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.

For courses that satisfy the First-Year Writing Intensive Seminar University Graduation Requirement (ga.rice.edu/undergraduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/graduation-requirements), please see Rice’s Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu).

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

Program Director
Jennifer Wilson

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/SWKSCAT.cata)
To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/SWKSCAT.cata)

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/

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 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 medial, 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/

FWIS 103 - HISTORICAL DEBATES OVER THE CONFEDERATE FLAG
Short Title: DEBATES OVER CONFEDERATE FLAG
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 Confederate Flag is one of America's most contentious symbols. This course will study points in time when the flag's meaning has come up for debate. We will read and discuss primary and secondary readings covering certain points in history when the flag became a flashpoint.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

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/

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/

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 Beauvior, Malcolm X, Marcuse, Baudrillard.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 108 - GRAPHIC NOVELS AND THE ART OF COMMUNICATION
Short Title: GRAPHIC NOVELS
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 their inception, graphic novels have always showed a deep connection to the historical events, anxieties, and struggles that surrounded their creation. In this course, we will examine graphic novels from a variety of perspectives, including the historical, the political, the social, and the literary.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
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/

Short Title: BIRTH OF GODS/JUSTICE ORIGINS
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: Participants draft short papers weekly. Writing and class discussion are based on Hesiod’s Theogony (creation myth) and Works and Days (early Greek wisdom literature). Each participant also leads one class discussion of secondary literature. No exams or quizzes. Final paper is a revised and extended version of a previous draft. This course is eligible for credit toward the major in Classical Studies.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

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 level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Examines the battle for authority over foundational stories about Texas independence, as it plays out in fiction on the page and on the screen. Introduces key concepts related to Chicano studies, the genre of historical fiction, and the relationship of marginalized groups to national and regional histories.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 - INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE: DRAMA, POETRY, AND FICTION
Short Title: INTRODUCTION TO 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: 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate level students.
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: 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-cent. social movements. This course is eligible for credit toward the major in History.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 117 - ART IN PLACE & 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: 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.
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: 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.
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: 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 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: 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.
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: 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/
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/

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/

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/

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/

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/

FWIS 127 - FEMINIST FABULATIONS: SF BY WOMEN
Short Title: FEMINIST FABULATIONS
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 offers an introduction to speculative fiction by women. Through our readings, we will examine how women writers have employed SF to think imaginatively about the feminist concerns of issues ranging from gender roles, sexual identity, and reproductive rights to technological development, climate change, economic exploitation, and racial justice.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 128 - PERSONALITY TRAITS AND TYPES OF INTELLIGENCE THROUGH THEIR LINGUISTIC MANIFESTATION
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
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
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 - THE WAR ON DRUGS
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/

FWIS 132 - SLAVERY ON FILM
Description: This course will examine the Third Reich and the Holocaust from the perspective of women as perpetrators and as victims. Hollywood has dealt with American slavery. 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/

FWIS 133 - WOMEN AND THE HOLOCAUST: VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS
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/

FWIS 134 - MEDIEVAL PILGRIMAGE: THE ROAD TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA
Description: Over 300,000 pilgrims walked the Camino to Santiago de Compostela last year. This seminar investigates the origins and growth of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages. Primary texts, novels, films, and the rich visual culture of the period will be examined to better understand the historical context of this enduring ritual.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 135 - CHILDHOOD ON FILM
Description: This course 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: 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 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 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/

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/

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/

FWIS 142 - WATER ADN 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/
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/

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/

FWIS 145 - POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES: DEFINITIONS, DETERMINANTS, AND DEBATES
Short Title: POVERTY IN THE U.S.
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 reading and writing intensive course, we will examine contemporary trends in poverty, driving mechanisms of inequality and the unequal distribution of poverty across race, gender, family structure, and immigration status. The course will also explore the development and effectiveness of various anti-poverty programs.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 146 - OF GODS AND ALIENS, SAINTS AND CYBORGS: RELIGION AND SCIENCE FICTION
Short Title: RELIGION AND SCIENCE 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: In this FWIS course we study the numerous intersections between science fiction and religion. We explore the prevalence of religious themes in science fiction narratives -- God, creation, messiah, apocalypse -- and the ways in which science fiction has formed the basis for religious mythologies and movements such as Matrixism.
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: 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 the French. This studies American culture and identity as revealed by transatlantic encounters with the French. We will study French intellectuals' observations (de Tocqueville, de Beauvoir) as well as images of America in French popular culture (comic strips, films).
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The course will consider the life and thought 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 - LEFT OUT: THE INTERSECTION OF DISABILITY AND SOCIETY
Short Title: DISABILITY AND 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 course will examine the historical segregation experienced by people with disabilities, and the particular prejudice they encounter from childhood through adulthood. Discussion will concentrate on the spectrum of disability, the unique (and sometimes incomparable) experiences across disabilities, and there role of visibility and comorbidity on a quality of life outcomes.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 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:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**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](http://pwc.rice.edu)

FWIS 158 - THE NEED TO HELP: HUMANITARIAN NARRATIVES ACROSS LITERARY GENRES  
**Short Title:** HUMANITARIAN 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:** Through exploring the writings of novelists, journalists, anthropologists, historians, philanthropists, humanitarian workers, and NGO workers, this course begins with the question: What does it mean to intervene in the life of another? It will critically examine historical and contemporary examples of humanitarian narratives and intervention across geographies and eras.  
**Course URL:** [pwc.rice.edu](http://pwc.rice.edu)

