

FYS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FALL 2015

Listed in order of day/time

TR 8:00

GND 1015.01 CRN 10001
Dark

TR 8:00

GND 1015.04 CRN 10004
McCullough
What Really Matters?

We are all provided with an overwhelming amount of new information every day. The focus of this course will be dealing with that reality and making decisions regarding the relative importance of all that we see, hear, and experience. We will agree on many concepts...we will disagree on many as well. Others will remain mysteries. My hope is that we will all experience the joy of thought and discussion, even if we do not reach a consensus.

Readings Include: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Skloot); The Last Lecture (Pausch); The 8th Habit (Covey)
Films include: Dead Poet's Society; A Separation

TR 8:00

GND 1015.06 CRN 11860
Entsminger
Oh, Look, A Chicken!

"Oh, look, a Chicken"....Those who choose this course will be invited to examine ways of knowing through embracing [little ants, carrying a morsel of food across the table] what it means to be a distracted [I smell bacon, what time is it? I'm hungry] learner as well as [OMG--I get to go to the beach this summer—warm sand under my feet] developing an awareness [I love snow caps—little dark chocolate drops with white candy thingies on them] of one's senses. The instructor teaches in the school of music, [do I hear water dripping?] so there will be an element related to that spun [spiders are amazing] into the course. [Oh, it's the fish tank behind me] Those registering for this journey may even learn to juggle. And, if you were attentive to the distractions in this description, you might pick up on another direction your professor will take those willing to explore their empirical selves.

TR 9:30

GND 1015.08 CRN 11862
Boan
The Art of Being Human

Across the ages, humanity has explored the question of meaning through the lens of a belief in something beyond the world of ordinary experience. For some, that would entail the existence of a supreme being. For others, it represents a higher awareness of life and humanity, attained for many through some combination of reason and imagination. For yet others, the quest has focused on the arts and the concepts of beauty and truth. *The Art of Being Human* employs a variety of humanistic and social scientific disciplines—history, literature, philosophy, religion—to explore the interlocking claims of faith, reason, and imagination, the three distinct ways humanity has pursued beauty, knowledge, meaning, and truth. We will examine major world religions and an array of important philosophical, aesthetic, and social scientific concepts, building a framework through which we can better utilize rational, imaginative, and faith approaches to the art of being human. These have been important ideas for generations past, and represent the most profound and exciting issues that confront us today as human beings. By December, you'll see the world in a different light, and will have the tools to dive deeper into your own quest toward the art of being human.

Here are the books we'll be using:

A Small Treatise on the Great Virtues, by Andre Comte-Sponville
The World Religions, by Huston Smith
Eight Theories of Religion, by Daniel Pals
Blue Hole Back Home, by Joy Jordan Lake
Ways of Knowing: The First-Year Seminar Anthology

TR 9:30

GND 1015.09 CRN 11863
Allen

TR 9:30

GND 1015.10 CRN 11864
Sisson

Metaphors We “Know” By: The Truth of Fiction, the Fiction of Truth

You've probably heard it said that “truth is stranger than fiction.” And in the reality of our lives, that aphorism sometimes proves to be true. Uniquely paraphrasing the words of Jesus, American fiction writer Flannery O'Connor declared, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you odd.” As O'Connor understood, figuring out the truth is often tricky business, and the process of trying to know anything for sure not only makes us human, but also makes us unique. Similarly, poet Emily Dickinson exhorted her readers to “Tell the truth, but tell it slant.” Although she was not encouraging her readers to tell lies, she did put her finger on the difficulty of directly stating or understanding truth. Metaphors—with their fictional basis and imaginative possibilities—help us try to know and communicate truths when plain words and simple facts fail us.

The title of this section of FYS pays tribute to George Lakoff and Mark Johnson's *Metaphors We Live By*. Over the course of the semester, we will explore the complex nature of grappling with truths. Specifically, we will examine the way fictions (i.e. metaphors, archetypal narratives, story-telling, symbols, etc.) enable us to interpret the world and explain its complexities and mysteries to ourselves and others. In the process, we will encounter personal

and family fictions, as well as historical, social, and cultural fictions, all of which will reveal the “stories” that serve as the “metaphors we ‘know’ by.”

TR 9:30

GND 1015.11 CRN 11865

McCullough

What Really Matters?

