PROGRAM IN WRITING AND COMMUNICATION

The mission of the Program in Writing and Communication (PWC) is to integrate the practice of analytical writing and the techniques of both oral and visual communication into the Rice curriculum, with two goals in mind: To enable our students to articulate their ideas as we prepare them for academic and professional life; and to affirm the necessity of this ability and its fundamental value to every aspect of their education and across every University department and discipline.

The PWC provides oversight for the First-Year Writing-Intensive Seminars (FWIS). FWIS are content-based, 3 credit hour seminars in which writing and communication pedagogy plays a significant role in assignments and grading. The courses reflect a broad range of disciplines from across the university.

The PWC also includes the Center for Written, Oral, and Visual Communication. Housed in Fondren Library, the Center supports teaching and learning through workshops, consulting, and courses for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty. Headed by a team of communication professionals, the Center also includes a large staff of writing and communication consultants, both graduate and undergraduate, who are available for individual tutoring appointments. The Center includes facilities for one-on-one consultations and group work, as well as advanced technology for preparation of oral and visual presentations. Physically accessible whenever Fondren Library is open, the Center is virtually accessible around the clock through the Center’s website (https://cwovc.rice.edu).

For additional information regarding the Program in Writing and Communication, please see the program's website at: http://pwc.rice.edu/.

All first-year students must pass the Composition Examination and complete a content-based First-Year Writing Intensive Seminar (FWIS) course during their first year at Rice.

Students who receive an unsatisfactory score on the Composition Exam must successfully complete FWIS 100 during the fall of their first year and prior to enrolling in one of the required content-based FWIS courses.


The Program in Writing and Communication does not currently offer an academic program at the graduate level.

Program Director
Tracy Volz

Lecturers
Katerina Belik
Elizabeth Cummins-Muñoz
Lina Dib
Andrew Klein
David Messmer
Burke Nixon

Teaching Fellows
Lindsey Chappell
Joanna Fax
Sophia Hsu

For Rice University degree-granting programs: To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice’s Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)
To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.cat)

First-Yr Writing Intensive Sem (FWIS)

FWIS 100 - FUNDAMENTALS OF ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION

Short Title: FUNDAMENTALS OF ACADEMIC COMM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Designed to prepare students who need more time and practice in reading and writing to meet the more advanced communication demands of an FWIS, this course will provide an introduction to the expectations of academic readers as well as practice with the rhetorical and linguistic structures common to academic writing. Students will also review grammatical points relevant to the course material and assignments and learn to self-edit their own work. This course does not fulfill the Composition Requirement.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 101 - THE BIBLE IN POPULAR CULTURE

