Freshman Seminars Fall Term 2020

**FSEM 101-01** *Reading Urban Spaces*
Professor Amanda Mushal
MWF 11:00-11:50

**FSWI 101-01** *Reading Urban Spaces*
Professor James W. Leonard
TR 11:00-12:15

These linked courses will focus on reading urban spaces in two different ways: through literature set in urban spaces, and through the streets, buildings, and public spaces of cities themselves.

Why do different cities look the way they do? Why are so many books, films, and TV shows set in urban places? Are cities places of energy and excitement, or are they disorienting, dangerous, and anonymous? How does geography shape urban growth? Can we see Charleston’s original fortifications in its layout today? How do cities adapt to new challenges? Dr. Mushal’s class will examine significant trends in urban development over the past three centuries. These will include colonial settlement patterns, 18th-century ideas of ordering the landscape, the role of commerce in shaping urban layout, 19th-century industrialization and the Romantic reaction to it, suburbanization, race and urban development, and 21st-century questions of sustainability. We will discuss how each of these developments reflects larger social values, and how they shape the experiences, as well as the challenges, facing urban communities today.

Dr. Leonard’s linked writing-intensive class will examine how cities have been *experienced* by generations living and working in them. Through film and literature, we will ask how various groups have responded to the city, and how they have, in turn, shaped and reshaped the city. If “knowing” a city is an act of
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reading—in which we assign specific meanings and expectations to regions within an urban space—then what can the lived experiences of literary characters teach us about re-reading the city through different eyes? What do urban spaces promise, and what opportunities do they actually deliver? We will also discuss how the city itself functions as a character in these stories. In this course we will travel from Africa to England, Australia to Kingston, and Los Angeles to New York in order to think through similarities and differences between urban experiences around the globe. Proposed novels include *The Great Gatsby*, *Mrs. Dalloway*, and *Harare North*, in addition to short selections by authors such as Robert Frost, Sukhdev Sandhu, Edith Wharton, and Thomas Wolfe. We will also watch and discuss films, including *The Big Sleep*, *Miller’s Crossing*, and *Se7en*, in order to think through ways in which art and popular culture intersect and/or diverge.

You should sign up for **FSEM 101-01** and **FSWI 101-01** if you:

- Are interested in the history and human stories that cities tell.
- Wonder why Charleston looks the way it does.
- Enjoy novels and films set in cities.
- Want to see cities through the eyes of different groups who live in them.
- Want to understand the challenges facing urban communities today.
- Want to know more about how local and global forces interact.
- Are interested in why American private detectives are so witty.

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**FSEM 101-02**  “*Humans Need Not Apply*”: The Rise of Artificial Intelligence  
Professor Siripong Potisuk  
MWF 11:00-11:50

**FSWI 101-02**  “*Humans Need Not Apply*”: The Rise of Artificial Intelligence  
Professor Scott Lucas  
TR 11:00-12:15
The term “artificial intelligence (AI)” has recently become a buzzword within the computer industry after years in obscurity as an overhyped field of research. It is suggested that AI is poised to make a comeback and blossoming into exciting technology with limitless possibilities including computers capable of problem-solving and human interaction. Professor Potisuk’s seminar will explore the influence of AI in our daily lives and its impact on humanity, especially the increasingly pervasive nature of AI in manufacturing, media, entertainment, medicine, etc. The seminar will focus on three main topics: the future of work, privacy, and data security.

