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 range of disciplines from across the university. In addition, PWC faculty teach undergraduate communication courses under the COMM designation and courses for international graduate students (UNIV 600, UNIV 601, and UNIV 602).

The PWC also includes the Center for Academic and Professional Communication. Housed in Fondren Library, the Center supports teaching and learning through workshops, consulting, and coaching 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://pwc.rice.edu/center-academic-and-professional-communication/).

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

For courses that satisfy the First-Year Writing Intensive Seminar University Graduation Requirement (https://oa.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements/), please see Rice's Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu).
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines the rhetoric of popular writing in outlets such as National Geographic and Sports Illustrated. Through critical reading and writing workshops, students will acquire a nuanced understanding of available stylistic choices as they build the skills they need to develop their own voice with clarity, confidence, and style.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 102 - BLIND SPOTS: CRITICAL APPROACHES TO VISUAL CULTURE
Short Title: BLIND SPOTS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 103 - RHETORIC AND POPULAR WRITING
Short Title: RHETORIC AND POPULAR WRITING
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines the rhetoric of popular writing in outlets such as National Geographic and Sports Illustrated. Through critical reading and writing workshops, students will acquire a nuanced understanding of available stylistic choices as they build the skills they need to develop their own voice with clarity, confidence, and style.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

COMM 239 - A QUESTION OF STYLE, RHETORIC AND POPULAR WRITING
Short Title: RHETORIC AND POPULAR WRITING
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the rhetoric of popular writing in outlets such as National Geographic and Sports Illustrated. Through critical reading and writing workshops, students will acquire a nuanced understanding of available stylistic choices as they build the skills they need to develop their own voice with clarity, confidence, and style.

COMM 300 - COMMUNICATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE
Short Title: COMMUNICATION IN DIGITAL AGE
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Students will develop writing skills by maintaining a blog, generating Webpage content, and using social media. We will also produce video and audio content while remaining aware of how the form of the work impacts its content.

COMM 415 - MEDICAL COMMUNICATION
Short Title: MEDICAL COMMUNICATION
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment limited to students with a class of Junior or Senior. Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course introduces students to key issues, theories, and debates related to medical communication, while also helping students develop and reflect on their own communication strategies, and skills as future health care professionals. Sophomores and Freshmen who have fulfilled Rice's First-year Writing-Intensive Seminar requirement for graduation may register by a Special Registration Form. Recommended Prerequisite(s): Successfully completed one course, FWIS 101 to 199, to fulfill the Rice's First-year Writing-Intensive Seminar requirement for graduation.
FWIS 103 - WOMEN ARTISTS: VON BINGEN TO BEYONCÉ
Short Title: WOMEN ARTISTS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines female-identifying painters, sculptors, performance artists and musicians from the Middle Ages through modern-day United States. Each week we will read and write about the work of a different artist and discuss their ongoing cultural impact. We will ask: How do we define a female artist? What is the role of gender, sexuality, race, or class in their artistic production?

FWIS 104 - SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY
Short Title: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & SOCIETY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This FWIS course will explore the complex relationship between science, technology, and society. Students will become familiar with the core questions and debates within science and technology studies (STS), investigate the production of historical and modern scientific knowledge and technological entities, and acquire competency in broader forms of critical analysis.