Short Title: THE BIBLE IN POPULAR CULTURE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: We will introduce various ways in which the Bible plays a significant role in contemporary popular culture. By analyzing biblical references found in music, film, art, and the media, students will discover that even in today’s seemingly secular culture, the Bible continues to influence our artistic, social, and political landscapes.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 102 - READING AND WRITING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Short Title: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In this course we will read and write about children’s literature. Students will begin with the oral tradition of fairy tales and proceed to picture books and junior novels. Students will analyze children's literature as a genre and will create and write their own story books.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
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FWIS 111 - THE FIRST 200 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY
Short Title: FIRST 200 YRS OF CHRISTIANITY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the growth of Christianity from Jesus to the end of the second century. The class will consider the theological, ecclesiological, and social debates of the competing Catholic and Non-Catholic churches and how these different movements connected themselves to Jesus and the disciples.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 112 - MODERN FAMILIES
Short Title: MODERN FAMILIES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: What does "family" mean today when debates over gay marriage, blended families, and America's declining birth rates seem to ring the death knell for the nuclear family? This course will examine the myth of the nuclear family by looking at representations of the family in novels, films, television shows, etc.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 113 - RACE, PUBLIC POLICY, AND RACIAL CHANGE IN AMERICA
Short Title: RACE, POLICY, & RACIAL CHANGE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines conceptual and historical features of race and representation in the U.S., how race has shaped public policy development in the 20th century, and how American political institutions have affected outcomes for different racial groups. It also examines the causes and consequences of political mobilization for racial minorities.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 114 - LITERARY PROVOCATIONS
Short Title: LITERARY PROVOCATIONS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In section 001 of this course, we will examine representative works of drama, poetry and fiction, ranging from ancient Greece to modern times. Students will write - four essays - about some of these important works. They will also keep journals in which they will write for ten minutes about every reading assignment. Section 002 of this course is designed to introduce first-year students from a wide variety of academic backgrounds to the major literary genres of fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will learn and practice the skills of close reading, interpretation, and literary analysis through discussion and critical writing about literature and language. This course is eligible for credit toward the major in English.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 115 - WELLBEING
Short Title: WELLBEING
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: How to live a good life? This course critically evaluates different conceptions of wellbeing proposed by philosophers and encourages students to form their own conception of wellbeing with persuasive arguments.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 116 - AMERICAN JOURNEYS
Short Title: AMERICAN JOURNEYS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The narratives of travelers in the US are a window into history. Drawing on authors like Crevecoeur, Tocqueville, Trollope, and Kerouac, the class will discuss and write about themes such as Indian life and territorial expansion, democracy, slavery, civil war, western settlement, and 20th-cent. social movements. This course is eligible for credit toward the major in History.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 117 - ART IN PLACE AND PLACES FOR ART
Short Title: ART IN PLACE & PLACES FOR ART
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Students will look closely at a curated selection of influential, Houston-based works of art, installations, and architecture from the past century to understand the context and ideas behind the emergence of modern and contemporary art and design. They will observe, analyze, and describe these primary sources using both words and images.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 118 - MUSIC, MYTH AND MADNESS: STUDIES IN MUSICAL BIOGRAPHY
Short Title: MUSIC, MYTH AND MADNESS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: A study of biographical narratives about musicians, including Bach, Bob Dylan, Thelonius Monk, Mozart, and Schumann. Considers the nature of creativity and inspiration. Examines the extent to which biography borrows from mythology and literary fiction. Material includes memoirs, letters, novels and films.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 119 - BEYOND THE BURQINI: MUSLIM WOMEN, FEMINISM, AND GLOBAL POLITICS
Short Title: MUSLIM WOMEN & GLOBAL POLITICS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Traces history of Western interest in Muslim women, paying particular attention to how the figure of the Muslim women has been used by western feminist to make their own case for gender equality. Readings include writings by different English and American feminists and by Muslim authors from around the world.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 120 - FICTION AND EMPATHY
Short Title: FICTION AND EMPATHY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This writing-intensive course explores the possible link between reading literary fiction and empathizing with others. We'll read short stories, novel excerpts, and literary criticism in an effort to scrutinize and more deeply understand the specific elements of fiction that might provoke empathy.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 121 - TIME TRAVEL NARRATIVES: FICTION, FILM, SCIENCE
Short Title: TIME TRAVEL NARRATIVES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: From an aesthetic perspective, time travel has existed as long as there have been stories. Narrative introduces alien temporalities, transporting listeners and readers into different temporal landscapes. This writing-intensive course investigates the historical, aesthetic, and scientific connections between the authorial and scientific co-creation of time travel.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 122 - LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP: WHAT WE KNOW, WHAT WE BELIEVE
Short Title: LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: For over a hundred years social scientists have studied leaders and leadership. The popular press and media pundits continue to expound on the topic with conflicting views. Students will explore what they believe and what science informs us about leaders and leadership and share their analyses through discussions, writing, and oral presentations.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 123 - STAR WARS AND THE WRITING OF POPULAR CULTURE
Short Title: STAR WARS & WRITING CULTURE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will unpack the cultural legacy of the Star Wars films through traditional literary analysis and close reading, by situating the films historically, and by considering the ways that the films reflect attitudes towards a variety of social issues, such as spirituality/religion, philosophy, race, gender, class, nationality, and imperialism.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 124 - WITNESSING THE HOLOCAUST
Short Title: WITNESSING THE HOLOCAUST
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will examine selected testimony given by Holocaust survivors. Their testimony varies according to time and the circumstance in which it was given and also according to the genre (film, memoir, drama) in which it is presented.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 125 - YOUR ARABIAN NIGHTS
Short Title: YOUR ARABIAN NIGHTS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The Arabian Nights is one of the best known yet poorly understood literary masterpieces. It has been passed down orally in wiring, in performance and film; in multiple languages, and with different collections of stories. What is your Arabian Nights? We will consider stories of the Nights through both a literary and historical lens, and we will consider stories, films, and works of art that were inspired by the Nights in different cultures.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 126 - THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE
Short Title: THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will interrogate the five most recent winners of the Nobel Prize in Literature. We will see what patterns we notice in the Swedish Academy’s selections while paying attention to both aesthetic merit and the roles that social justice and cultural diversity might play in the awards process.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 127 - HOW POEMS WORK
Short Title: HOW POEMS WORK
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Poems start from the meaning of the words and build up through the lines and sentences—and the tension between them—through the play of the vowels and consonants, and the differences between the images and metaphors. When these relationships are understood, a conversation about what the poem means can begin.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 128 - PERSONALITY TRAITS AND TYPES OF INTELLIGENCE THROUGH THEIR LINGUISTIC MANIFESTATION
Short Title: INNER DIMENSIONS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Exploring theories on personality traits and types of intelligence, students will learn more about themselves and others. We will discuss how our verbal behavior reflects our personality.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 129 - CHINGIS KHAN AND THE EMPIRE OF THE MONGOLS
Short Title: THE EMPIRE OF THE MONGOLS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In the thirteenth century, the Mongols conquered China, Eastern Europe and Middle East. This class explores empire building, warfare, government and steppe culture, through reading the letters and memoirs of Mongols, merchants, travelers and adventurers. The students will work closely with primary sources to develop analytical writing skills.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 130 - WRITING EVERYDAY LIFE
Short Title: WRITING EVERYDAY LIFE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course is dedicated to the poetics of everyday life. It draws from the forms and colors of what surrounds us day-to-day, from landscapes, to bodies and objects. Students develop research and writing skills through creative fieldwork assignments and workshops. This course is eligible for credit toward the major in Anthropology.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 131 - RUINS, LANDMARKS, AND MONUMENTS
Short Title: RUINS, LANDMARKS, MONUMENTS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This seminar investigates ruins, landmarks, and monuments across genres and periods from the nineteenth century to the present. It explores how cultures map identity onto physical objects and how these markers of identity endure or shift meaning over time. Through cultural analysis, this seminar cultivates effective written and oral communication.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 132 - WOMEN IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
Short Title: WOMEN IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVMT
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will explore women's contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. We'll examine how through formal and informal leadership roles, grassroots organizing, performative arts and theoretical contributions, women negotiated the complex terrain of place, race, gender and class within the Civil Rights Movement and American society.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 133 - WOMEN AND THE HOLOCAUST: VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS
Short Title: WOMEN AND THE HOLOCAUST
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will examine the Third Reich and the Holocaust from the perspective of women as perpetrators and as victims.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 134 - COLLECTING ART: PERSPECTIVES OF ARTISTS, PATRONS, AND MUSEUMS
Short Title: ARTISTS, PATRONS, AND MUSEUMS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course explores the interconnected roles of artists, the individuals who buy artwork, and the institutions charged with preserving and displaying it. The history of art collecting and patronage will be discussed as students explore the function of museums, the art market, and public and private collections.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 135 - CHILDHOOD ON FILM