You should sign up for **FSEM 101-02 and FSWI 101-02** if you:

- Have an interest in Artificial Intelligence
- Want to understand a broad definition of AI pertaining to its various applications and its role in today’s technological advancements
- Wonder if you are well-prepared for the jobs of the 21st century
- Enjoy reading, analyzing, and debating government policies and ethical dilemmas that might arise when people’s ethical values are shifting in favor of or against AI

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**FSEM 101-03 “Video Games Past and Present”**
Professor Kevin Skenes
TR 11:00-12:15

**FSWI 101-03 “Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Human Nature”**
Professor Jennifer Adair
MWF 9:00-9:50

The popularity of video games has increased exponentially since the introduction of *Spacewar!* in 1962. These games, now considered a normal part of popular culture, exert considerable influence on the decision-making of many people. This course will provide an overview of video game history and design from several perspectives, including technological advances, in-game physics, real-life effects, and business approaches. Students will be asked to think critically about open-ended issues related to video games such as the importance (or unimportance) of historical accuracy and will be encouraged to develop their own approaches to complex situations.
In Professor Adair’s linked writing-intensive class, we will use the genres of science fiction, horror, and fantasy to explore what it means to be human; what do we fear, what we do crave, and where is the thrilling place where these overlap? While such questions may not be immediately connected to video games, the class should provide insight and even inspiration for Dr. Skenes’ course. We will analyze themes such as science fiction’s ambivalence towards technology and the ethics of new technological developments, as well as explore how horror and fantasy, no matter how supernatural or far-fetched, can actually reveal a larger collective anxiety, such as the ways in which the fear and taboo surrounding death leads to the creation of zombies and vampires.

You should sign up for FSEM 101-03 and FSWI 101-03 if you…

- Enjoy playing and talking about video games.
- Enjoy reading, writing, and discussing science fiction.
- Are interested in historical and contemporary issues involving treatment of video games alongside film, television, and written literature.
- Are interested in the effects of new technology on society.
- Are interested in how to define what makes a “good” game.
- Have ideas on how to build your own fictional worlds

FSEM 101-04 “Environmental Hazards”
Professor Simon Ghanat
TR 11:00-12:15
FSWI 101-04 “Environmental Hazards”
Professor David Allen
MWF 11:00-11:50

Human-made (“anthropogenic”) environmental hazards are an inter-disciplinary area of study that involves various aspects of natural sciences, applied sciences and social sciences. Professor Ghanat’s seminar will focus on the critical review of scientific literature for environmental impacts, especially chemical contamination caused by anthropogenic disasters. Basic scientific concepts of human-made environmental hazards will be explained throughout the course and will be enhanced by discussing various case studies derived from films (i.e., Flint Water Crisis, A Civil Action, Love Canal, and Erin Brockovich).

Taken in conjunction with Dr. Ghanat’s seminar, Professor Allen’s linked writing intensive class will encourage you to read widely and think critically while improving your research and writing skills. The class will focus on three environmental and infrastructure disasters: The Hawk’s Nest Tunnel disaster, the Flint water crisis, and the Grenfell Tower fire. While Dr. Ghanat’s class examines scientific literature and addresses the causes and remediation of such catastrophes, we will explore the specific geographical and historical contexts in which these disasters occurred and their lasting impact on the people involved. To this end, we will look at various genres of writing in response to these catastrophes from journalism to poetry and fiction. Each of these disasters involves multiple topics, ranging from the Great Depression to sustainable urban development in the 21st century to the conflict between profit and safety in both the private and public sectors. Class discussion will be interesting and fun, and topics for writing projects will be geared toward students’ interests.

You should sign up for FSEM 101-04 and FSWI 101-04 if you:

- Enjoy reading and learning about environmental and structural disasters
- Care about the safety of your drinking water and environment
- Enjoy watching environmental disaster movies and engaging in follow-up discussions
- Are interested in exploring interfaces between science, citizen action, public health, and the U.S. Legal System
- Like working on team projects and going on field trips
- Want to focus on improving your writing with the opportunity for revision and one-on-one guidance

FSEM 101-05 Military Technology in Society
Professor Robert Rabb
MWF 11:00-11:50
Military leaders are always looking for an advantage over the adversaries. Some have looked for new weapons or systems that the enemy does not possess. Engineering has often provided that advantage in warfare. Often times, that same engineering application has found its way to society and become commonplace. Historically, technology has been of significant value to military leaders. This course will provide a broad overview of several engineering disciplines and in doing so will show how engineering and technology have been used for military applications. To some extent, it will provide a brief historical summary of technology applications in warfare, from bows and arrows through contemporary weapon systems. Students enrolled in this seminar will learn about basic military technology and take away enough understanding to see connections and applications to civilian society.