FWIS 105 - GREEK MYTH IN WORDS: HESIOD AND THE HOMERIC HYMNS
Short Title: GREEK MYTH IN WORDS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Presents texts fundamental to understanding Greek myth through the regular practice of reading, writing, and oral communication. Emphasizing textual interpretation and writing as process and practice, this course clarifies the purpose and conventions of the academic argumentative essay. Frequent brief writing assignments. Peer review plays an integral role. No exams.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 106 - MARRIAGE, INC.
Short Title: MARRIAGE, INC.
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course looks at literary and cultural representations of marriage in the Anglo-American tradition: from Renaissance marriage bed poetry, to marriage plot novels and films, to present-day debates about the status of marriage as an institution. We will also explore cross-cultural and historical conceptions of marriage. This course is eligible for credit toward the major in English.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 107 - IN THE MATRIX: ON HUMAN BONDAGE AND LIBERATION
Short Title: IN THE MATRIX
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Using the film "The Matrix" as the point of reference, this course presents celebrated explorations of servitude and emancipation - from religious mysticism to Marxism and artistic modernism. Texts by Lao Tzu, Farid ud-Din Attar, Plato, Freud, Marx, Baudelaire, J.S. Mill, Proust, de Beauvoir, Malcolm X, Marcuse, Baudrillard.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 108 - POISONS: A CULTURAL HISTORY OF DEADLY THINGS
Short Title: POISONS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Poisons aren’t what they seem. Sometimes they look like food. Sometimes they look like drugs. From cinnabar to cinnamon; from dragon blood to goat bezoars, poisons are the result of careful human construction, collection, and creation. They are objects of early chemistry. Far from killing us, poisons have been central to the history of medicine. Physicians in the past and present monitor dosage, drug combination, and drug preparation to mitigate poison toxicity while still maintaining therapeutic potencies of drugs. Knowledge about poisons, in other words, quietly undergirds most of human civilization. Poisons are what keep us alive. Or not.
**FWIS 109 - CONTEMPORARY ART AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Short Title:** ART AND ENVIRONMENT  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** This course delves into questions of environment, ecology and sustainability through the lens of contemporary art. From earthworks, to performance, to land art, activist art, and community-based practices, participants engage critically and creatively with contemporary practices. This course is eligible for credit toward the Environmental Studies minor.  
**Course URL:** [pwc.rice.edu/](http://pwc.rice.edu/)  

**FWIS 110 - READING INNUENDO: REPRESENTING SEXUALITY IN GOLDEN AGE HOLLYWOOD**

**Short Title:** READING INNUENDO  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** This course focuses on depictions of sexuality in Hollywood films produced under the Hays Code, from its origins to its eventual demise. We will explore not only the place of sexuality in the American cultural imagination, but also what it can teach us about communication and interpretation in general.  

**FWIS 111 - COLLEGE CAMPUS CULTURE**

**Short Title:** COLLEGE CAMPUS CULTURE  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** Still loosely modeled on a monastic institution, the American university is a funny place where modern ideas of professional accomplishment collide with medieval philosophies of higher learning. Historically, the American university has also been a Petri dish for radical activism and social change in the U.S., even as the institution itself continues to operate according to traditions passed from generation to generation. It is an intense four years, but most U.S. college graduates still remember their undergraduate years as a uniquely transformative period in their lives, and continue to identify with their alma mater decades after their last day of attendance. Together, we will read texts that explore the wonderfully strange experience of university life in America, use our writing to tease out the significance of the university to us, and ultimately, take stock of how our time at the university has transformed us, on and off the page.  

**FWIS 112 - FICTION, HISTORY, TEJAS: TEXIANS AND TEJANOS IN LITERATURE AND FILM**

**Short Title:** FICTION, HISTORY, TEJAS  
**Department:** First-Year Writing Intensive  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**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/](http://pwc.rice.edu/)  

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FWIS 115 - EXPLORING BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH CHALLENGES  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)  
Short Title: EXPLORING BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This writing-intensive course introduces students to biological research and scientific communication. Student teams work on investigative projects with opportunities to design experiments and share their findings. Recommended for students interested in the Biosciences major who have limited laboratory experience. Students cannot receive credit for both FWIS 115 and NSCI 120.

FWIS 116 - AMERICAN JOURNEYS  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)  
Short Title: AMERICAN JOURNEYS  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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-century social movements. This course is eligible for credit toward the major in History.

Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)  
FWIS 117 - ART IN PLACE & PLACES FOR ART  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)  
Short Title: ART IN PLACE & PLACES FOR ART  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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.

FWIS 118 - MUSIC, MYTH AND MADNESS: STUDIES IN MUSICAL BIOGRAPHY  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)  
Short Title: MUSIC, MYTH AND MADNESS  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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.