Short Title: CHILDHOOD ON FILM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This seminar examines the filmic representation of childhood across diverse historical periods and places. Of concern will be issues including children's relations to nature, language and sexuality; modern systems of education; children's perception of race; and childhood as a cinematic metaphor. Meetings will be based in discussion of films and critical texts.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 136 - THE WORLD ACCORDING TO PIXAR
Short Title: THE WORLD ACCORDING TO PIXAR
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In this course, we will be investigating films from the Pixar studio, which critics have hailed for their strong writing and powerful commentary, through a variety of writing assignments. We will pay attention both to the films' narratives and to their technical elements as we explore the meanings they create.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 137 - POP MUSIC AND AMERICAN CULTURE
Short Title: POP MUSIC & AMERICAN CULTURE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Recent cultural movements encourage a more serious exploration of popular music. This course will participate by taking a critical look at what songs mean, what songs/albums/genres express, what our interest in music expresses, and how writing about music can lead us to great insights.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 138 - FROM LEO TOLSTOY TO CORNEL WEST, ART CRITICISM IN CONTEXT
Short Title: ART CRITICISM IN CONTEXT
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: You will develop a rich understanding of art criticism as a genre and learn to write your own concise and insightful analysis of art. The class will think through challenges of visual interpretation through close looking at art in galleries, museums, artist studios, and on Rice campus.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 139 - BEYOND POCAHONTAS: NATIVES IN 19TH CENTURY AMERICA
Short Title: NATIVES IN THE 19TH C. AMERICA
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the dramatic change and upheaval experienced by American Indian nations during the nineteenth century: the removal of Southeastern tribes to Indian Territory; the American Civil War, in which several Indian nations experienced their own civil wars as a result of their divided loyalties; and American expansion.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 140 - WRITING ARCHAEOLOGY: INTERPRETING THE PAST FOR THE ACADEMY AND THE PUBLIC
Short Title: WRITING ARCHAEOLOGY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course introduces academic and popular forms of archaeological writing and the evidence and arguments they use. It will focus on crucial skills to both analyze the quality of popular presentations of archaeology and explore the challenges that archaeologists face in making the research understandable to a broader audience.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 141 - WRITING ABOUT MUSIC  
**Short Title:** WRITING ABOUT MUSIC  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** The course studies how we write about music and the effects music has as a subject in art and on the page. Situated in the twentieth century, this course will look at poetry and fiction as well as essays, reviews, and historical sketches to build a repertoire of approaches.  
**Course URL:** pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 142 - CITIZENSHIP, PATRIOTISM, AND GLOBALISM: CITIZENS OF THE POLIS OR THE WORLD?  
**Short Title:** CITIZENSHIP: ETHICS & IDENTITY  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** This course studies texts that are integral to ancient Greek culture, and core texts in the Western literary tradition. Students receive frequent regular practice at close reading, writing, and oral communication. The assigned primary texts are Aristotle's Poetics and tragedies by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides (all read in English translation).  
**Course URL:** pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 143 - BRAZIL MODERN: ART AND ARCHITECTURE BETWEEN THE NATION AND THE METROPOLIS  
**Short Title:** BRAZIL MODERN  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** This FWIS course introduces students to the artistic and architectural theories and practices of modernism in Brazil. This interdisciplinary course offers an exploration of the complex political, social and cultural histories that shaped the built environment of modern Brazil. This is a seminar on Brazilian modernism and its discontent.  
**Course URL:** pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 144 - WRITING ABOUT GREEK DRAMA  
**Short Title:** WRITING ABOUT GREEK DRAMA  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** This course introduces texts that are integral to ancient Greek culture, and core texts in the Western literary tradition. Students receive frequent regular practice at close reading, writing, and oral communication. The assigned primary texts are Aristotle's Poetics and tragedies by Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides (all read in English translation).  
**Course URL:** pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 145 - SEX AT RICE: THE GOOD THE BAD AND THE AWKWARD  
**Short Title:** SEXUAL ETHICS  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** This course will ask students to think critically about how they have conceptualized sexuality and the ethical norms governing their sexual practices. Readings will include sociological, historical, philosophical, and religious texts. Issues to be covered: The Rice Purity Test, NOD, Theme Parties, Hooking-Up, Pornography, Objectification, Gender, and Same-Sex Relationships.  
**Course URL:** pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 146 - TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT GMOs? THAT IS THE QUESTION  
**Short Title:** TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT GMO's?  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** How does genetically-modified (GM) food impact our world? Through written and oral assignments, we will explore the ethical controversies behind genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) and how they impact our health and society. Students will debate relevant case studies on G<EO research and perform a food-related research project.  
**Course URL:** pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 147 - AMERICA THROUGH FRENCH EYES  
**Short Title:** AMERICA THROUGH FRENCH EYES  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** This FWIS course introduces students to the artistic and architectural theories and practices of modernism in Brazil. This interdisciplinary course offers an exploration of the complex political, social and cultural histories that shaped the built environment of modern Brazil. This is a seminar on Brazilian modernism and its discontent.  
**Course URL:** pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 148 - PLAYS AND PLAYING  
**Short Title:** PLAYS AND PLAYING  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** The word "play" is complex, even contradictory. We play roles and enact roles, which are and are not our essential selves, but they are not deceitful or inauthentic either. We will explore this theme of acting or not acting, playing or lying, in Shakespeare's Hamlet and other plays.  
**Course URL:** pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 149 - SOCRATES  
Short Title: SOCRATES  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: The course will consider the life and though of Socrates and will be based strictly on primary sources. Course readings will be taken from Plato, Xenophon, and Aristophanes. We will examine Socrates in his Athenian context, especially in regard to his trial, conviction, and execution on a charge of impiety.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 150 - THE WORLD OF MEDIEVAL MEDICINE  
Short Title: THE WORLD OF MEDIEVAL MEDICINE  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: How did medieval Christians understand and treat mental and bodily illness? How did their experiences of pain, sex, childbirth, and death interact with larger concepts of God, nature, and the heavens? What role did angels and demons play? This seminar will explore these issues through close reading of medieval texts. Mutually Exclusive: Credit cannot be earned for FWIS 150 and FSEM 171/MDEM 171/RELI 171.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 151 - MODERN CASTAWAYS: ISOLATION, ALIENATION, SURVIVAL  
Short Title: MODERN CASTAWAYS  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course challenges us to think about isolation, alienation, and survival in a global age. What happens to those left behind, those cast out, and those seemingly misplaced? Topics such as colonialism, immigration, feminist history, and the anthropocene guide our discussion of the moral and political dimensions of "castaways."  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 152 - NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS: REAL REMEDIES OR SHADY SCIENCE?  
Short Title: THE SCIENCE OF SUPPLEMENTS  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This writing-intensive seminar examines evidence for the use of nutritional supplements in promoting health. Topics include the role of vitamins, herbs and food-based supplements in medicine; the biology of illnesses such as cancer and depression; and the molecular mechanisms of supplements in disease prevention and management.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 153 - THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION  
Short Title: THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: The course will explore the reasons for this expedition in 1804-1806, examine the participants' reaction to the plants, animals, geology, and Native Americans they encountered, and ponder how they survived the ordeal of going up the Missouri River and crossing the Rocky Mountains.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 154 - THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BORDER  
Short Title: THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE BORDER  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course will explore portrayals of morality in film, literature and music produced in the US-Mexico borderlands. As we examine conflicting and converging moral codes in these cultural texts, students will use writing as a tool for exploring ideas and refining understanding.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 155 - FAKES, FORGERIES, AND STOLEN ART  
Short Title: FAKES, FORGERIES, & STOLEN ART  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: In 1990, two men stole 13 paintings worth an estimated $300 million dollars from the Gardner Museum. The crime remains unsolved, and an estimated 40% of artwork on the market today is either faked or forged. This course will analyze these and other high-profile issues through essays, literature, and film.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 156 - EXTREME SPORTS: PUSHING THE LIMITS OF THE HUMAN  
Short Title: EXTREME SPORTS  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This FWIS explores humanity's fascination with pushing our bodies beyond their limits. We'll specifically explore how Western culture depicts high-risk athletic endeavors – like mountaineering and ultrarunning – and the individuals who perform the, historically and in the present, by examining concepts for articulating limitlessness: transcendence, endurance, freedom, and the sublime.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 157 - FOOD AND CULTURE
Short Title: FOOD AND CULTURE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Food and Culture asks students to investigate the cultural meaning of food practices as an important part of the human experience. This involves questions primarily aimed at archaeological cultures, but we will also consider relevant issues in our society and others in our world today. Through this topic, our primary goal is to identify ways to become better communicators and improve writing skills by building compelling and well-supported arguments appropriate for the social sciences.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 158 - PROPAGANDA, DECEPTION, AND FORGERY IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE
Short Title: PROPAGANDA IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines ancient Roman political propaganda as a form of historical "forgery." Drawing connections to modern debates about “fake news,” it examines how three of Rome’s emperors – Augustus, Septimius Severus, and Constantine – used the literature and art of their reigns to promote biased narratives concerning their rise to power.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu

FWIS 159 - THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN 20TH AND 21ST CENTURY AMERICAN FICTION
Short Title: IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE FICTION
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course considers 20th/21st century American literature on the experiences of immigrant populations. Limning this literary history from early narratives of alienation and assimilation to contemporary fiction’s negotiations of identity within a global context, we will examine not only how these texts resemble and depart from one another, but how they have shaped the broader literary tradition.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 160 - LIFE NARRATIVE
Short Title: LIFE NARRATIVE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will explore the historical and contemporary significance of personal narrative, from its origins in the 16th century to the current popularity of digital programs such as This American Life and The Moth Podcast. Students will analyze the genre's evolution, as well as compose their own creative essays.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 161 - EXPLORING THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM
Short Title: THE AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will survey the American legal system, discussing the structure of the courts and role of the judiciary in American politics. Major topics will include criminal and civil law, differentiating the states' and federal court systems, and comparing Texas's legal system to other states' courts.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 162 - CRITICAL THINKING IN DEMOCRACY
Short Title: CRITICAL THINKING IN DEMOCRACY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Critical thinking runs counter to inherent tendencies toward confirmation bias in decision making. In the political realm, this conflict is often exploited by governmental leaders and media to control specific outcomes. Students in this class will learn to develop their critical thinking and analytical skills in the context of a democratic society.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 163 - MEDICAL HUMANITIES: LITERATURE, MEDICINE, AND THE PRACTICE OF EMPATHY
Short Title: MEDICAL HUMANITIES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course provides an introduction to the medical humanities, focusing particularly on narrative medicine and the role narrative can play in illness and the clinical encounter. Readings will include formative theoretical texts in the field, as well as medical-themed short stories by writers such as Chekhov, Hemingway, and Garcia Marquez.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 164 - WAYS OF WALKING IN LITERATURE AND CULTURE
Short Title: WAYS OF WALKING  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course explores the act of walking, in theory and in practice. Through readings, discussions, writing assignments, and group and individual walks, it examines questions about the body and its movements; the construction and navigation of space; the tradition of travel writing; and the relationship between walking and thinking.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 165 - SCIENCE FICTION AND WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
Short Title: SCIENCE FICTION & SHAKESPEARE  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course will explore the intersection between William Shakespeare's works and science fiction. By reading graphic novels and short stories and watching film and television adaptations, this course will examine what this fascination reveals about Shakespeare's plays and the pursuits of science fiction.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 166 - BEYOND THE MELTING POT: U.S. MIGRATION HISTORY  
Short Title: U.S. MIGRATION HISTORY  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: In this course, students will analyze the experience of different migrant groups in the United States over the past two centuries. The course traces the evolution of immigration policy alongside changing perceptions of citizenship, nationalism, race, and ethnicity.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 167 - THE FIVE GOSPELS: HOW WERE THEY WRITTEN?  
Short Title: JESUS AND PAUL IN ANTIQUITY  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course examines the growth of Christianity from its origins as a Jewish group to a religion in the mid-second century that distinguished itself from Judaism. The focus of the course is on the development of Jesus and Paul in Early Christianity as leaders and founders of religious movements. This class will be taught thematically to evaluate Jesus and Paul in their Jewish contexts and roles in the early church. The class will consider both canonical and non-canonical materials, as well as appropriate secondary literature.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 168 - CASE STUDIES OF BUILDING DESIGN PROBLEMS  
Short Title: BUILDING DESIGN PROBLEMS  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: We will analyze buildings that ended up in legal battles. Problems include structural failures, design blunders and near disasters. You will write about what went wrong and why, who saved that day and who should have acted differently. You will learn to write critically and present a convincing argument.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 169 - WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?  
Short Title: WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: We hear and talk about "human rights" frequently, but few of us have an easy time defining ideas so inherently contested and pitted against one another. This class will read, discuss, and write about the history and future of human rights in the United States and elsewhere in the world.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 170 - PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE FICTION  
Short Title: PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE FICTION  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: Read classic and contemporary philosophy texts alongside those science fiction novels and films that explore the same philosophical themes, such as the nature of consciousness, reality vs. virtual reality, the ethics of cyborg enhancement, and other questions involving what it means to be human in a technologically advanced future.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/  