Many texts, fiction and non-fiction, have explored the intersection of military technology and society through various genres, including satire, speculative fiction, particularly science fiction, war literature, and film. Students will be able to explore both historical and contemporary issues and develop arguments via essays, research papers, and classroom debate scenarios.

You should sign up for FSEM 101-05 and FSWI 101-05 if you:

- Have an interest in military technology.
- Like to understand the connectivity between military and civilian technology.
- Have interest in history and contemporary issues involving the development and application of military technology as reflected in literature and film, including science fiction.
- Have an idea or could develop one to research and debate a historical or contemporary issue involving the development and application of military technology
- Would like to read, analyze, and debate historical and contemporary issues involving the development and application of military technology as reflected in literature, non-fiction, and film, including science fiction.
FSEM 101-06 (Re)Wilding Earth: Resurrection of Lost Species and Ecosystems
Professor Jennifer Balmer
MWF 11:00-11:50

FSWI 101-06 Surviving the Apocalypse: The Science (and Fiction) of Surviving the End of the World
Professor Andrea Gramling
TR 11:00-12:15

Extinction and survival - the eternal struggle faced by life on planet Earth - is the focus of this seminar and writing intensive course pairing.

Dr. Balmer’s seminar course will explore the science behind extinction and de-extinction. By delving into Earth’s prehistoric past we’ll explore how planetary changes, mass extinction events, and humans have shaped Earth’s biodiversity over time. Drawing on examples of present-day conservation efforts, we’ll examine the causes and consequences of Earth’s current mass extinction event, and ask whether the use of biotechnology to resurrect extinct species is a scientifically feasible and ethical solution. Would the rewilding of Earth help restore a damaged planet, or is it simply science fiction? Could it spark a ‘Jurassic Park’-esque ecological disaster, or, is it a necessity to save ourselves from a similar fate?

In conjunction, Professor Gramling’s linked writing intensive class will explore the potential causes of the end of the world as we know it from climate change, global pandemics, overpopulation, to catastrophe (real or imagined) and ask the question: how could humans survive an apocalypse? We will look for answers by examining the physiological requirements for human life, earth’s life support systems, and through examples of how humans have survived historical and fictional challenges of apocalyptic proportions. By the end of the semester each student will walk away with their own apocalypse survival plan.
You should sign up for **FSEM 101-06** and **FSWI 101-06** if you:

- If you’re are curious about dinosaurs, mammoths, giant sloths, and other prehistoric species and why they really went extinct…
- If you enjoy reading, watching, and thinking about the impending apocalypse…
- If you have an interest in wildlife and environmental conservation…
- If you love movies and would like a better understanding of how well Hollywood fiction aligns with scientific fact…
- If you think you have what it takes (or want to learn how) to survive an extinction-level apocalypse…

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**FSEM 101-07** *Mindsets, Life Design, and Adulting: How You Can Fulfill Your Potential*

Professor Diana Cheshire

TR 11:00-12:12

**FSWI 101-07** *Mindsets, Life Design, and Adulting: How You Can Fulfill Your Potential*

Professor Chris Fudge

MWF 11:00-11:50

Dr. Cheshire’s seminar applies a design thinking framework to help you use information to effectively navigate through your college career and life. This seminar offers the tools and a place to grapple with these issues through assigned readings, reflections, and assignments. Topics include Wayfinding, Failure Immunity, Vocation Formation, and “Adulting.”

