PROGRAM IN WRITING AND COMMUNICATION

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

The PWC provides oversight for the First-Year Writing-Intensive Seminars (FWIS). FWIS are content-based, 3-credit hour seminars in which writing and communication pedagogy plays a significant role in assignments and grading. The courses reflect a 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 (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
Vasudha Bharadwaj
Elizabeth Cummins-Muñoz
Lina Dib

Andrew Klein
David Messmer
Burke Nixon

Teaching Fellows
Mark Celeste
Jessica Hagan
Brittany Henry

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

Communication (COMM)

COMM 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Independent Study, Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Seminar, Lecture/Laboratory
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours vary each semester. Contact department for current semester’s topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

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 Upper-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.

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 - THE INTERSECTION OF CULTURE AND HEALTHCARE
Short Title: CULTURE AND HEALTHCARE
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: Research has demonstrated that minority patients experience lower standards of healthcare. This course is designed to explore this phenomenon by examining the role of culture in healthcare. This FWIS will introduce students to interdisciplinary ways of reading and writing, drawing from fields including medicine, policy, public health, sociology, and psychology.

FWIS 103 - RUNNING EFFECTIVE POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS
Short Title: POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS
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: Each year, thousands of would-be office holders hit the campaign trail in order to whip up support and increase their chances of victory. How can political candidates ensure their success? In this course, students will identify and analyze the characteristics of successful campaigns and victorious candidates.

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/

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/

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.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 111 - WRITING THE UNIVERSITY
Short Title: WRITING THE UNIVERSITY
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: 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.

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.

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.

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, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting 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.

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 AND PLACES FOR ART
Short Title: ART IN PLACE & PLACES FOR ART
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: 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
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/

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/
**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/  

**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 will examine the Third Reich and the Holocaust from the perspective of women as perpetrators and as victims.  
*Course URL:* 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/  

**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/  

**FWIS 134 - 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:* 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.  
*Course URL:* pwc.rice.edu/  

**FWIS 135 - CHILDHOOD ON FILM**
*Short Title:* CHILDHOOD ON FILM  
*Department:* First-Year Writing Intensive  
*Grade Mode:* Standard Letter  
*Course Type:* Seminar  
*Credit Hours:* 3  
*Restrictions:* 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/  

**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 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 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:* 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.  
*Course URL:* 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.  
*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 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/

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 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.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
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/

FWIS 149 - MAGIC, MEDICINE, AND MIRACLE IN ANTIQUITY
Short Title: MAGIC, MEDICINE, AND MIRACLE
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: Examines the topic of magic, medicine, and miracle in the ancient Mediterranean world. Students receive frequent regular practice at close-reading primary texts, assessing scholarly arguments, analytical writing, and oral communication. Through this practice, the course introduces students to the disciplines of religious studies, classics, history, and medical humanities. Includes an oral presentation component of the student’s choice. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for FWIS 149 if student has credit for CLAS 303.

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: Cannot register for FWIS 150 if student has credit for FSEM 171/MDM 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 - SWIPED: INVESTIGATING STOLEN BOOKS
Short Title: INVESTIGATING STOLEN BOOKS
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: When booksellers report on the titles that tend to walk off their shelves, they mention the same names time and again. This course studies the most stolen books. It is designed to develop critical reading and writing abilities and to enhance knowledge of contemporary literature through an exploration of literary larceny.

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 - 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 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: Food and Culture asks students to investigate the cultural meaning of food practices as an important part of the human experience. This involves questions primarily aimed at archaeological cultures, but we will also consider relevant issues in our society and others in our world today. Through this topic, our primary goal is to identify ways to become better communicators and improve writing skills by building compelling and well-supported arguments appropriate for the social sciences.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 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: 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/
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/

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 - GENETIC ENGINEERING AND THE FUTURE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION
Short Title: GENETIC ENG & HUMAN EVOLUTION
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 examines the science and history of genetic editing, conflicting and converging perspectives surrounding this field, and implications for the future of human evolution. Emphasis is placed on critical reading of scholarly literature, analysis of popular media, cross-disciplinary discussion, and research-based writing.
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: Cannot register for FWIS 173 if student has credit for FSEM 159/HIST 159.
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.
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/

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/

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/

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/

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.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
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 181 - DECONSTRUCTING THE HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO
Short Title: DECONSTRUCTING HOUSTON RODEO
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 learn about social issues, volunteerism, and philanthropy through the lens of a critical case study of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo by utilizing experiential learning opportunities to investigate the success and criticism that have faced the organization.
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.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
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, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The class will introduce the concept of culture, the theoretical approaches anthropologist use to study and represent groups of people, the field of ethnographic research and the methods ethnographers use, and the ethical issues involved in studying and representing populations.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/

FWIS 184 - BASEBALL AND AMERICAN IDENTITY
Short Title: BASEBALL AND AMERICAN 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: Like America itself, baseball has long been the subject of eulogies and postmortems. At a time of renewed policing regarding who or what “counts” as American, baseball provides an opportunity to reflect on not only the game of baseball, but also what baseball teaches us about the subject of writing.

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, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate 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 186 - CARIBBEAN ECOLOGIES
Short Title: CARIBBEAN ECOLOGIES
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: Colonization, slavery, and climate change have violently disrupted the relationship between humans and nature in the Caribbean. We will examine colonial diaries, memoirs of the Haiti earthquake and Haitian ‘salvage art’, reef restoration art, and stories about food and history (and more!) to explore creative responses to this ecological vulnerability.

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/

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/
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, 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 - 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, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate 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: 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/
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 198 - 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 course will examine philosophical topics relating consciousness and value. Some of the questions we will examine include: Why is pain bad and pleasure good? Could there be value in a world without any conscious beings? Is consciousness itself valuable? Could non-conscious entities, such as plants or computer programs, have moral status? What makes death bad? Some of the philosophical concepts we will examine include concepts of phenomenal consciousness, intrinsic value vs. instrumental value, moral status, and well-being. The course will serve as an introduction to both the philosophy of mind and value theory. Readings will be centered on contemporary articles in analytic philosophy.

**FWIS 196 - CONSCIOUSNESS AND VALUE**

**Short Title:** CONSCIOUSNESS AND VALUE  
**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 philosophical topics relating consciousness and value. Some of the questions we will examine include: Why is pain bad and pleasure good? Could there be value in a world without any conscious beings? Is consciousness itself valuable? Could non-conscious entities, such as plants or computer programs, have moral status? What makes death bad? Some of the philosophical concepts we will examine include concepts of phenomenal consciousness, intrinsic value vs. instrumental value, moral status, and well-being. The course will serve as an introduction to both the philosophy of mind and value theory. Readings will be centered on contemporary articles in analytic philosophy.

**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 will introduce students to expectations and assumptions of North American audiences for spoken English, strategies for expressing ideas in individual and group conversations in academic settings, and oral skills needed for academic presentations. Pronunciation challenges will be diagnosed for individual students, accompanied by relevant exercises for self-study. Final projects will be related to students’ studies or research.
UNIV 602 - ACADEMIC WRITING FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS
Short Title: 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 CWOVC 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