FWIS 119 - BEYOND THE BURQINI: MUSLIM WOMEN, FEMINISM, AND GLOBAL POLITICS  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)  
Short Title: MUSLIM WOMEN & GLOBAL POLITICS  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: Traces history of Western interest in Muslim women, paying particular attention to how the figure of the Muslim woman 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.

FWIS 120 - FICTION AND EMPATHY  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)  
Short Title: FICTION AND EMPATHY  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)
FWIS 127 - KING ARTHUR IN POPULAR CULTURE: TIME TRAVEL, SPACE Aliens, and Holy Hand Grenades
Short Title: KING ARTHUR IN POPULAR CULTURE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This writing-intensive seminar examines how medieval Arthurian literature has been re-imagined within 19th, 20th, and 21st century contexts. Beginning with foundational readings from Malory’s Le Morte Darthur, we will examine and discuss how the Arthurian tradition has been translated into various mediums, including the novel, comic books, art, and film.

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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 131 - THE WAR ON DRUGS
Short Title: THE WAR ON DRUGS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the rhetoric and implications of the “War on Drugs” in the U.S. and Latin America. Students analyze from different perspectives key texts that are related to policies enacted in the last fifty years to suppress illicit drug use and that have affected civil liberties and national security.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 132 - SLAVERY ON FILM
Short Title: SLAVERY ON FILM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will look at the ways major Hollywood (or equivalent) films have dealt with chattel slavery in the United States. We will explore the general question of how feature films deal with controversial historical issues by analyzing more specifically how Hollywood has dealt with American slavery.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 134 - EXPLORING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT
Short Title: BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will explore the business environment and the ways in which culture, society, law, and creativity impact organizations. We will examine case studies, academic articles, and texts drawn from diverse sources to investigate issues business organizations face and how they go about responding to both challenges and opportunities.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 136 - TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE IN AMERICAN HISTORY
Short Title: TECH AND CULTURE IN US HISTORY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the relationship between technology and society throughout the history of the United States. We will analyze the roles and impacts of major technological innovations within their cultural and historical contexts, while seeking to understand how these contexts shaped and were shaped by the technologies.

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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 music means, 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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 138 - MINDFULNESS, MEANING, AND THE MEDICAL HUMANITIES
Short Title: MINDFULNESS AND MEDICINE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: What is mindfulness and how can it make you a better writer? What are the health benefits of mindfulness? This course explores various ways of answering these questions through an introduction to the study and practice of mindfulness and the medical humanities, combined with writing and communication instruction.

FWIS 139 - BEYOND POCAHONTAS: NATIVES IN 19TH CENTURY AMERICA
Short Title: NATIVES IN 19TH C. AMERICA
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 140 - IMAGINING THE PAST: FILM, FICTION, AND HISTORY
Short Title: FILM, FICTION, AND HISTORY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In the twentieth century and beyond, movies and television serve as an important source of mythologized national narratives (or somewhat “faked news”) from war movies, to westerns, to “biopics” of figures such as Kenneth Turing. Are their patterns of distortion at work, we can identify? How do we correct them?
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 141 - LITERATURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Short Title: LITERATURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course provides an introduction to the increasingly relevant field of environmental literature and ecocriticism. We will examine literature, criticism, and film from the late eighteenth century to the present with an eye to determining how these texts represent the relationship between humans and their physical environments.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)
FWIS 142 - WATER AND CITIES
Short Title: WATER AND CITIES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Investigates ancient, historical, and modern cities and how their residents received water. Questions include: how cities developed water resources, how water shaped city life, and how the environment was engineered to produce water. Students will be able to choose a city and a water topic for their final seminar project.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 143 - BRAZIL MODERN: ART AND ARCHITECTURE BETWEEN THE NATION AND THE METROPOLE
Short Title: BRAZIL MODERN
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 discontents.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 145 - FOOD, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Short Title: FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the intersections of food production and consumption, public health, and climate change through the lenses of environmental and food justice. Students will explore issues such as sustainability, food security and access, race, and class through reading and writing about a diverse range of literary and scholarly texts.

