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*).

Professor Allen’s linked writing-intensive class affords you the opportunity to develop your written communication skills while learning more about the topic of environmental hazards. The papers you will write will be tied to two important books on the subject, Rachel Carson’s landmark *Silent Spring* and Jonathan Harr’s *A Civil Action*.
Freshman Seminars
Spring 2021

You should sign up for FSEM and FSWI 101-01 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 101-02**  (Re)Wilding Earth: Resurrection of Lost Species and Ecosystems
Professor Jennifer Balmer
MWF 11:00-11:50

**FSWI 101-02**  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.

- If you 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...

**FSEM and FSWI 101-02** are for YOU!
Freshman Seminars
Spring 2021

FSEM 101-03 Digital Citizenship
Professor Elizabeth Connor
TR 11:00-12:15

FSWI 101-03 Digital Combat
Professor Licia Hendriks
MWF 9:00-9:50

These linked courses will focus on digital identity in two ways: through the experience of the digital world itself, and through literature and film related to the digital world’s challenges and conflicts.

As the COVID-19 global pandemic has revealed, evolving technology inevitably works to shape our interactions with one another and the world at large in ways we can no longer prescribe or predict. Virtual meetings and the production and exchange of recorded content (audio and video clips, vlogs, memes, and livestreams, for instance) suggest a degree of autonomy over how one is perceived by the online community. However, the consolidation of the digital self tests the limits of subjectivity in interesting ways: to what extent is one’s web-based identity within one’s own control? What is it about the internet that makes some people act antisocial? What aspects of virtual interaction facilitate the building of common ground? What role, if any, does confirmation bias play when we form opinions based on online content? What roles do social media play in the court of public opinion? How has the internet modified our expectations for timely interactions and service responsiveness? How do online stereotypes (race, gender, culture) contribute to cyberbullying and digital outrage?

Professor Connor’s class will focus on roles, responsibilities, and challenges related to being a digital citizen. We will use case studies, films, and current news stories to explore the benefits and perils of online identities; and articulate the societal value and impact of crowdsourcing, peer production, and collective intelligence.

Dr. Hendriks’ linked writing-intensive course will explore the assorted challenges and conflicts that surface and proliferate in the navigation of the digital universe, primarily through the consideration of Eleanor Burgess’ provocative play The Niceties (2019). In negotiating what I want to call Wars of the Words, online combatants all too often engage in discourse that turns hostile and escalates from the private domain to the public stage. In analyzing such incidents, students will enhance their ability to generate and refine ideas, and practice how to express those ideas in clear and effective argumentative prose.

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

- Enjoy technology-oriented reading, writing and discussions
- Enjoy watching films about technological innovation
- Like debating, analyzing, and engaging with opposing viewpoints
- Are interested in becoming a better writer
- Are interested in thinking critically
FSEM 101-04  *Logistics Moves the World*
Colonel C. M. Dunne, USMC (Ret.)
MWF 9:00-9:50

FSWI 101-04  *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 Dunne’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 and FSWI 101-04 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 101-05, FSEM 101-06. *Reading Urban Spaces*

Professor Amanda Mushal

MWF 9:00-9:50 (section 05), MWF 11:00-11:50 (section 06)

**FSWI 101-02, FSWI 101-03** *Reading Urban Spaces*

Professor James W. Leonard

MWF 11:00-11:50 (section 05), MWF 9:00-9:50 (section 06)

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 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 101.02 or 03** and **FSWI 101.02 or 03** 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 101-07**  
“Mindsets and Life Design: How You Can Fulfill Your Potential”  
Professor Diana Cheshire  
TR 1100-1215

**FSWI 101-07**  
“Mindsets and Life Design: How You Can Fulfill Your Potential”  
Professor Chris Fudge  
MWF 1100-1150
Freshman Seminars
Spring 2021

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 the application of design thinking models, prototyping, vocation formation, and strategies for time management and planning.

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...

- Maximize your efforts and the results of your long hours of studying
- Optimize your success, health, happiness, and wealth
- Create a plan for success in your college career and vocation

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**FSEM 101-08  Video Games Past and Present**
Professor Nathan Washuta
TR 11:00-12:15

**FSWI 101-08  Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Human Nature**
Professor Jennifer Adair
MWF 09:00-9:50
Freshman Seminars
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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 the 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 the seminar 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 & FSWI 101-08 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

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**FSEM 101-09** "*Military Technology in Society*

Professor James Righter

MWF 11:00-11:50

**FSWI 101-09** "*Military Technology and Society’s Future Trajectory*

Professor Tom Plichta

TR 11:00-12:15
These linked courses will look at warfare through the twin lenses of its technological underpinnings on one hand and its relation to societal values on the other.