FWIS 159 - KNOW THYSELF: VISUALIZING THE HUMAN BODY  
**Short Title:** KNOW THYSELF  
**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 history of medical illustrations across centuries and cultures, demonstrating how these images present cultural ideals and beliefs in addition to scientific information. Emphasis is placed on critically interpreting images and improving writing, offering an introduction to writing within the disciplines of art history and medical humanities.  
**Course URL:** [pwc.rice.edu](http://pwc.rice.edu)

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.  
**Course URL:** [pwc.rice.edu](http://pwc.rice.edu)

FWIS 161 - FEMINIST CRITIQUES OF THE BIBLE  
**Short Title:** FEMINIST CRITIQUE OF THE BIBLE  
**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 treatments of gender in the Bible, focusing primarily on feminist critiques. Students will be challenged to read critically and formulate informed interpretations based on their own close reading of the biblical text and in discussion with major, mostly contributors to feminist theology and feminist biblical criticism.  
**Course URL:** [pwc.rice.edu](http://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:** 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)
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/

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 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: 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/

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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 - NETWORKS
Short Title: NETWORKS
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 analyzes social, cultural, and literary networks, examining how they provide paradigms for life in a globalized world. Our readings cover topics in network theory, literary analysis, sociology, and political science. As we trace the complexities of connectivity, we will also hone our critical thinking, research, and writing skills.
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: 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/

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/
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: 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/

FWIS 172 - CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON DISABILITY
Short Title: DISABILITY MATTERS
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: With the help of critical disability studies and anthropology of disability scholarship, this course unpacks dominant cultural assumptions about disability. We approach disability as an embodied experience, conditioned by political, sociocultural and economic forces. Finally, we examine the ways in which disability is experienced and viewed as valuable and desirable.
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: 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: Credit cannot be earned for FWIS 173 and FSEM 159/HIST 159.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 174 - INVENTED LANGUAGES: FROM ESPERANTO TO DOTHRAKI
Short Title: INVENTED LANGUAGES
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 are constructed languages (‘conlangs’) like Dothraki from “Game of Thrones” invented? In this writing-intensive course, students learn about both past and present conlangs: their histories, goals, grammars, storylines, and more. Additionally, students think critically about the linguistic arguments motivating the storylines behind these conlangs.

FWIS 175 - THE MEDIEVAL CITY
Short Title: THE MEDIEVAL CITY
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 life in the medieval city as it has been documented, studied, and imagined over time. Streets, daily life, guilds, trade fairs, cathedrals, processions, hospitals, universities, plagues, and revolts will be considered. Students will be introduced to ArcGIS Story Maps software and Rice’s DAVinCI Visualization Wall.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
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.
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/

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.
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: Credit cannot be earned for FWIS 177 and FSEM 109.
Course URL: 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.
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/

FWIS 179 - LOVE AND DEATH IN FILM AND FICTION: THE ART OF READING CLOSELY
Short Title: LOVE & DEATH IN FILM & 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.
Description: This course will explore film and stories about marriage and affection, prejudice and obsession, alienation and loss. As students write and revise, share work and present ideas, we will create a field of writerly expression scholarly and personal, analytical and reflective - a source of confidence rather than trepidation.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 180 - MYTHS OF THE SPANISH CONQUEST
Short Title: MYTHS OF THE SPANISH CONQUEST
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: Students will be introduced to historical debates surrounding the Spanish Conquest and will be provided with the tools to rethink traditional narratives. Each will have to decide which revised myths are convincing, or unconvincing, and decide how to best re-write the history of the Conquest.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Description: This course explores frictions and affinities between Art and Science. It examines at 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Graduate Professional or Visiting Graduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The course will introduce 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/

Short Title: RELIGION AND SPORTS IN AMERICA
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Graduate Professional or Visiting Graduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Graduate Professional or Visiting Graduate level students.
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/

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, Graduate Professional or Visiting Graduate 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/

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, Graduate Professional or Visiting Graduate 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: Credit cannot be earned for FWIS 188 and ENGI 120.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 189 - POST-APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE AND FILM
Short Title: POST-APOCALYPTIC LIT AND FILM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Graduate Professional or Visiting Graduate 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 - 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Graduate Professional or Visiting Graduate level students.
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 - NARRATIVES OF DISPLACEMENT: MIGRANT EXPERIENCES
IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION
Short Title: MIGRANT EXPERIENCES
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 the human experience of global migration and its representation in literature. Students will examine recent short stories, novels, and films by and about migrants and refugees to consider the ethical and social justice implications of mass displacement in the age of globalization.

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 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/

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/

FWIS 196 - BUSINESS IN THE AMERICAN IMAGINATION
Short Title: LITERATURE AND BUSINESS
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 business narratives and tropes in American fiction, non-fiction, and visual art from the 18th-century to the present. On the road to improving their written and verbal communication skills, students will consider an array of allegories, motifs, and plots about the profits and pitfalls of American commerce cultures.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 197 - 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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:** 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.

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**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