

PLEASE NOTE: Some of our classes have prerequisites or other “notes” tacked onto the end of their course descriptions. Please be aware of them as you make your selections, and feel free to contact the SEP office if you have any questions.

SEP 2009 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

*Students register for six classes upon arrival at camp.
We encourage you to take a variety of classes from different instructors.
(Classes subject to availability)*

19th-20th CENTURY ART MOVEMENTS: HISTORY AND STUDIO SAMPLER AMY GREGOR

Come learn about some of the most exciting movements in the history of art, and use studio techniques associated with those movements to create artworks of your own! We'll be looking at various famous art styles and the artists who epitomized them. Examine the historical context of these movements, and discuss the world events that might have led artists of the time to create the work they did. Studio projects will be a part of each movement unit, and will give you the chance to work and experiment with a wide variety of media. Topics and techniques covered will include Pop Art, pointillism, impressionism, and Dadaism.

ADVANCED GREEK GEOMETRY

DONALD ACKER

The Greek philosophers demanded their students first master geometry so that they might think in a careful, orderly manner. Follow Euclid's ancient *Elements* to learn ruler and compass geometry from the beginning, and take his principles beyond anything that you've done in a geometry class before. Learn the most basic properties of lines and circles, and create constructions as elaborate as the regular pentagon. Test your logical rigor, and discover the value of theoretical proof derived from assumptions. Topics covered may include the parallel postulate, famous “impossible” constructions such as trisecting an angle, false “proofs” that will ask you to question the conclusions that you draw from viewing geometric images alone, and the classification of the five Platonic solids. *No Prerequisite.*

ANIMAL NUTRITION

RYAN JOHNSON

Have you ever wondered why some cattle spend all day sitting and chewing? Why can't humans digest a field of grass, like a horse can? Does the methane production from cattle and other livestock contribute to greenhouse gases and global warming? Explore ruminant physiology and investigate the digestive tracts of sheep, horses, pigs, cows and other domesticated livestock. Look at the various organs of their digestive tracts, and compare and contrast them with the human digestive tract. Learn the difference between hind gut fermentors and pre-gastric fermentors and study how animal nutritionists develop specific feeds for animals based on age, gender, and the desired end product. We'll also take a close look at Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, more commonly known as "Mad-Cow disease" and its relation to animal feeding practices.

APPLIED SPACE FLIGHT

DONALD ACKER

Learn the principles of space flight through mathematical study and by flying missions in Orbiter, a state-of-the-art space flight simulator. Pilot simulated space missions to the International Space Station and make round trip missions to the moon and back. Approach applications using mathematical topics that include vectors, velocity and acceleration, Newton's and Kepler's laws, and conic sections. Learn the basic principles of launches, orbital maneuvers, and reentries, and see how real-world examples (like the European Space Agency's launch site in French Guiana and the Soviet Union's highly unusual Molniya orbit) illustrate those principles. *Prerequisite: Algebra*

THE BIRTH OF ENGLISH MYSTICISM**TIM ASAY**

In the 14th and early 15th centuries, a theological shift was afoot in England. The collective soul of the island yearned for a new sort of spirituality, one which leveled class and gender distinctions, and which emphasized a personal and emotional relationship with God rather than the strictly mediated relationship offered by the traditional church. They reexamined familiar issues, but with a light new and strange: What is the absolute? What sort of knowledge can we hope to acquire about the ineffable? Such questions as these stirred the consuming desire of the mystics, precisely because they could never adequately be answered. We'll look at some of the major thinkers of the period—Richard Rolle, Margery Kempe, Walter Hilton, and Julian of Norwich, among others—investigating the insights they offer to the disciplines of theology, philosophy, language studies, and even modern disciplines like psychology and the other sciences.

BUSTED!**ROBERT CLARIDGE**

Why should we punish people? What should be punishable crimes? Is our system for punishing crimes fair? Explore these questions and more in this introduction to American criminal law. Examine the theory behind our system and our criminal judiciary's structure, and take a look at some of the major court decisions that have shaped criminal law as we understand it in America today. Once you've learned a little bit about the system, you'll be given "criminals" to analyze and sentence, and will get to play the roles of prosecutor and defender as we debate our way through hypothetical court cases.