We are all provided with an overwhelming amount of new information every day. The focus of this course will be dealing with that reality and making decisions regarding the relative importance of all that we see, hear, and experience. We will agree on many concepts...we will disagree on many as well. Others will remain mysteries. My hope is that we will all experience the joy of thought and discussion, even if we do not reach a consensus.

Readings Include: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Skloot); The Last Lecture (Pausch); The 8th Habit (Covey)

Films include: Dead Poet’s Society; A Separation

TR 9:30

GND 1015.12 CRN 11866

Bisson

Denying the Holocaust: How we know what isn’t so

Who says the Holocaust never happened and why do they say it? What arguments do these deniers present to support their claims? Is there a difference between “Holocaust revision” and “Holocaust denial?” What answers have been made to the claims of the Holocaust deniers? What are the motives of Holocaust deniers?

This course will explore the larger theme of “ways of knowing” by acquainting students with the methods of historians and showing how the latter use written documents, eyewitness testimony, photographs, physical evidence and demographic data to demonstrate that the Holocaust actually occurred.

Texts:

Richard J. Evans, Lying about Hitler: History, Holocaust, and the David Irving trial

Doris L. Bergen, War and genocide: A concise history of the Holocaust, 2nd ed

Steve Hochstadt, ed., Sources of the Holocaust

Barbara Kulaszka, “What is Holocaust Denial?” (pamphlet published by the Institute for Historical Review)

Films:

Mr. Death (a film by Errol Morris)

Night and Fog (a film by Alain Resnais)

The Third Reich: Rise and Fall

TR 9:30

GND 1015.13 CRN 11867

Entsminger

"Oh, Look, a Chicken"....

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TR 9:30

GND 1015.14 CRN 11868
Hill

Ways of Knowing: Pathways to Our Vocation

Do you sometimes wonder what you are supposed to do with your life? Do you question if you have discovered your true calling and how will you know if you are on the right path? Are you somewhat unsure about your choice of a major or minor? Knowledge can be its own reward but exactly how does it shape or transform us? Our work is our best opportunity to live out our vocation, where we should gain a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment. This course will examine how our life's experiences may shape our decisions and the ways to seek wisdom to choose the paths we take in our lives. In turn, these pathways of knowledge may lead us to our true calling or vocation.

Beginning with developing an understanding of the multiple "ways of knowing," we will then explore other ways of knowing by means of the following "pathways": through the art of listening, asking critical questions, research, mentors, sharing others' experiences, and by utilizing various resources and methods in discovering our strengths and developing our unique talents. As we progress through the semester, we will discover how the value of these pathways of knowledge, along with the impact of socio-economic factors, shapes our decisions and how we can make the best career choices in our lives.

Required Course Readings:

FYS Anthology

The Glass Castle: Memoir (Walls) (can be used)

*StrengthsQuest: Discover and Develop Your Strengths in Academics, Career, and Beyond
(Clifton – 2nd Edition) *Must be new to include the key code for assignments

Recommended Course Reading: The Last Lecture (Pausch)

TR 11:00

GND 101515 CRN 11869
Gorgie

Movies, Lies, and Truth: Ways of Knowing Political Science and Cinema

Students will engage with cinematic masterpieces and lesser-known film gems to grapple with ways of knowing. The featured films will present a variety of constructs for exploring with what we know, how we know it, and why that is an incredibly important question.

In addition to the FYS common text, the course will focus on *The Third Man*, *The Godfather*, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *The Grand Illusion*, *Dazed and Confused*, *The Candidate*, and others.

TR 11:00

GND 1015.16 CRN 11870
Allen

TR 11:00

GND 1015.17 CRN 11871
Lovvorn

TR 11:00

GND 1015.18 CRN 11872
Lalonde

TR 11:00

GND 1015.19 CRN 11873
Bisson

Denying the Holocaust: How we know what isn't so

Who says the Holocaust never happened and why do they say it? What arguments do these deniers present to support their claims? Is there a difference between "Holocaust revision" and "Holocaust denial?" What answers have been made to the claims of the Holocaust deniers? What are the motives of Holocaust deniers?

This course will explore the larger theme of "ways of knowing" by acquainting students with the methods of historians and showing how the latter use written documents, eyewitness testimony, photographs, physical evidence and demographic data to demonstrate that the Holocaust actually occurred.