FWIS 171 - WORD MAGIC  
Short Title: WORD MAGIC  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: People use language to create inner models of the world to represent their experience and guide their behavior. Students will be introduced to a sensitive interdependence of language, thought, emotion, and behavior in personal and social contexts.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 172 - HEALTH POLICY DEBATES
Short Title: HEALTH POLICY DEBATES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will interrogate current U.S. health and healthcare policy debates from a sociological perspective. These debates explore how social conditions and policies structure the patterning of health and illness across the nation.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 173 - LEGENDARY AMERICANS
Short Title: LEGENDARY AMERICANS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Exploration of popular myths surrounding larger-than-life figures like Davy Crockett and Harriet Tubman. Specific figures vary. Though scholarly readings and analysis of cultural artifacts like songs and films, we will consider why and how such figures become iconic and explore the relations between history, biography, and memory. This course is eligible for credit toward the major in History. Mutually Exclusive: Credit cannot be earned for FWIS 173 and FSEM 159/HIST 159.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 174 - SCIENCE/FICTION AND THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE
Short Title: THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The possibilities we imagine for the future of medicine tell us much about our present culture's priorities, as well as its pitfalls. Paying close attention to the rhetoric that masks - or does not - the social commentary embedded in contemporary science fiction novels and films, this course places a strong focus on close reading and purposeful writing.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu

FWIS 175 - ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP
Short Title: ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This seminar provides a survey of leadership issues in an entrepreneurial business context, along with an understanding of fundamental business elements and economic concepts of importance to entrepreneurs and their organizations. Through discussions with leaders in the Houston community, group projects, and frequent writing and oral presentation assignments, students will experience and develop an understanding of the interplay between structure, operations, and leadership.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 176 - AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL DOCUMENTARY FILM
Short Title: AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL DOCUMENTARY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In this course, we will explore how the intimate and subjective narratives of autobiographical documentary film creatively interpret broader historical, cultural, and social issues. We will view a variety of genres, including home movies, video diaries, poetic and performance pieces, and reflexive films that offer meta-commentaries on this art form. This FWIS focuses on building confidence in responding to visual media forms.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 177 - BIZARRE BIBLICAL STORIES
Short Title: BIZARRE BIBLICAL STORIES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will examine some of the more bizarre stories of the Hebrew Bible, which deal with such ideas as fratricide, incest, seduction and magic. We will see how such stories have been interpreted, and been afforded meaning, throughout the ages. All texts will be read in English translation.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 187 - GLOBALIZING MUSEUM HISTORY
Short Title: GLOBALIZING MUSEUM HISTORY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course explores the concept of culture, the theoretical approaches anthropologists use to study and represent groups of people, the field of ethnographic research and the methods ethnographers use, and the ethical issues involved in studying and representing populations.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 180 - THE LEGACIES, MYTHS, AND MEMORIES OF 1960s AMERICA
Short Title: LEGACIES OF 1960s AMERICA
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Students will analyze and explore the events, legacies, and myths of 1960s America. Perhaps no other decade in the twentieth century American history is so immortalized. As this course will demonstrate, the 1960s were a complex, ever-changing decade where struggle and disillusionment often tempered social, cultural, and political change.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 181 - THE GOLDEN AGE OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
Short Title: GOLDEN AGE CHILDREN'S LIT
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The "Golden Age" of children's literature produced many of our most famous children's classics, including Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Peter Pan. This course will discuss and write about why this period produced so many influential books and how those stories still shape our ideas about writing for children.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 182 - INTERSECTIONS IN ART AND SCIENCE
Short Title: INTERSECTIONS IN ART & SCIENCE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course explores frictions and affinities between Art and Science. It examines how these different ways of engaging with the world have crossed paths - from World Fairs, to cinema, as well as current exhibits in Houston galleries. This course is eligible for credit toward the major in anthropology.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 183 - WRITING CULTURES
Short Title: WRITING CULTURES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The class will introduce the concept of culture, the theoretical approaches anthropologist use to study and represent groups of people, the field of ethnographic research and the methods ethnographers use, and the ethical issues involved in studying and representing populations.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