{CENSORED}**ROBERT CLARIDGE**

What are the policy and philosophical considerations behind the right to free speech? What are the counterarguments supporting censorship? From the council of Nicea in 325 C.E. to the recent book ban in Prineville, Oregon, people have been grappling with censorship-related issues for centuries and under a wide range of contexts. Now you can take a closer look at American free speech policy in this introduction to U.S. constitutional law. Consider some of the literature and media that has been suppressed or banned across time, and discuss the policy considerations and other reasons for its suppression. *Note: While this course may deal with controversial material, the subject matter involved will all be PG.*

THE CHINESE WAY OF WAR**EDWIN WAY**

China's military budgets have been growing rapidly recently, and in 2009, the People's Liberation Navy plans to begin construction on two new domestically produced aircraft carriers—China's first. Are we seeing the emergence of a new military superpower? Come examine the military strategy and history of this rising military power. Building from Sun Tzu's *Art of War*, analyze some of China's major 20th century wars, as well as lesser known conflicts with India in 1962 and Vietnam in 1979. Consider Chinese military strategy, and examine China's approach to Taiwan and the United States.

CONTEMPORARY WORLD LITERATURE**DAVE MOSS**

Gain a window into numerous cultures, recent histories (post-World War I), and richly dynamic groups of people from various regions of the world by looking at those countries' literature and music. Explore the dark, hedged, lanes of Ireland with the words of Edna O'Brien and Roddy Doyle, the vivid descriptions of Chile with Pablo Neruda and Marta Brunet, and the toils, and joys, of walking the tightrope between the East and the West in Turkey with Nazim Hikmet and Enis Batur. Pore over the articulations of Naguib Mahfouz and his vast Egyptian experiences, the lively and beautiful recollections of Nikos Kazantzakis in Greece, the thoughtful descriptions of interconnected traditional and modern practices of women in India by Rajam Krishnan, and Outhine Bounyavong's depictions of Lao society adjusting to Western cultural influences.

DANCE: IMPROVISATION AND COMPOSITION**A.T. MOFFETT**

Explore abstract ideas through movement as you investigate movement's relationship to various styles of music and text. Work collaboratively with your peers to create brief movement scores and, eventually, your own dances! Learn concrete tools for dance making, and incorporate your own choreographic ideas into everything that you do.

DANCE ON FILM: FOCUS ON THE ARTIST**A.T. MOFFETT**

Maybe you've been to professional dance performances before, but how much do you know about analyzing what you see? Watch dances on film, and discuss and analyze them using concepts such as space, time, and energy. After viewing and discussing clips, experience the same dance movements by learning and performing them. Over the course of the session, you will be introduced to a variety of dance choreographers, and to the genres in which they are working.

DIGITAL STORYTELLING**JENI RINNER**

From cell phones to digital cameras, the tools for digital storytelling are often right at our fingertips! Come explore examples of digital storytelling, and storyboard and craft your own stories using footage that is remixed from existing sources or captured during class. *Note: We will be using a wide variety of digital media in this class; students who think that they might want to sign up for this class are encouraged to bring any digital recording devices (phones, cameras, etc.) that they may have with them to camp.*

EGYPTOLOGY WITH A SPIN**DAVE MOSS**

Come take a trip through time and pyramids as we explore the unique history, architecture, food, art, and language of Egypt. This virtual journey to Egypt will ignite the senses as we explore what makes Egypt such a great world destination. Students will have the opportunity to learn basic Arabic, experiment with Islamic art, and learn about how to travel in the land of camels, pharaohs, and hospitality. Contemporary issues will also be explored as we investigate Egypt's place in the current geo-political climate.

EVEREST: RACE TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD**DAVE MOSS**

Passion, failure, blood, failure, sweat, failure, angst, failure, death, failure, intestinal fortitude and finally...VICTORY! Conquering the highest mountain in the world was one of the greatest human feats of the 20th century. Come examine the extraordinary experiences and almost unimaginable adventures of those who have tried and failed, and those who stood in the clouds with the gods and lived to tell about it. Our expedition will focus on memoirs, personal accounts, films, and stories to give us insight into the wide range of human experiences that will captivate the soul and leave you breathless. *Note: Oxygen canisters or previous high altitude training are not required.*

FIERCE FLOWERS AND FRAGILE MONSTERS: CLOWNING AROUND WITH THE COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE**JAMES ENGBERG**