Texts:

Richard J. Evans, *Lying about Hitler: History, Holocaust, and the David Irving trial*
Doris L. Bergen, *War and genocide: A concise history of the Holocaust*, 2e
Steve Hochstadt, ed., *Sources of the Holocaust*
Barbara Kulaszka, "What is Holocaust Denial?" (pamphlet published by the Institute for Historical Review)

Films:

Mr. Death (a film by Errol Morris)
Night and Fog (a film by Alain Resnais)
The Third Reich: Rise and Fall

TR 11:00

GND 1015.20 CRN 11874

Biles

Living an Intentional Life

In this section, we will address the following questions: How can I live a productive and fulfilling life? How can I best make day-to-day decisions? How do I set priorities? What is truly important? What do I gain from going to college? How do I find my place in this world? What plan does God have for my life?

Reading List:

“The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel, Zondervan, 1998

“Happiness from the Bible” by Danny Biles, Lighthouse Christian Publishing, 2011

“Crazy Love” by Francis Chan, David C. Cook Publishing, 2013

“Green Like God” by Jonathan Merritt, FaithWords, 2010

“Financial Peace Revisited” by Dave Ramsey, Viking Adult, 2002

TR 11:00

GND 1015.21 CRN 11875

Hill

Ways of Knowing: Pathways to Our Vocation

Do you sometimes wonder what you are supposed to do with your life? Do you question if you have discovered your true calling and how will you know if you are on the right path? Are you somewhat unsure about your choice of a major or minor? Knowledge can be its own reward but exactly how does it shape or transform us? Our work is our best opportunity to live out our vocation, where we should gain a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment. This course will examine how our life’s experiences may shape our decisions and the ways to seek wisdom to choose the paths we take in our lives. In turn, these pathways of knowledge may lead us to our true calling or vocation.

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Recommended Course Reading: The Last Lecture (Pausch)

TR 12:30

GND 1015.22 CRN 11876

Gorgie

Movies, Lies, and Truth: Ways of Knowing Political Science and Cinema

Students will engage with cinematic masterpieces and lesser-known film gems to grapple with ways of knowing. The featured films will present a variety of constructs for exploring with what we know, how we know it, and why that is an incredibly important question.

In addition to the FYS common text, the course will focus on *The Third Man*, *The Godfather*, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *The Grand Illusion*, *Dazed and Confused*, *The Candidate*, and others.

TR 12:30

GND 1015.23 CRN 11877

Boan

The Art of Being Human

Across the ages, humanity has explored the question of meaning through the lens of a belief in something beyond the world of ordinary experience. For some, that would entail the existence of a supreme being. For others, it represents a higher awareness of life and humanity, attained for many through some combination of reason and imagination. For yet others, the quest has focused on the arts and the concepts of beauty and truth. *The Art of Being Human* employs a variety of humanistic and social scientific disciplines—history, literature, philosophy, religion—to explore the interlocking claims of faith, reason, and imagination, the three distinct ways humanity has pursued beauty, knowledge, meaning, and truth. We will examine major world religions and an array of important philosophical, aesthetic, and social scientific concepts, building a framework through which we can better utilize rational, imaginative, and faith approaches to the art of being human. These have been important ideas for generations past, and represent the most profound and exciting issues that confront us today as human beings. By December, you'll see the world in a different light, and will have the tools to dive deeper into your own quest toward the art of being human.

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The World Religions, by Huston Smith

Eight Theories of Religion, by Daniel Pals

Blue Hole Back Home, by Joy Jordan Lake

Ways of Knowing: The First-Year Seminar Anthology

TR 12:30

GND 1015.24

CRN 11878

Lamothe

Classical Music's Mysteries

Are you curious about the history of classical music? Why did Beethoven become deaf? What was Mozart like as a teenager? Why would a manuscript of Renaissance music be hidden for four hundred years...by its own composer? This first-year seminar is designed to be an in-depth learning experience that answers all of these questions and many more while students learn critical thinking skills. This reading- and writing- intensive course is designed for those who love classical music, but do not necessarily have to be musicians themselves. Students will also spend time in class learning productive study habits, time management, and career development skills. Students will participate in concert reviews, class discussions, and complete an argumentative research paper.