FWIS 146 - YOUTH ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL CHANGE
Short Title: YOUTH ACTIVISM & SOCIAL CHANGE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Young people are leading their communities, influencing policy, and shaping discourse on some of the most pressing social issues of our time. This course explores how youth become mobilized to take political action and what kind of personal and public narratives inform their efforts to bring about social change.

FWIS 147 - AMERICA THROUGH FOREIGN EYES
Short Title: AMERICA THROUGH FOREIGN EYES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The United States has always been a source of fascination – both attraction and repulsion – for many people around the world. The course covers the perceptions and interactions of five regions – Africa, China, France, Mexico, and Russia – with America. It offers ways to approach cross-cultural study and concludes with a segment that "reverses the gaze" by analyzing American opinions of other cultures. "America through Foreign Eyes" addresses four overarching themes: 1) democracy and modernity; 2) globalization and capitalism; 3) racism and immigration; and 4) intellectual and cultural life.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)
FWIS 148 - THE DIRTY THIRTIES: LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND TOPOGRAPHY IN THE AMERICAN 1930S
Short Title: THE DIRTY THIRTIES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Description: Despite prevailing perceptions, the 1930s weren’t all dust and depression. The decade saw the advent of big band swing, both in music and dancing styles, the proliferation of films with sound, and exciting new styles of visual art and writing. American culture flourished both because and in spite of the Great Depression. In this course, we'll study the history, literature, music, art, and film of the vibrant but complex 1930s with an eye for how this decade helped define contemporary American culture.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Cannot register for FWIS 150 if student has credit for FSEM 171/MDEM 171/RELI 171.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)
FWIS 156 - SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION IN HOMER  
Short Title: SPEECH AND COMM IN HOMER  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: Introduces students to oral tradition, oral performance, oral poetics, and the Homeric poems. We will read the Iliad and Odyssey closely, focusing on the speeches, songs, and stories performed by characters, and considering what those performances suggest about the constructive and destructive use of speech in human relationships and societies.

FWIS 157 - LEGAL SPECULATIONS: FEMINIST APPROACHES TO LAW AND LITERATURE  
Short Title: LEGAL SPECULATIONS  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This class begins with two questions: what can the law teach us about literature and what can literature teach us about the law? The class will teach students fundamental college-level writing skills and analytical thought through the intersection of law and literature. We will engage with texts and multimedia from literary studies, legal studies, feminism, visual art and have the opportunity to speak with individuals working in the field of Human Rights Law as well as artists focusing on the implications of law in contemporary culture.

FWIS 158 - THE HOLOCAUST IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE  
Short Title: THE HOLOCAUST IN HISTORY  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course will examine the history of the Holocaust from early accounts to recent reconstructions of the origins, implementation, and aftermath of the “Final Solution.” We will also analyze documents, testimonies, memoirs, trial records, and various forms of representations and commemoration of the Shoah.

FWIS 159 - EXPLORING THE AMERICAN WILDERNESS: IDEAS, IDENTITY, & LEADERSHIP  
Short Title: WILDERNESS: IDEAS AND IDENTITY  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course will explore the idea of wilderness and its deeply rooted association with identity and leadership. Students will examine works from naturalists and environmentalists, explore the broader themes within the wild, and develop personal narratives and arguments to investigate our own treatment and relationship to these ideas.

FWIS 160 - GLOBAL ENGLISH: DIVERSITY, DEMAND, AND DOMINANCE  
Short Title: GLOBAL ENGLISH  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: In this course, students will consider how sociocultural, political, and economic factors have historically influenced decisions about language use in the context of English. In doing so, they will practice different forms of academic communication and refine skills fundamental to their success as critical thinkers, readers, and writers.

FWIS 161 - DETECTIVES & DETECTIONS  
Short Title: DETECTIVES & DETECTIONS  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course reads representations of struggle between detectives and those evading detection. Throughout, we will continually ask: What can “detection” teach us about the boundaries of national belonging? And how can we appropriate the lens of detection to improve our skills as academic readers and writers?

