

Students register for two seminars upon arrival at SEP Winter. Each seminar will be offered twice: once in the morning, and once in the afternoon. Registration in seminars is subject to availability.

SEP WINTER 2010 SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LOVE AND DATING

GINA LIOTTA

Does anyone live happily ever after anymore? Did they ever? In this course, we will briefly explore the Western notion of romantic love beginning in the 19th century, and analyze a variety of different media, including photography, poetry, film, and music to trace the cultural perceptions of romance and how these perceptions change over time. In the course's second hour, we will examine more contemporary cultural depictions of romance and explore how love, dating, and marriage operate in the 21st Century.

“GOOD ROCKIN’ TONIGHT”: THE RISE OF ROCK AND ROLL

VIK GUMBHIR

The history of rock and roll has long been a history that focuses on important artists, songs, and moments in time, like Elvis Presley's controversial first television appearance. What has been lost in this version of history is much of the context that set the stage for this new cultural movement. This presentation will fill in some of these gaps by exploring the vital economic, political, and cultural conditions that were central to the development of rock and roll music and culture.

HAUNTINGS IN OREGON

MATTHEW SCHWEIZER

Oregon's relatively short history as a part of the United States doesn't hide a past full of ghost sightings and supposed "paranormal activity". This class will attempt to explain both our conception of fear and, by extension, how our culture understands and interprets "ghosts" by using examples from famous buildings and sites throughout the state of Oregon. We will also talk about the modern cultural phenomenon of "ghost hunting" (as seen in SciFi's *Ghost Hunters*) and how it plays its own part in our common understanding of hauntings.

THE IMPLoding STORY: OULIPO!

TAYLOR DONNELLY

Come examine the intersection between stories and puzzles, where we not only use words to communicate, but also to play. The French "Oulipo" movement (translated roughly as "workshop of potential literature") believes that writing becomes more interesting, surprising, and valuable when it works within certain imposed rules or limitations. Explore the methods laid out in this movement by writing stories that adhere to Oulipo's rules! Create a foundational story, and then use techniques and tools like rhyming, word substitution, transposition, anagrams, palindromes, lipograms, word counting, and tangential expansion to create new structures for your stories that make them unexpected and new.

IMPROV EVERYWHERE!

JENI RINNER

In this course, we'll be taking a brief look at the history of performance art, from busking to installation art to flash mobs. We'll especially take a look at the performance group "Improv Everywhere," known for their innovative flash mobs and the clever ways they've lived up to their motto: "We Cause Scenes." At the end, we'll work together to cause our own impromptu event on campus and reflect on its effects.

PRINCIPLES OF AIR COMBAT

DONALD ACKER

Come practice basic flying skills and then apply them in a combat flight simulator. Attention will be given to the physics involved in flight, in particular to the relationship between flight and energy. While using the simulator, emphasis will be on the importance of efficiency, teamwork, and precision.