Required Materials:

Bain, Ken. *What the Best College Students Do* (Boston: Belknap Press, 2012)

ISBN: 978-0674066649

Berendt, John. *The City of Falling Angels* (New York: Penguin Books, 2006)

ISBN: 978-0143036937

Grieg, Donald. *Time Will Tell* (New York: Thames River Press, 2010) ISBN: 978-0857286246

Martin, Russell. *Beethoven's Hair: An Extraordinary Historical Odyssey and Scientific Mystery Solved* (New York: Broadway Books, 2001) ISBN: 978-0767903516

Spaethling, Robert. *Mozart's Letters, Mozart's Life: Selected Letters* (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2000) ISBN: 978-0393047196

TR 12:30

GND 1015.25

CRN 11879

Balding

Ireland: Shamrocks, Shillelaghs, and Seanchais

The subtopic for this First-Year Seminar will provide an interdisciplinary look at Ireland and her people. Together we will read, write, think about, and discuss what it has meant to be Irish over the last century or so, and how it has shifted over time, and what sorts of events have contributed to the Irish identity and culture of today. Specifically, we will look at ways in which religion, politics, and culture have formed the Irish identity in both the Republic of Ireland and in the North of Ireland. Along with the required texts, there will be additional essays, articles, and handouts provided for you.

Required Texts:

The Burning of Bridget Cleary: A True Story By Angela Burke

The Stolen Child by Keith Donohue

Irish Famine:a Documentary by Colm Toibin and Diarmaid Ferrier

Reading in the Dark by Seamus Deane

Cal: a Novel By Berbard MacLaverty

TR 12:30

GND 1015.26

CRN 11880

Scott

Don't Miss a Single Second!

Who are you? How do you know what you know? We each have a unique lens through which we view the world. In this course, we will explore how we create meaning through communicating with others. Additionally, we will investigate how online communities are redefining how we relate to each other and how we share knowledge and experiences. How have these evolving communication technologies impacted the culture in which we live? Are they bringing us together or isolating us? How are they affecting our sense of self?

Each of us has a journey to take and a story to tell. This course will engage students in exploring their personal stories within the larger context of communication and culture. In the process, we will discover personal strengths and our ability to impact the world we live in. In our fast-paced world, it still holds true that meaningful and worthy pursuits often involve effort and time. We will investigate the lives of individuals whose compelling stories challenge us to look up, to question what we know to be true about the world, and not to miss a single second.

Some readings include: Strengths Quest by Chip Anderson, What the Best College Students Do by Ken Bain, Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall, Denver Moore & Lynn Vincent, and Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand.

TR 12:30

GND 1015.27

CRN 11881

Davis

Having a Mind of Your Own

Among the many ways to describe people one of the most compelling, to me, is that people are creatures of “want.” Humans are able to mix together “needs” and “desires” and “drives” to create a complex web of “wants” that make them (us) difficult to understand. You’d think that our “wants” come from inside ourselves but it’s not clear that this is really true. For example, there was a time in my life when I had no desire for a cell phone, but now I want a new one every couple of years. Is this desire something I generated on my own, or was I manipulated by a corporation to want its product?

So here are the driving questions for this course: to what extent do the things we want come from our own decisions and to what extent are they generated by forces outside of ourselves? In response to these questions we’ll explore the tensions between individual thought and the cultural contexts in which we do our thinking and investigate the extent to which we are actually able to develop minds of our own and the degree to which we are dependent on “received knowledge” for our thinking. Our reading and discussion will include a wide variety of short essays and reports as well as four books: My Name is Asher Lev (Potok), Fidelity (Berry), Ishmael (Quinn), and Prodigal Summer (Kingsolver).

TR 12:30

GND 1015.28 CRN 11882
McCullough
What Really Matters?

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Readings Include: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Skloot); The Last Lecture (Pausch); The 8th Habit (Covey)
Films include: Dead Poet's Society; A Separation

TR 2:00
GND 1015.29 CRN 11883
Dark

TR 2:00
GND 1015.31 CRN 11885
Lamothe
Classical Music's Mysteries

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Spaethling, Robert. *Mozart's Letters, Mozart's Life: Selected Letters* (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2000) ISBN: 978-0393047196

TR 2:00

GND 1015.32 CRN 11886

Balding

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Required Texts:

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The Stolen Child by Keith Donohue

Irish Famine: a Documentary by Colm Toibin and Diarmaid Ferrier

Reading in the Dark by Seamus Deane

Cal: a Novel By Bernard MacLaverty

TR 2:00

GND 1015.34 CRN 11888

Coble

TR 2:00

GND 1015.35 CRN 11889

McCullough

What Really Matters?