Professor Righter’s course will explore the evolution of military technology and the ways in which that technology is created and subsequently finds application in civilian as well as military contexts. 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.

Professor Plichta’s course will examine the intersection of military technology and society through the lens of what futurist Ray Kurzweil calls the GNR (genetic, nanotechnology, and robotics) revolution. Students will have an opportunity to read, analyze, and discuss historical and contemporary issues involving the development and application of military technology as reflected in literature, non-fiction, and film, including science fiction. Through an examination of works ranging from Asimov’s *Foundation* series and the three laws of robotics to Cameron’s apocalyptic *Terminator* franchise, students will consider the potential impact of sentient artificial intelligence on both the conduct of warfare and society’s future trajectory. From designer babies and human cloning to graphene superlattices and grey ooze, the course will interrogate the ethical implications of the exponential growth of research in genetics and nanotechnology with particular emphasis on military applications. Finally, guided by theoretical physicist Michio Kaku’s *Physics of the Future*, students will explore a vision of the next century and discuss how, as future leaders in business and the military, they will negotiate the challenges and opportunities of the next 100 years. The course will include extensive writing opportunities including low-risk in-class writing, literary analysis, and a final research project.

You should sign up for **FSEM and FSWI 101-09** 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.
• Want to explore the individual and societal values that govern such matters as willingness to participate (or not) in particular war efforts, the ethics involved in such choices, and the attitudes toward particular wars that linger in retrospect.

Dancing in the Streets!
An exploration of American Pop and Politics in the 1960s

FSEM 101-10 “American Pop and Politics in the 1960s”
Professor Kerry Taylor
TR 11:00-12:15
Freshman Seminars  
Spring 2021

**FSWI 101-10 “Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Human Nature“**  
Professor Jennifer Adair  
MWF 11:00-11:50

Through intensive reading, listening, and discussion, Professor Taylor’s seminar will study major themes and events of the 1960s through American popular music and musical artists. Pop music will serve as our window into understanding the nation’s shifting political culture even as it functioned as an agent of change. In this regard, we will explore how music shaped Americans’ attitudes and values, while helping them forge diverse identities.

In the linked writing-intensive class on popular culture, 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? 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.

**FSEM 101-11, FSEM 101-12 “Reading the American Wilderness”**

Professor Will Badger

MWF 09:00-09:50 (section 11); MWF 11:00-11:50 (section 12)

**FSWI 101-11, 102-12 “Travels on the Edge: Exploration, Culture, Commerce”**

Professor Kate Pilhuj

MWF 11:00-11:50 (section 11); MWF 09:00-09:50 (section 12)

In Dr. Badger’s seminar, our encounter with American wild spaces will serve as a frame for developing fluency in aspects of critical thinking and communication. We will consider a number of issues facing us as human beings in a vulnerable world, including conservation, wilderness (and its discontents), and the disproportionate cost of climate change to marginalized communities. We will explore how essayists, naturalists, poets, and provocateurs have used their voices to celebrate or confront nature, and we will practice not only critiquing these contributions, but also sharing our own experiences with the natural world.
Dr. Pilhuj’s writing-intensive seminar will explore true accounts of people who live in, work in, and travel to the polar regions, Mt. Everest, the Amazon, and former Soviet republics. We will consider how these writers depict what are, to them, dangerous and strange places. We will analyze the ways in which they try to explain and justify their explorations, and we will consider if and how these travels change people. We will take into account the history of the exploration of these places, and how these visits have impacted the environment and its inhabitants. We will also read the words of those who make these places their homes, learning how they adapt to both the environment and outsiders. Through our texts, we will also evaluate what happens when situations become even more dangerous: how do people act? How should they act? What ethical rules apply not only when things “go wrong” but even when they “go right” in these spaces?

You should sign up for **FSEM and FSWI 101.11 or 101.12** if:

- You enjoy traveling and reading about travel and nature.
- You are interested in the history of travel, especially to “extreme” places.
- You want to understand challenges facing the natural world – and how to take action.
- You want to test how ethical principles apply in extreme places and situations.
- You want to improve your critical reading and writing skills through stories of adventure.
- You are interested in learning to keep a naturalist’s journal.