The Marx Brothers, Buster Keaton, Lucille Ball, and many other masters of physical comedy share a history of performance technique that can be traced to Renaissance Italy. It was there, in the actions of Commedia dell'Arte players, that the modern clown figure was born. Take a look at the origins of Physical Comedy in Arlecchino (who became Harlequin), Pedrolino (who became Pierrot), and the other zany Zanni characters. Better yet, let's try some of their knockabout antics! Come study some history and laugh at contemporary clowns on video, but most of all, *spend time pulling it all together by performing!* Get ready to move. Be willing to look silly. Come try the life of a clown. No make-up or wigs required.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

RYAN JOHNSON

Does the term "GMO" conjure up Friend or Frankenstein? What about those articles that claim scientists are making cats glow? Is experimentation like this really safe? Step beyond the frenzy and study the science behind the plan to create bananas with vaccines for *Hepatitis* and rice infused with beta-carotene. Explore how plants are already engineered with genes for insecticides and drought survival. Learn about reproductive cloning, recombinant DNA, and the use of phosphorescent DNA to map genes. Study how scientists use bacterial plasmids to transform plant and animal cells. Finally, examine the concerns of organic farmers and debate the role that Biotechnology should play around the world to solve food shortages as the earth's population continues to grow.

GROWING UP SEQUENTIAL: COMING OF AGE COMICS **JENI RINNER**

Beyond superheroes and superpowers, many graphic novels have explored a more familiar theme: adolescence. Come and explore stories about growing up in different cultures and contexts, and compare them to your own adolescent experiences. Works covered will include Rutu Modan's *Exit Wounds*, set in Tel Aviv, and Marjane Sartrapi's *Persepolis*, which is set in Iran. Course content will be PG, but this course is still recommended primarily for 8-10th grade students.

THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE: ART, LITERATURE, AND MUSIC

GINA LIOTTA

Before Americans shouted "Yes, We Can", and before Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed "I have a dream", a Harlem Renaissance writer named Langston Hughes wrote a poem about a "Dream Deferred", an intense fear that the dynamic culture and history of African Americans would never be fully recognized. How did we get from Hughes to Obama, and what effect does the Black Arts movement of the early 20th Century have upon our understanding of race in the 21st Century? Uncover the dreams and fears of the men and women who helped shape the identity of African Americans (and all Americans) by focusing on Harlem, New York during the 1920's and 1930's, where the first Black Arts movement began. We'll listen to music by Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald, examine artwork by Jacob Reiss and Aaron Douglas, read the works of WEB Dubois, Alain Locke, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and many other vibrant writers, thinkers and artists of this movement.

THE HISTORY OF VAMPIRES

MATTHEW SCHWEIZER

With the widespread success of the *Twilight* series among young adults and the popularity of vampire tales on television and in movies, one has to ask the questions: Why are vampires so popular? Where did this myth come from, and why is it so universal in popular culture? We'll seek the answers by looking at ancient myths from around the world before focusing on western traditions. Trace the development and transformation of the vampire myth from eighteenth century Europe to the modern version that we are more familiar with, and discuss the numerous interpretations scientists, psychologists, and folklorists have offered up as possible explanations for the pervasiveness of vampires in Western culture.

HU'S IN CHARGE? CHINESE POLITICS IN THE 21st CENTURY

EDWIN WAY

With rising unemployment and declining exports, is China's communist party on the verge of a collapse? How has the one-party regime been able to maintain its rule over a country as large as the United States with four times as many people? Focus on questions like these by examining the origins of the Chinese regime and how it is developing as it celebrates its 60th birthday in 2009. Explore political innovations, emerging democracy, and competition between party factions to assess the possibilities for reform—or revolution—in the world's largest non-democracy.

HWÆT!: OLD ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

TIM ASAY

Long before Shakespeare or Chaucer set pen to parchment, English authors were composing songs and tales to echo through mead hall and monastery alike. These works have influenced not only “fantasy” authors like J. R. R. Tolkien, but the modernists Ezra Pound and T. S. Eliot, and magical realists like Jorge Luis Borges, among others. Yet few have rivaled the enigmatic, enticing quality of the Old English scops and monks. If you’re drawn to the heroism of epic, the piety of the religious devotional, or even the lonely lament of exile literature, come indulge your archaic side. Learn the basic rules of reading and pronouncing Anglo-Saxon, examine major Old English poetic works, reenact a medieval battle or two, and explore the crafts, sculpture, and other mysteries of the era.