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Readings Include: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (Skloot); The Last Lecture (Pausch);

The 8th Habit (Covey)

Films include: Dead Poet's Society; A Separation

TR 3:30

GND 1015.36 CRN 11890

Hooper

Artificial Life

The machines we use tell us surprising, and sometimes disturbing, things about ourselves. They can also change our relationships with our friends, our families, our bodies, and our God.

The readings in this course include Ovid's *Metamorphosis*, Turing's *Imitation Game*, Turkle's *Alone Together*, Shakespeare's *Tempest*, Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*, Dowdy's *God is Like...*, and most of the *First Year Anthology*. Your most challenging reading, however, will explore a topic of your choosing from the frontier where technology meets humanity.

TR 3:30

GND 1015.37 CRN 11891

Sisson

Metaphors We 'Know' By: The Truth of Fiction, the Fiction of Truth

You've probably heard it said that "truth is stranger than fiction." And in the reality of our lives, that aphorism sometimes proves to be true. Uniquely paraphrasing the words of Jesus, American fiction writer Flannery O'Connor declared, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you odd." As O'Connor understood, figuring out the truth is often tricky business, and the process of trying to know anything for sure not only makes us human, but also makes us unique. Similarly, poet Emily Dickinson exhorted her readers to "Tell the truth, but tell it slant." Although she was not encouraging her readers to tell lies, she did put her finger on the difficulty of directly stating or understanding truth. Metaphors—with their fictional basis and imaginative possibilities—help us try to know and communicate truths when plain words and simple facts fail us.

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TR 3:30

GND 1015.41 CRN 12112

Coble

Tuesdays only 5:00-7:45

GND 1015.92 CRN 13322

Stover

TR 5:00-6:15

GND 1015.93 CRN 13323

Christian

MWF 8:00

GND 1015.43

CRN 12114

Minardi

What do you really know and why do you think you know it?

The transition to college brings with it many challenges. These challenges include encountering new concepts and new ways of engaging the world around you. This class will explore ways of knowing through reading, journaling, discussion, and a variety of practical learning experiences. As this class is a seminar, it is expected that the student will be actively engaged in the learning experience. Discussion will be vital to a meaningful class experience.

MWF 8:00

GND 1015.48

CRN 12119

McDonald

Learning Where We Are

You know you are enrolling in Belmont University, a campus just southwest of downtown Nashville. But even if you have lived here all your life, do you really know where you now live? Taking a key principle from Wendell Berry's essay "Starting from Loss," "We can learn where we are," these sections of First Year Seminar will focus on learning where we are on campus, in communities, in Nashville, and in our intellectual lives. Through your own observation and description, you will shape your knowledge of Belmont's campus; in reading *Blue Hole Back Home* by Joy Jordan-Lake, you will reflect on how local communities accept or reject difference; in your research paper, you will build your knowledge about an aspect of Nashville; in our reading of the First Year Seminar Anthology, you will define your intellectual territory by examining a range of ways of knowing. The collection of essays in *It All Turns on Affection* by Wendell Berry, which explore the vital importance of understanding specifically where we live, will sound the thematic notes for our work together; our classes will include discussion, presentations, campus walks, essays and research, and co-curricular learning experiences.

MWF 9:00

GND 1015.50

CRN 12121

Minardi

What do you really know and why do you think you know it?

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MWF 9:00

GND 1015.52 CRN 12123
Smith

MWF 9:00

GND 1015.53 CRN 12124
Burgess

MWF 9:00

GND 1015.54 CRN 12125
Cruz

Life, Power, and the “Death of God”

How does our experience of life, power, and desire open the way for religious faith? Modern thinkers recognize that these aspects of the human condition can also open the way for religious despair, tragically expressed in the phrase, "God is dead." We will seek to unravel this thorny paradox: how can the modern experience of life both build and undermine the meaningful possibility of faith and spirituality as a way of life? To approach this paradox, we delve deep into the basic desires of human beings. Is the human desire for happiness, justice, and love meaningful? Is true life found in a desire for power and domination? Do science and technology fulfill our natural desire to know and understand life? Moreover, what's God got to do with it? By reading the works of spiritual and anti-spiritual iconoclasts – mathematicians, philosophers, novelists, priests, and farmers – we examine how life shapes the meaningful possibility (or impossibility) of faith as a way of life.