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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

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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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)  

FWIS 166 - ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE: WRITING ABOUT SPECULATIVE FICTION  
Short Title: SPECULATIVE FICTION  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: Speculative fiction are stories of possibility, of what our world might look like in another time and place. These authors use their literature to not only entertain—after all, androids and resurrected dinosaurs are fascinating—but also to speak to the developments and challenges of the present moment.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)  

FWIS 170 - "WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?"  
Short Title: "WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?"  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: Paying special attention to the experiences of immigrant, indigenous, and (formerly) enslaved peoples of the United States, this seminar takes a broad approach to the examination of “citizenship,” its global contexts, and its material domains, including education, identity, labor, language, sovereignty, and suffrage.
FWIS 171 - WORD MAGIC
Short Title: WORD MAGIC
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 172 - REPRESENTATIONS OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND MEDICINE
Short Title: WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND MEDICINE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In this course we will be discovering and creating knowledge surrounding texts about American women in science and medicine from the 19th century to today. This course is a writing workshop focused on writing and the critical thinking that occurs while we write—not before we write. We will hear from a multiplicity of voices across time, race, ethnicity, gender, genre, and class in order to explore crucial questions about writing, representation, health, illness, and social inequality.

FWIS 173 - LEGENDARY AMERICANS
Short Title: LEGENDARY AMERICANS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Cannot register for FWIS 173 if student has credit for FSEM 159/HIST 159.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 175 - SEEING SURVEILLANCE: WRITING WITH AND ABOUT SECURITY AND SOCIETY
Short Title: SEEING SURVEILLANCE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course requires students to read, write, and explore the nature of surveillance, security, and society by asking: What is surveillance? Why does it happen and who does it happen to? We will analyze how examples of surveillance shape and reshape cultures across the world.

FWIS 176 - WRITING WITH AND ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA
Short Title: WRITING SOCIAL MEDIA
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In this course, we will explore social media from a number of perspectives: we will learn its history; explore its technicalities; think critically about its contact; and ultimately seek to understand why and how social media has quickly become a mainstream tool for written and audiovisual communication.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for FWIS 177 if student has credit for FSEM 109.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)
FWIS 178 - GLOBALIZING MUSEUM HISTORY  
Short Title: GLOBALIZING MUSEUM HISTORY  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course traces a number of themes in world history through museums and collections from 1800s to the present. More specifically, the course examines how museums are shaped by local and global influences and participate in historical processes related to identity formation, colonialism, and resistance.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 179 - TRACKING DRAGONS THROUGH THE PAGES OF SHORT FICTION: THE ART OF READING CLOSELY  
Short Title: SHORT FICTION  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This will be a course on expressive writing and the art of reading; on great short fiction from Kafka to O’Conner; and on those obstacles—dragons that breathe fire across our paths—that stand in the way of our content in just those ways they derail the characters we read.  
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 180 - ECOLOGY, SPIRITUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
Short Title: ECOLOGY & SPIRITUALITY  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course will teach students to communicate about their world and their place in it, as they read material from religious studies, the ecological and biological sciences, and philosophy to better understand the ways in which the sciences and the religions overlap in history and in culture.

FWIS 182 - IN PURSUIT OF BEAUTY  
Short Title: IN PURSUIT OF BEAUTY  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: We value the beauty of bodies, of art, of nature, and of literature, but what do these different types of beauty share in common? And while commercialized norms of beauty have a negative influence on our lives, what role do other types of beauty have in enriching human experience?
consternation of apocalypse. Machines, Armageddon takes many forms. Structured around ways zombies to nuclear war, ecological disasters, aliens, disease and killer

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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://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 Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in the School of Architecture or School of Engineering colleges.
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: Cannot register for FWIS 188 if student has credit for ENGI 120.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 189 - POST-APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE AND FILM
Short Title: POSTAPOCALYPTIC LIT AND FILM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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.