I...NEED...SOME...MORE...ENERGY

RYAN JOHNSON

Why do you get tired after a big meal? Why does your brain need sugar? What is a calorie? Are energy bars and Gatorade as great for you as ads make them sound? Why do some athletes train and exercise at high altitudes? Investigate cellular respiration and how your cells use ATP and glucose to keep your body up and running. Read accounts of the incredible respiration rates of endurance athletes, like Lance Armstrong and Dean Karnazes, the ultra runner who ran 50 marathons in 50 states in 50 days! Learn how some creatures have evolved to live in oxygen-free spaces, and participate in labs that include measuring your own rate of respiration, “dissecting” an energy bar, and making your own root beer!

INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

EDWIN WAY

Ma mà ma ma? 妈骂马吗 ? “Did your mother scold the horse?” With its characters and tones, Chinese is more fun to learn than many people think. Come take an introduction to the Chinese language and culture; our goal will be to build your cultural competence, and to encourage appreciation and understanding of one of the world’s oldest cultures.

INTRODUCTION TO COMBINATORICS

DONALD ACKER

Calling all combinatorialists! Combinatorics is a branch of mathematics concerning the study of discrete (and usually finite) objects—it’s related to algebra, probability theory, graph theory, and other fields, but is still very much its own mathematical animal. Come learn to apply simple counting principles to seemingly impossible problems. Topics covered will include the pigeonhole principle, set addition and multiplication, permutations and combinations, and inclusion/exclusion. *No Prerequisite.*

INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES

ROBERT CLARIDGE

So you’re a self-described movie buff—an expert, even. Are you ready to take your film expertise to the next level? In this class, we’ll be exploring different aspects of film and filmmaking—from filmmaking styles like Soviet montage and Film Noir to the various types of shots and sequences that make up film design. Chart the evolution and use of these styles and conventions through the history of film, and reexamine your favorite films in a new light.

MAKING COMIC BOOKS or ZAP! BANG! POW!

AMY GREGOR

Immerse yourself in the wonderful world of comics! Look at the history of comics, and discuss the theories behind how the format “works”. We’ll check out the original super heroes, discuss more recent alternative comics (and why they’ve become so popular of late,) and look at a few comics-to-movie adaptations. We will also break down the methods and characteristics common to most comic books. Then, using this knowledge, you’ll create your

own short comics to be compiled in a limited edition SEP comic compendium! *Note: This class will be about half comics history and theory and half studio work.*

MODEL U.N.: SECURITY COUNCIL SIMULATION

GINA LIOTTA

Ever wondered why war exists and why all of the nations in the world can't just get along? Come see global politics from a new perspective: as an ambassador to the nation of China, Uganda or any other nation currently serving in the United Nations Security Council. Debate current issues facing the Security Council, compare the foreign policies of Security Council countries, and learn the Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure (the debate rules used in the UN) as we delve into the intricacies of international peacekeeping.

POETRY WORKSHOP

GINA LIOTTA

Contemporary poet Maria Gillan asserts that a poem isn't worth reading unless it makes you laugh, cry or makes the hair on your arms stand up; in this class we will write hair-raising poetry. Create in a supportive and empowering workshop format where together we will uncover both free-verse poetry and new poetic forms including: Villanelle, English and Italian Sonnets, Pantoum, Sestina, and Haiku. Learn how to read and thoughtfully respond to the work of your peers as we collectively endeavor to revise our writing. At the end of the course we will discuss possible venues for publication, should you decide you would like to publish your poetry. No experience with poetry is necessary for this class; the only requirement is a willingness to be truthful to one's self and to one's life experiences and as Emily Dickinson says, "Tell all the Truth but tell it slant."

RHETORIC AND GREAT ARGUMENTS

TAYLOR DONNELLY

What makes a speech memorable? What makes an argument great? Read and watch great speeches: classics (and instant classics) from Susan B Anthony, Martin Luther King, and Barack Obama, and less "classic" speeches from contemporary figures like Conan O' Brien and Stephen Colbert. Analyze these speeches and others to see rhetorical tropes at work, and discuss how the speakers' messages are being effectively conveyed. Learn a range of rhetorical techniques, and put your knowledge to work making short speeches of your own, both rehearsed and improvised.