MWF 9:00

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MWF 11:00

GND 1015.57 CRN 12128
Schafer

Watch the Skies: Light at Night, the Big Bang, and the End of the World

Many college students are unable to identify more than two or three constellations, and about half of Americans will never live anywhere they can see the Milky Way at night. Light pollution from urban and industrial centers outshines all but the brightest stars, rendering us ignorant of the sky and impoverished in many ways. We will begin the semester by investigating the causes and effects of light pollution and ponder what might be done. We will then explore some of the amazing discoveries that astronomers have made through careful observation of the night sky and application of the scientific method, ranging from the discovery of the Big Bang through speculations about how the world might end. Our readings will include Paul Bogard's *The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light*, Simon Singh's *Big Bang: The Origin of the Universe*, Philip Plait's *Death from the Skies! The Science Behind the End of the World*, selections from Kate Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, and an anthology of texts designed for the First-year Seminar.

MWF 11:00

GND 1015.58 CRN 12129
Whitehouse

"How Does it Feel to Be On Your Own?": Young Pilgrims with Big Questions

The title of this seminar is a line from Bob Dylan's glorious anthem, "Like a Rolling Stone." It's a song about leaving the life you once knew and encountering new people, fresh and sometimes disorienting ideas, and both exhilarating and unsettling experiences. Four of the "rolling stones" we will encounter in this class are Celie (from Alice Walker's *THE COLOR PURPLE*), Franny (from JD Salinger's *FRANNY AND ZOOEY*), Pi (from Yann Martel's *LIFE OF PI*), and Patti Smith and Robert Mapplethorpe (of Smith's memoir *JUST KIDS*)—all young people who have set out on journeys of their own.

MWF 11:00

GND 1015.59 CRN 12130
Smith

MWF 11:00

GND 1015.60 CRN 12131
Burgess

MWF 11:00

GND 1015.61 CRN 12132

Cruz

Life, Power, and the “Death of God”

How does our experience of life, power, and desire open the way for religious faith? Modern thinkers recognize that these aspects of the human condition can also open the way for religious despair, tragically expressed in the phrase, "God is dead." We will seek to unravel this thorny paradox: how can the modern experience of life both build and undermine the meaningful possibility of faith and spirituality as a way of life? To approach this paradox, we delve deep into the basic desires of human beings. Is the human desire for happiness, justice, and love meaningful? Is true life found in a desire for power and domination? Do science and technology fulfill our natural desire to know and understand life? Moreover, what's God got to do with it? By reading the works of spiritual and anti-spiritual iconoclasts – mathematicians, philosophers, novelists, priests, and farmers – we examine how life shapes the meaningful possibility (or impossibility) of faith as a way of life.

MWF 11:00

GND 1015.62 CRN 12133
Bridges

MWF 11:00

GND 1015.63 CRN 13293
Rush

Predicting the Future

In this first-year seminar, students will explore their world through the lens of trends. What is currently “moving the scale”? What is the next big thing? These are questions that leaders in every industry ask on a daily basis. By engaging with a variety of sources this class will look to popular communication to help us understand why different cultures and subcultures enjoy different entertainment content, communication media and media platforms, and how those trends lead to the next big thing. The course will also focus on the importance of recognizing trends in their early stages and positioning yourself and your organization (or future organizations) in the best possible place to benefit from those changes.

MWF 12:00

GND 1015.64 CRN 13294
Schafer

Watch the Skies: Light at Night, the Big Bang, and the End of the World

Many college students are unable to identify more than two or three constellations, and about half of Americans will never live anywhere they can see the Milky Way at night. Light pollution from urban and industrial centers outshines all but the brightest stars, rendering us ignorant of the sky and impoverished in many ways. We will begin the semester by investigating the causes and effects of light pollution and ponder what might be done. We will then explore some of the amazing discoveries that astronomers have made through careful observation of the night sky and application of the scientific method, ranging from the discovery of the Big

Bang through speculations about how the world might end. Our readings will include Paul Bogard's *The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light*, Simon Singh's *Big Bang: The Origin of the Universe*, Philip Plait's *Death from the Skies! The Science Behind the End of the World*, selections from Kate Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, and an anthology of texts designed for the First-year Seminar.