Imagine for a moment a different world, a place in which you find deep meaning in everything they learn. In that universe, learning changes who you are and how you view the world. It makes you into a better problem solver, more creative and compassionate individual, more responsible and self-confident (Bain, 2012. *What the Best College Students Do*, p. 9).
In conjunction with Dr. Cheshire’s seminar, Professor Fudge’s writing intensive class will further explore how to study smarter—not longer, how to understand your own intelligence leading to more personal as well as academic success, and possibly the most important skill: how to transform failure into triumph. Ken Bain’s book What the Best College Students Do will serve as a guide for the seminar and will challenge you to answer the hard questions concerning learning success. Moreover, you will learn more about the impact of the right attitude and the achievement of your dreams when you read motivational pioneer Napoleon Hill’s, and millionaire CEO W. Clement Stone’s book Success through a Positive Mental Attitude which discusses methods for you to explore the powers of your mind and your thinking, the secret of getting things done, the methods to find satisfaction in everything you do, the shortcut to riches, and more.

Sign up for FSEM 101-07 and FSWI 101-07 if you would like to learn how to…

- optimize your success, health, happiness, and wealth
- maximize your efforts and the results of your long hours of studying
- create a plan for success in your college career and vocation

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**FSEM 101-08** *Chinese Utopian Thought*
Professor Keith Knapp
TBA

**FSWI 101-08** *Western Utopian Literature*
Professor Thomas Horan
MWF 11:00-11:50
Details Coming Soon!!!!!
Dr. Capers’s seminar will explore how human experimentation led to ethical considerations when conducting clinical trials with a focus on addiction as it relates to clinical research. While considering the question “Just because we can, should we?,” we will look at human experimentation throughout the ages on a variety of populations to understand how clinical research regulations were generated as a result. We will apply this knowledge to explore how drugs / treatments are created and tested, public health implications of drug addiction and overdose, and how participants are recruited for clinical trials.

The writing-intensive seminar "The Literature of Addiction" is linked to Professor Capers's course by their shared focus on the enduring presence of addiction in human society. Since ancient times, literary authors have confronted the nature of addiction, whether addiction to substances such as drugs and alcohol or to activities, such as gambling, sex, or the exercise of power. We all know the dangers of addiction, which can lead to obsession, crime, dependency, and mental anguish. Why, then, do so many people fall into addictive states, and why have so many literary artists, from the ancient Greeks to the novelists, filmmakers, and songwriters of today, found the subject of addictive behaviors so alluring? We will seek answers to these questions in this course, asking how literary artists have understood and portrayed addictive behaviors and why they have found the questions surrounding humankind’s propensity to addiction so compelling. Equally as important, this class will introduce students to the fundamentals of college-level research and writing.
You should sign up for **FSEM 101-09** and **FSWI 101-09** if you are interested in:

- Understanding the misuse of human subjects in the name of science
- Understanding how research is conducted now with ethical considerations
- How disease epidemics are identified
- How drugs are metabolized and studied for effectiveness
- Understanding how participants are recruited to participate in clinical research

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**FSEM 101-10 Digital Citizenship**

Professor Elizabeth Connor
TR 11:00-12:15

**FSWI 101-10 Digital Combat**

Professor Licia Hendriks
MWF 9:00-9:50

Details Coming Soon!!!!!
**FSEM 101-11  Science, Weird Science, and Pseudoscience**
Professor Holly Bevsek
MWF 11:00-11:50

**FSWI 101-11 The Weird Science**
Professor TBA
TBA

Explore the boundaries of fact and fiction in this course pairing focused on astonishing scientific methods and claims.

Professor Bevsek’s seminar will focus on evaluating claims that sound like science but actually are not, i.e., pseudoscience, in topics that range from astrology, cryptids (like Bigfoot), and ghosts to current public debates on whether vaccination causes autism and whether or not emissions produced by the burning of fossil fuels is causing global climate change. This course will develop your skills in determining which claims are likely to be valid and which claims are not.

In the linked writing intensive through comparison of literary expression to scientific and academic writing, the course will focus on developing the skills to generate your own claims and to support them with documentation and critical analysis. More details coming.