FWIS 190 - ROBIN HOOD: NOT YOUR AVERAGE OUTLAW
Short Title: ROBIN HOOD
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course traces the development of the Robin Hood legend from 13th-century England to its global presence today. By examining different literary genres and visual mediums, this course explores what the legend teaches—beyond being wildly entertaining!—about issues of race, gender, religion, social justice, economics, and even environmentalism.

FWIS 191 - THE ART OF THE SHORT STORY
Short Title: THE ART OF THE SHORT STORY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: How exactly does the length of a piece of writing connect to its expression as a work of art and our interpretation of it? In this course, we'll consider "shortness" as a challenge authors undertake, investigating the ways they weave complex tales into brief, often pithy, masterpieces.

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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 - MATHEMATICAL WRITING
Short Title: MATHEMATICAL WRITING
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In this course, we will discuss how to read, write and present clear, complete and cogent mathematical proofs and to appreciate how such proofs are used in contemporary scholarly discourse. With a focus on expression but not disciplinary content, no mathematical training beyond high school algebra and exposure to geometry is necessary.
FWIS 194 - EMPIRES
Short Title: EMPIRES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 195 - VISUALIZING CONFLICT: ART AND WAR SINCE 1800
Short Title: ART AND WAR
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines the relationship between violent conflict and images from Napoleon to Saddam Hussein and the American to Syrian Civil Wars. We will explore the meanings behind images and learn how to analyze visual representations. We will discuss mediums including the war memorial, propaganda poster, painting, and photojournalism.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 196 - ASTRONOMICAL AMBITION: EXPLORING SCIENCE, SPACE, AND THE STARS THROUGH LITERATURE
Short Title: ASTRONOMICAL AMBITION
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course asks students to consider how the humanities and scientific disciplines approach truth, knowledge, and new dimensions of space, time, and thought. Students can expect to read material spanning from the J. J. Abrams’ Star Trek, to Isaac Asimov’s short stories, to works of scientific fiction that span millennia.

FWIS 197 - SCIENCE, PSEUDOSCIENCE AND SKEPTICISM: HOW TO TELL GOOD SCIENCE FROM JUNK SCIENCE
Short Title: SCIENCE OR PSEUDOSCIENCE?
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This class focuses on scientific skepticism and critical thinking, and how they can be utilized to distinguish science from pseudoscience. Core topics include the fallibility of perception; mechanisms of self-deception; as well as metacognition, cognitive biases and logical fallacies. These topics will be illustrated through examples of good and bad science.

FWIS 198 - DEVILS IN THE DETAILS: VISUALIZING DEMONS AND THE DEMONIZED
Short Title: VISUALIZING DEMONS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines beliefs about demons and devils and analyzes their influence in different visual mediums, such as: medieval manuscripts, Renaissance frescos, nineteenth-century gargoyles, and recent TV programs and films. In examining the demonic body, students will also unpack how and why different categories humans are demonized.

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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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.
University Courses (UNIV)

UNIV 600 - INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC READING AND WRITING FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS

Short Title: ACADEMIC READING AND WRITING
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 2
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course teaches fundamental academic reading and writing skills to international graduate students in the first two years of their studies. Students will learn how scholars construct arguments and use evidence to support claims, and they will practice writing texts that are relevant to their own courses and careers.

UNIV 601 - ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS

Short Title: ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 2
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course provides students with strategies to improve oral communication skills necessary for academic and professional success in North American contexts. Students will learn how to overcome common and individual challenges related to pronunciation clarity, small group interactions, and formal presentations. Final projects will be related to students’ studies or research.

UNIV 602 - ADVANCED ACADEMIC WRITING FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS

Short Title: ADVANCED ACADEMIC WRITING
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 2
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course will address writing at both the macro- and micro-level, engaging students in such academic writing tasks as critiquing, reporting, and interpreting research findings, illustrating and justifying the significance of research, while also attending to mechanical topics. Writing assignments in the course will be linked to students’ studies, courses, or research. One-on-one conferences with instructors and CAPC staff will be required.

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