MWF 12:00

GND 1015.65 CRN 13295
Whitehouse

“How Does it Feel to Be On Your Own?”: Young Pilgrims with Big Questions

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MWF 12:00

GND 1015.67 CRN 13297
Sowienski

What's Your Story?

Who am I? Who are my neighbors? How will I live in this world? The answers to these questions are often sought through story. We create stories whenever we try to understand our experiences and answer big questions. Through fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and film we'll seek a deeper understanding of self and others. As Socrates pointed out, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” And as experts in our own lives, we'll plum memory and experience to make sense of the world in which we find ourselves. Using the tools of the creative writer and frequent writing exercises, we'll shape our experiences into meaningful and stylish narratives and essays.

Books include *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott, *In Brief* by Mary Paumier Jones and Edith Kitchen, *Blue Like Jazz* by Donald Miller, and *How to Write Your Own Life Story* by Lois Daniel.

MWF 12:00

GND 1015.69 CRN 13299
Bridges

MWF 12:00

GND 1015.70 CRN 13300
Rush
Predicting the Future

In this first-year seminar, students will explore their world through the lens of trends. What is currently “moving the scale”? What is the next big thing? These are questions that leaders in every industry ask on a daily basis. By engaging with a variety of sources this class will look to popular communication to help us understand why different cultures and subcultures enjoy different entertainment content, communication media and media platforms, and how those trends lead to the next big thing. The course will also focus on the importance of recognizing trends in their early stages and positioning yourself and your organization (or future organizations) in the best possible place to benefit from those changes.

MWF 1:00
GND 1015.71 CRN 13301
Kuryla
Crime and Punishment

In this seminar, we’ll focus on how those in a society or polis decide what kinds of actions or behavior constitute crimes. We’ll consider what sorts of people become criminals in a society, and how they come to be known. The idea of crime suggests its other, in the sense that crime and criminality set the boundaries for “normal” “lawful” or “approved” behavior and activity. We come to know what it means to be a citizen by considering those who find themselves on the wrong side of the law. It follows that we’ll also think about different kinds of punishment, unpacking what it means for a punishment to “fit the crime” and how such notions of fitness or justice indicate the ways that people know their body politic. Central among the many readings in this course will be Plato’s Apology, Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment, Kafka’s The Trial, Hannah Arendt’s Eichmann in Jerusalem, and Michel Foucault’s Discipline and Punish.

MWF 1:00
GND 1015.72 CRN 13302
Soraci

MWF 1:00
GND 1015.73 CRN 13303
Lunsford
Whatever Happened to Ferris Bueller?

Did he become the CEO of an innovative company or a deadbeat destined to live at home with his parents forever? Was quick witted Ferris the ultimate goof off or ahead of his peers and wise beyond his years? What made school so repelling to Ferris? What makes different schools and classrooms exceptional and engaging and others horribly disengaging? How do our classroom experiences effect who we become? This seminar will explore the role that schools play in how we learn and who we become by examining current national data and

findings, fictional characters, and ourselves. Readings for this course will include nonfiction examinations of our educational system, fictional works like *Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger as well as research articles to be distributed in class.

MWF 1:00

GND 1015.74 CRN 13304

Sowienski

What's Your Story?

Who am I? Who are my neighbors? How will I live in this world? The answers to these questions are often sought through story. We create stories whenever we try to understand our experiences and answer big questions. Through fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and film we'll seek a deeper understanding of self and others. As Socrates pointed out, "The unexamined life is not worth living." And as experts in our own lives, we'll plum memory and experience to make sense of the world in which we find ourselves. Using the tools of the creative writer and frequent writing exercises, we'll shape our experiences into meaningful and stylish narratives and essays.

Books include *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott, *In Brief* by Mary Paumier Jones and Edith Kitchen, *Blue Like Jazz* by Donald Miller, and *How to Write Your Own Life Story* by Lois Daniel.

MWF 1:00

GND 1015.76 CRN 13306

Arwood

Disability in the Media: Was Forrest Gump Really a Superhero?