You should sign up for **FSEM 101-11** and **FSWI 101-11**, if you…

- Want to be empowered to evaluate the claims with which the world confronts you
- Plan a career in a scientific or humanities field
- Are interested in the strange and unusual
- Believe the truth is out there
FSEM 101-12  *Logistics Moves the World*  
Colonel Royce Fudge, USAF (Ret.)  
MWF 9:00-9:50

**FSWI 101-12  Boots on the Ground**  
Professor Todd Shealy  
TR 11:00-12:15

Come and explore the fascinating world of Logistics. Learn to apply the systematic approach to just about everything. Colonel Fudge’s class will focus on the elements of logistics; how, when, and where to apply systematic logistics thinking to avoid and solve problems. The course will examine Transportation, Supply, Maintenance, Acquisition, and Logistics Planning and how they interact to form a logical, systematic approach. We will also take a look at the business aspects of logistics: training, computer applications, math, science, and the law as they apply to Logistics. Interactive projects will help build your skills and understanding.

In conjunction with the Logistics seminar, Professor Shealy’s writing intensive class will allow students to read *Ghosts of War*, the memoir of a young soldier who participated in the Iraq War when the September 11th tragedy motivated him to serve his country. Students will compare and contrast the experiences and realities on the ground with the goals and big plans of those responsible for the logistics of the war. Additional themes to be discussed may include how the war affected troops, the news media’s portrayal of war, and the view of soldiers by civilians. Students will learn how to conduct research and write effective, organized, thesis-driven arguments.

You should sign up for **FSEM 101-12** and **FSWI 101-12**, if you…

- Want to be in the military or are a contract cadet.  
- Plan a business career in supply chain, acquisition, and logistics.  
- Are interested in examining an operation on the grandest of scale.  
- Hope to make improvements in future operations whether they be in business or in the military.
**FSEM 101-13** *Live Free or Die*
Professor Christopher Dague
TR 11:00-12:15

**FSWI 101-13** *Live Free or Die*
Professor TBA
TBA
**Details Coming Soon!!!!!!**

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**FSEM 101-14** *Disasters and History*
Professor Katherine Grenier
MWF 9:00-9:50

**FSWI 101-14** *Disasters and History*
Professor E. Frame
MWF 11:00-11:50
**Details Coming Soon!!!!!!**
FSEM 101-16 *Monumental Myths in Early America*
Professor Felice Knight
MWF 9:00-9:50

**Details Coming Soon!!!!!**

FSEM 101-18 *Texts & Contexts: Reading, Writing, and Research in the 21st Century*
Professor Sarah Clere
MWF 9:00-9:50

In Dr. Clere’s seminar, students will examine well-known poems, short stories, and one play, placing these works of literature in their historical and cultural contexts via a range of documentary media, including letters, films, book reviews, museum displays, digital archives, and court cases. We will also discuss why
some works are deemed classics and studied in high school and college, while others might be read widely during a given period and then fall into obscurity. As the class progresses, we will expand our idea of what qualifies as a text. For example, can we “read” and interpret a monument or a building the way we do a poem? To that end, we will be exploring the intertwined public history of Charleston and The Citadel. Literary works we will cover may include “Battle Royal” by Ralph Ellison, “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson, “Barn Burning” by William Faulkner, and A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry. We will also consider popular literature and series books.

In Dr. Spring’s writing intensive course, students will use a variety of archival and secondary sources to explore the intersections of identity, perspective, and representation. We will begin the semester using Charleston and The Citadel as backdrops for an exploration of texts and contexts. Students will extend this exploration as they conduct research to compose an argumentative essay project and to understand the context of their argument. During this process, students will consider what makes an argument effective in both academic and public spheres. Our work for the semester will improve your approaches to researching, reading, and writing.

You should sign up for FSEM 101-18 and FSWI 101-18 if you:

- are interested in thinking and writing about history and literature
- would like to improve your analytical and decoding skills
- want to practice researching, reading, and written communications skills for your major
- enjoy student centered discussion

FSEM 101-20 What is an American?
Professor James Hutchisson
MWF 9:00-9:50

FSWI 101-20 What is an American?
Professor TBA
MWF 11:00-11:50

Details Coming Soon!!!!!