Short Title: RELIGION AND SPORTS IN AMERICA
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: From the origins of athletic competition in America through contemporary sport there has been a curious intersection between sport and religion. Using case studies from baseball, football and basketball this course will answer two questions: How do religion and sport work together coexist?; and Can sport be considered a religion?
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 185 - CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POETRY
Short Title: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POETRY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This class will delve into contemporary American poetry by exploring outstanding poetry books of the previous year. Students will study American poetry in literary and historical contexts, develop ability to analyze how poems "work", develop ability to create clear, effective prose, and build framework for exploring other types of poetry.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
In the process, students will develop the communication skills to be successful in their coursework at Rice.

Course URL: pwc.rice.edu

FWIS 187 - EXPLORING THE SCIENCE AND HISTORY OF HOUSTON'S BAYOUS
Short Title: SCIENCE/HIST HOUSTON'S BAYOUS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This discussion- and field-based class will explore Houston's watersheds from the perspective of biogeochemistry, working to understand the roles of our bayous in our 21st century community.

Course URL: pwc.rice.edu

FWIS 188 - INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION
Short Title: ENG DESIGN & COMMUNICATION
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to students with a major in Architecture Division, Architecture or Engineering Division. Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Students learn the engineering design process to solve real-world problems by evaluating design requirements and constructing innovative solutions in the OEDK. Several communication assignments will be completed by individuals rather than teams. Fall limited to ENGI and NSCI students; spring open for engineering and architecture students. Mutually Exclusive: Credit cannot be earned for FWIS 188 and ENGI 120.