SHAKESPEARE: FROM READING TO ACTING

TAYLOR DONNELLY

What are the differences between the dramatic genres of Drama, Comedy, and Romance, and how does analyzing iambic pentameter give actors hints about how to interpret one of Shakespeare's plays? Come take Shakespeare out of a book and put it into a performance! Watch and analyze performance clips to see how different actors' interpretations can vary the meaning of the same works. Get a quick overview of Shakespearean language, and perform scenes and monologues for yourselves, using the techniques from the class to make difficult language come alive for you and your audience.

THE SHORT STORY PROJECT

TAYLOR DONNELLY

Writers over the years have transformed the short story into a form of almost endless creative possibility. What will you do with a short story project of your own? Explore plot, character, and the effective use of tone and imagery as we examine how writers bring these elements together to create the stories they most want to tell. Experiment with the form for yourselves, make thoughtful choices about your work, and craft a story that will (hopefully) mean what you want it to mean.

THE SILMARILLION AND TOLKIEN'S THEO-MYTHOLOGY

TIM ASAY

No author has been so influential on the development of modern fantasy literature as J.R.R. Tolkien, and none have rivaled the depth and complexity of the "sub-creation" he invented

in Middle Earth. Yet readers often neglect the work that most fully expresses the scope of Tolkien's fictional world—*The Silmarillion*. In it, Tolkien articulates not only a mythological tale that explains how Middle Earth came to be, but a painstaking theology that informs the way we interpret his other, more popular works. Explore how reading *The Silmarillion* can enrich our understanding of Tolkien's Middle Earth, and look at some of the Christian, Germanic, and Celtic legends that influenced its creation. Come delve, Dwarf-like, into the underpinning's of Tolkien's fantastic art! *Note: If you are planning on signing up for this course and already have your own copy of "The Silmarillion", please bring it with you to camp.*

SPEED THEATER: THE PLAY'S THE THING

JENI RINNER

Sure, you can put on a play. But can you do the whole thing...in just a few hours? Speed Theater is a format that compresses all the elements of putting on a play into a tiny span—the end result is frenzied, frantic, and always fun. By the time we are done, you will have written, rehearsed, created, and performed a brand new play. From designers to publicity agents to directors to actors, anyone with an interest in the theatrical process is welcome. Help bring an entirely new work to life, and put on a premiere performance at the end of class!

SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY TECHNIQUES: BALLET, JAZZ, AND MODERN DANCE

A.T. MOFFETT

Come learn and practice techniques from three very different dance types! Ballet will be a survey of classical technique within a contemporary, somatic-based model. Focus will be on technical development, ballet vocabulary, and movement explorations appropriate to the genre. Transition from exercises done at the barre to more lengthy and complex movement phrases across the floor.

The Jazz section of the course introduces Jazz dance as an expressive art form. Explore the syncopated rhythms, isolations, and dynamic movement qualities that make up the genre. Emphasis will be placed on alignment, strength and flexibility, musicality, and movement that will allow you to express your own rhythm and groove.

Modern dance will develop your skills through an in-depth exploration of movement concepts central to the genre, including weight, balance, relationships, and focus. Balance technical development with improvisation to come up with your own movement signature and preferred learning style.

VIDEO GAMES: A HISTORY

MATTHEW SCHWEIZER

While video games demand constant media attention today, the emergence of the “big three” (Nintendo, Sony, and Microsoft) was never a foregone conclusion. Follow the birth of the video game industry from the arcades and platforms of the 70's to the most recent generation of systems that we know today. We'll look at how companies have chosen to brand themselves through advertising, discuss the role of censorship and ratings in the game industry, and see how game licensing has affected competition. Gain an in-depth view on how the industry is reacting to some current challenges and opportunities, and relate everything back to some of your all time favorite games and consoles.

YES, BUT WHY DO YOU LIKE IT?

AMY GREGOR

So you're looking at a piece of art... and you LOVE it! Or you HATE it! How good are you at translating those feelings into thoughtful art criticism? Come look at art from the 19th and 20th centuries, and learn some technical terms to use as we talk about and evaluate artwork. Consider rhythm, repetition, pattern, color and more, and participate in critical discussions as we examine a host of famous works. This class may include a trip to the U of O's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, and visits to other public artworks on campus, where we'll discuss artwork while viewing it up close and in person.