What is ability? What is disability? What do you think when you see someone with an intellectual disability? It can be argued that our individual ways of knowing and understanding ability and disability have been influenced through personal experience and exposure to mass media. This seminar will examine historical and contemporary perceptions of individuals with disabilities as reflected in media including film, books, and other forms of popular media. Additionally, we will examine definitions of disability and personal narratives of disability that impact issues of citizenship and inclusion in our society. Students in this seminar will be encouraged to critically examine their own constructs and perceptions of ability and disability.

MWF 2:00

GND 1015.78 CRN 13308

Kuryla

Crime and Punishment

In this seminar, we'll focus on how those in a society or polis decide what kinds of actions or behavior constitute crimes. We'll consider what sorts of people become criminals in a society, and how they come to be known. The idea of crime suggests its other, in the sense that

crime and criminality set the boundaries for “normal” “lawful” or “approved” behavior and activity. We come to know what it means to be a citizen by considering those who find themselves on the wrong side of the law. It follows that we’ll also think about different kinds of punishment, unpacking what it means for a punishment to “fit the crime” and how such notions of fitness or justice indicate the ways that people know their body politic. Central among the many readings in this course will be Plato’s Apology, Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment, Kafka’s The Trial, Hannah Arendt’s Eichmann in Jerusalem, and Michel Foucault’s Discipline and Punish.

MWF 2:00

GND 1015.79 CRN 13309
Soraci

MW 2:00

GND 1015.81 CRN 13311
Glenn Acree

Exploring Your Chunk of Earth: An Invitation to Join the Investigation

How do we explore those things that capture our attention and imagination? For the gardener, the biologist or the archeologist, we might be talking quite literally about a chunk of earth. What will enrich the soil, so that the seeds are more likely to produce as they should? What might be living within this ‘chunk’ that is worth more investigation? How do I ensure that the valued contents are not disturbed as the chunk of earth is carefully brushed aside?

A ‘chunk of earth’ more broadly defined is simply a focus of exploration. Whether we are considering a text, a film, a period of time, or a complex society there are questions that must be formed, previous knowledge that must be digested, and often multiple viewpoints that must be considered. This course concerns the act of exploration in fields as diverse as mathematics and literature, or religion and economics. What is your ‘chunk of earth’, and how do you go about exploring it?

Books include A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson; Quiet by Susan Cain; and On Looking: Eleven Walks with Expert Eyes by Alexandra Horowitz.

MW 2:00

GND 1015.83 CRN 13313
Gustke

MWF 2:00

GND 1015.84 CRN 13314
Pryor

The Permanence of Inequality

MW 3:00

GND 1015.85 CRN 13315

Watkins

Ways of Knowing: Cultural Responsiveness, Identity & Resilience

What constitutes a culture? How do I know how to respond to individuals from a culture different to my own? What is MY culture? How do I survive in a world of ongoing change? These are the questions facing today's America. This seminar will examine ways of knowing related to such questions by looking at who we are, historical cultural reference and findings from educational research.

MW 3:00

GND 1015.88 CRN 13318

Ritter-Conn

You Are What You Eat: Food, Faith, Ethics, and Identity

Sara Miles, a cook-turned-journalist-turned-activist-turned-theologian, says that she “had understood the world, first and best, by putting it in [her] mouth” (Take This Bread, p. 60). To examine the way we eat is essentially to examine the way we live and, by extension, the ways we come to know the world. In this section of First-Year Seminar, we will study the food system (both local and global); learn about hunger and food insecurity in Nashville, the U.S., and abroad; explore the economic, political, and practical dimensions of farming and sustainability; contemplate the role food plays in ritual and religious life, both Christian and otherwise; consider ways our personal eating choices both shape and are shaped by our particular social locations and identity markers (race, sex, class, religion, etc.); and maybe even share a few meals—with some Nashville neighbors and with one another—along the way.

MW 3:30

GND 1015.89 CRN 13319

Glenn Acree

Exploring Your Chunk of Earth: An Invitation to Join the Investigation

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Books include A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson; Quiet by Susan Cain; and On Looking: Eleven Walks with Expert Eyes by Alexandra Horowitz.

MW 3:30

GND 1015.90

CRN 13320

Gustke

MW 4:00

GND 1015.91

CRN 13321

Pryor

The Permanence of Inequality