer this question, we’ll chronologically analyze style and meaning represented by such differences. Our study will include works of art by famous artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Monet, Cassatt, Van Gogh, O’Keeffe, Kahlo, Kandinsky, Pollock, Warhol and Banksy. Through

focused examination, we’ll learn how art history provides a key to interdisciplinarity.

**5) New Course: FYI 102: Documentaries**

**(Hare)**

4 credits

Documentaries are a vital and increasingly popular form of film in our cultural landscape. The stories that they tell have an impact on society by pointing out injustices done to others. These nonfiction films not only educate us by shaping social conversations, but also tug at our heartstrings to promote

personal as well as wide sweeping changes. In this class we’ll take a closer look at documentaries in order to create our own mini documentary that attempts to answer FYI 102’s overarching question: how is difference constructed and what differences matter.

**6) New Course: FYI 102: The Power of Music**

**(Keehn)**

4 credits

This class is divided into two units. The first unit explores the great questions surrounding humanity’s

relationship with music: where does music come from, is music universal, is music a language, is

music unique to humans, and what power does music possess? The second unit will examine the use of

music as a tool: one that inspires, creates unity, and creates disparity. More specifically we will look at the role music has played in selected 20th – 21st century wars, presidential election campaigns, and social activism movements in the form of propaganda, protest, and art. This class will reach far beyond the traditional role of music as entertainment and explore such issues as: What power did a musician hold in a WWII concentration camp? Can music influence someone’s political opinions? Is music used as an interrogation tactic considered torture? Can communal singing or music making bring people

together despite other fundamental differences? What is the responsibility of the maker and the consumer of music? No musical background is necessary for this course.

**7) New Course**: **FYI 102: Other Harry Potter**

**(McDowell)**

4 credits

Harry Potter has become part of the Western cultural canon, largely through the eight films that tell the

story contained in the seven-book series. But since the series seems to begin as a children’s story, we

might overlook the fact that the series is a 3,400-page treatise on social discrimination. In this course we will look at the ways that individuals and groups are labeled and treated as “other” in the world of the novels so we can more readily identify, discuss, and understand similar labeling and treatment in our own world. Note: Since we will be discussing the series as a whole, not always chronologically, all participants must have read the entire series BEFORE the beginning of the course.

**8) New Course: FYI 102: Fatphobia & Difference**

**(Mendez)**

4 credits

This class is centered on the overarching topic of fatphobia, and the stigmas placed around folks who

have fat bodies. If you’re wondering why this kind of class is being taught, I urge you to take a moment

and reflect on your perceptions of what it means to have a fat body in today’s society, and delve a little

further and ask yourself what you think about the idea of you being perceived as fat in society.

As a very controversial topic, understanding how fat bodies have been constructed in society, and

understanding what these differences mean is very important. This is the question we’ll be exploring

using fatphobia as the main topic: “How is difference constructed and what differences matter?” We will

explore, unpack, and problematize this topic some more using the distinctive qualities of a liberal arts

education to make new connections across multiple fields, and applying your active reading,

communication, and information literacy skills. You will accomplish these goals through scholarly

research and writing in various capacities.

**9) New Course: FYI 102: East Meets West**

**(Nagase)**

4 credits

Hollywood remakes of Asian films have been proliferating since the turn of this century. Examples

include The Ring (2002), Shall We Dance (2004), and The Departed (2006), just to name a few. This

course will examine American adaptations of Japanese films in particular and reveal underlying

cultural presuppositions upon which the original movies and their remakes are built. The class will

analyze the cultural, aesthetic, ideological, economic, social, and gender premises reflected in

both the original films and their remakes. The class, then, will consider how these cultural differences

impact the cinematic end-products.

**10) New Course: FYI 102: Taking a Bluestreak**

**(O’Connor)**

4 credits

This course will explore language differences in an effort to understand how language usage, especially

taboo language, has constructed and created division and differences between people and cultures. The

readings and film will explore how language creates culture and how language changes over time. Topics

will include: the history of profanity, how swear words and other vulgar/offensive language, including hate speech, affect communities, and what language differences we find in various cultures and co-

cultures.

**11) New Course: FYI 102: Religion & Difference**

**(Salgado)**

4 credits

In this course we will explore questions of religious difference and how the identification of such

difference might involve different forms of discrimination such as political, social and gender

discrimination. Special attention will be given to how power and authority are constructed and can

determine the status and position of followers of religions that are generally not considered to be

“mainstream” or dominant in specific contexts. We will investigate religions such as Native American

(Sioux) Religion, as well as Buddhism and Hinduism, among others.

**12) New Course: FYI 102: How We Think**

**(Vincent)**

4 credits

Most of us tend to assume that we behave logically when we think about and interact with other people. But research over the last few decades makes a compelling case for the notion that we are often less than logical. We exhibit memory biases,reconstructing the details of our pasts in ways that

perhaps better fit our narratives (“I love her more today than ever before!”). We frequently use mental

shortcuts that, while often adaptive, lead us to erroneous conclusions (“Driving feels so much safer

than travelling by air”). From the Sports Illustrated jinx to our mischaracterization of entire groups of

individuals, from important matters like racial stereotyping, to mundane matters like the belief that

everyone is looking at that stain on your shirt (don’t worry, I hardly noticed), our thinking is often faulty.

Intriguingly, and perhaps most importantly, those errors and biases are predictable. In this course, we

will read about and discuss research that seeks to document these errors, as well as explain why they

happen and (in some cases) what we can do about them. Most importantly, we will focus on your ability

to use primary journal articles to craft research papers based on effective and well-supported logical

arguments.

**13) New Course: Art 377: Issues in Contemporary Art (PA)**

**(Quinn)**

4 credits

As contemporary art continues to evolve and challenge, it finds new ways to engage the viewer. Issues in Contemporary Art provides you with a road map for understanding contemporary art by examining the reoccurring themes and practices in the interdisciplinary practice of postmodern visual art.

**14) Course being converted: SPAN 342: Cultures of Spain II (PP,G)**

**(Heacock-Renaud)**

4 credits

The course gives an overview of the history and culture of Spain from 1700 to the present.

Students go beyond the memorization of historical facts, synthesizing information so as to observe

changes in the ideological, political, and artistic landscape across several centuries. Secondary

readings are complemented by study of authentic cultural artifacts and historical documents.

Prerequisites: 301 and 302.

**15) New Course: WGS 130: Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (PS)**

**(Heacock-Renaud)**

4 credits

Concentrates on gender in US, or internationally, queer studies, etc. Special attention is paid to ways in

which gender, race, class, age and sexual orientation converge to form systems of oppression.

**END**