Course URL: pwc.rice.edu

FWIS 189 - POST-APOCALYPIC LITERATURE AND FILM
Short Title: POST-APOCALYPIC LIT AND FILM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Our culture is fascinated with its own destruction. From zombies to nuclear war, ecological disasters, aliens, disease and killer machines, Armageddon takes many forms. Structured around ways in which we have imagined the world ending, this course charts the cultural consciousness of apocalypse.

Course URL: pwc.rice.edu

FWIS 190 - YOUTH REBELLION: SIXTIES MUSIC AND THE MAKING OF A COUNTER-CULTURE
Short Title: YOUTH REBELLION
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In fundamental ways the sixties were about youth culture. Popular music, probably more than any other cultural form, served as this culture's mode of self-expression. Sixties popular music, both US and British, will be at the center of a multi-media course that also makes use of materials in television, visual art, fiction, and film.

FWIS 191 - LITERATURE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Short Title: LITERATURE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: How do realities of public health correspond with popular conceptions of it? How do depictions of public health affect our understanding of it in our contemporary world? This course will explore the concept of public health and its gendered, racial, class, and global connotations through analyses of novels, films, etc.

FWIS 192 - THE ROARING TWENTIES
Short Title: THE ROARING TWENTIES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The 1920s were about new possibilities, aesthetic experimentation, and frenzied expression. We'll examine iconic '20s literature by Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Woolf, and others, as well as the linchpins of '20s culture: jazz, Prohibition, the Harlem Renaissance, and modern art. Highlights include lessons on the Charleston and a Roaring Twenties soiree.

FWIS 193 - BANNED BOOKS AND OTHER DANGERS
Short Title: BANNED BOOKS AND OTHER DANGERS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In this class, we will read, discuss, and write about literary works made infamous by their appearance on the American banned books list. Central to our examination of these texts will be the overarching question of the role of censorship in public education, and American culture at large.

Course URL: pwc.rice.edu
FWIS 194 - EMPIRES
Short Title: EMPIRES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Is the United States of America an empire? This course will examine civilizations from Ancient Rome and Han Dynasty China to the superpowers of the twentieth century in order to identify the nature and mechanisms of imperial power. It will investigate imperial literature, architecture art, dress, rituals and technology.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 195 - WANDERLUST: TRAVEL AND MODERN CULTURE
Short Title: WANDERLUST
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In this first-year writing-intensive seminar, students explore exploration, tracing the conventions of travel writing from the past into the contemporary world. We will ask why, how, and where people travel historically and in the present, and we will analyze how people write travel and how they write themselves as travelers.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 196 - GROWING PAINS: COMING OF AGE IN LITERATURE AND CULTURE
Short Title: GROWING PAINS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will explore how the concept of "coming of age" allows writers to explore questions about identity, belonging, gender, sexuality, and race. By examining which life narratives are available for certain groups, we will consider how the historical developments of the wider world influence the personal development of individuals.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 197 - UNDERSTANDING HEALTH DISPARITIES: THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND MORALITY IN THE U.S.
Short Title: HEALTH DISPARITIES IN THE U.S.
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course explores patterns and explanations of unequal health outcomes in the U.S. across five characteristics: socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, nativity, gender identity and sexual orientation.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 198 - FAMILY IN FICTION AND FILM
Short Title: FAMILY IN FICTION AND FILM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This writing-intensive course examines the ways that various writers and filmmakers explore the subject of family. Students will read fiction by Kafka, Baldwin, and Munro, among others, and view films such as Boyhood and Tokyo Story. Writing tasks will include analytical essays and arguments that join scholarly or cultural debates.

FWIS 199 - JEWS ON FILM: CINEMATIC REPRESENTATIONS OF JEWISH LIFE
Short Title: JEWS ON FILM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will explore the modern Jewish life around the world through the medium of film. Students will be exposed to diverse Jewish communities and their cinematic representations. The course will consider modern Jewish identity through the lens of various themes including race, gender, religion, nationalism, assimilation and secularization.

Department and Code Legend
Note: Internally the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

- Course Catalog/Schedule
  - Course offerings/subject code: FWIS