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 and courses for international graduate students under the COMM designation and subject code.

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 on written, oral, and visual projects. 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/.

To satisfy the writing and communication graduation requirement, all undergraduate students must complete the following during their first year at Rice:

1. Placement Requirement: Students must either receive a FWIS (Fall or Spring) placement based on the Composition Exam, or complete a FWIS 100 Introduction to Academic Writing course;

2. First Year Writing Intensive Seminar: Students must complete a FWIS course numbered 101-199.

For courses that satisfy the First-Year Writing Intensive Seminar University Graduation Requirement (https://qa.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 S. Wilson

Lecturers
Katerina Belik
Vasudha Bharadwaj
Elizabeth Cummins-Muñoz
Lina Dib
Andrew Klein
David Messmer
Burke Nixon
Laura Richardson

Teaching Fellows
Baird Campbell
Evan Choate
Layla Seale

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

Communication (COMM)

COMM 237 - ORAL COMMUNICATION IN PRACTICE AND THEORY
Short Title: THEORIES OF ORAL COMMUNICATION
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 class will aim to provide students with both a practical and theoretical framework for improving their oral presentation skills while fostering a level of self-awareness regarding the social constructions governing traditional “best practices.”

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.

COMM 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.

COMM 601 - ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS
Short Title: ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 2
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course provides students with strategies to improve oral communication skills necessary for academic and professional success in North American contexts. Students will learn how to overcome common and individual challenges related to pronunciation clarity, small group interactions, and formal presentations. Final projects will be related to students' studies or research. Repeatable for Credit.

COMM 602 - ADVANCED ACADEMIC WRITING FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS
Short Title: ADVANCED ACADEMIC WRITING
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 2
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course addresses 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 will be required.

COMM 605 - ADVANCED ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS
Short Title: ADVANCED ENGLISH COMMUNICATION
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Course Type: Independent Study
Credit Hour: 1
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This independent study course may be taken on its own or in conjunction with one of the other credit-bearing English communication courses. Students will work on a particular communication skill (reading, writing, speaking, listening) or combination of skills under the guidance of an ESL expert. Instructor Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

COMM 677 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Program Writing Communication
Grade Mode: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Course Type: Seminar, Independent Study, Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Lecture/Laboratory
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Topics and credit hours vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.
FWIS 100 - INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING
Short Title: INTRO TO ACADEMIC 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: This topic-based course prepares students who need more time and practice in reading and writing to meet the more advanced communication demands of a FWIS. Through the study of one of several academic topics, 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 coursework and learn to self-edit their own work. This course does not fulfill the Composition Requirement.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/our-programs/first-year-writing-intensive-seminars/fwis-100-overview (/http://pwc.rice.edu/our-programs/first-year-writing-intensive-seminars/fwis-100-overview/)

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/ (/http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 102 - BLIND SPOTS: CRITICAL APPROACHES TO VISUAL CULTURE
Short Title: BLIND SPOTS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The blind spot of "the act of seeing" is its social construction, its ideological nature. This seminar unveils the various historical, political, economic, and social "filters" that condition our decoding of visual information. This writing seminar aims at developing skills to de-naturalize the "act of seeing."

FWIS 103 - WOMEN ARTISTS: VON BINGEN TO BEYONCÉ
Short Title: WOMEN ARTISTS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course examines female-identifying painters, sculptors, performance artists and musicians from the Middle Ages through modern-day United States. Each week we will read and write about the work of a different artist and discuss their ongoing cultural impact. We will ask: How do we define a female artist? What is the role of gender, sexuality, race, or class in their artistic production?

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

FWIS 105 - GREEK MYTH IN WORDS: HESIOD AND THE HOMERIC HYMNS
Short Title: GREEK MYTH IN WORDS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Presents texts fundamental to understanding Greek myth through the regular practice of reading, writing, and oral communication. Emphasizing textual interpretation and writing as process and practice, this course clarifies the purpose and conventions of the academic argumentative essay. Frequent brief writing assignments. Peer review plays an integral role. No exams.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (/http://pwc.rice.edu/)
Poisons aren’t what they seem. Sometimes they look like food. Sometimes they look like drugs. From cinnabar to cinnamon, from dragon blood to goat bezoars, poisons are the result of careful human construction, collection, and creation. They are objects of early chemistry. Far from killing us, poisons have been central to the history of medicine. Physicians in the past and present monitor dosage, drug combination, and drug preparation to mitigate poison toxicity while still maintaining therapeutic potencies of drugs. Knowledge about poisons, in other words, quietly undergirds most of human civilization. Poisons are what keep us alive. Or not.
FWIS 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.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 114 - WASTE, TRASH, POLLUTION
Short Title: WASTE, TRASH, POLLUTION
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 do we as a society know that something is waste? How does something valuable later become trash, or vice versa? This course looks at waste, trash, and pollution from the perspective of culture and sociality. Through reading ethnographies, we'll analyze how waste draws social boundaries and enacts cultural meanings.

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

FWIS 116 - AMERICAN JOURNEYS
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/ (http://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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 118 - ISLAM AND POLITICS
Short Title: ISLAM AND 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: The course examines developments in religion and politics in the Islamic societies of the Middle East, from the time of the Prophet Muhammad's reign in Medina to the fall of the Ottoman Empire early in the 20th century.
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](http://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](http://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](http://pwc.rice.edu/)  

FWIS 122 - LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP: WHAT WE KNOW, WHAT WE BELIEVE  
Short Title: LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: For over a hundred years social scientists have studied leaders and leadership. The popular press and media pundits continue to expound on the topic with conflicting views. Students will explore what they believe and what science informs us about leaders and leadership and share their analyses through discussions, writing, and oral presentations.  
Course URL: [pwc.rice.edu](http://pwc.rice.edu/)  

FWIS 123 - STAR WARS AND THE WRITING OF POPULAR CULTURE  
Short Title: STAR WARS & WRITING CULTURE  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course will unpack the cultural legacy of the Star Wars films through traditional literary analysis and close reading, by situating the films historically, and by considering the ways that the films reflect attitudes towards a variety of social issues, such as spirituality/religion, philosophy, race, gender, class, nationality, and imperialism.  
Course URL: [pwc.rice.edu](http://pwc.rice.edu/)  

FWIS 124 - WITNESSING THE HOLOCAUST  
Short Title: WITNESSING THE HOLOCAUST  
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level  
Description: This course will examine selected testimony given by Holocaust survivors. Their testimony varies according to time and the circumstance in which it was given and also according to the genre (film, memoir, drama) in which it is presented.  
Course URL: [pwc.rice.edu](http://pwc.rice.edu/)
FWIS 125 - YOUR ARABIAN NIGHTS
Short Title: YOUR ARABIAN NIGHTS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The Arabian Nights is one of the best known yet poorly understood literary masterpieces. It has been passed down orally in wiring, in performance and film; in multiple languages, and with different collections of stories. What is your Arabian Nights? We will consider stories of the Nights through both a literary and historical lens, and we will consider stories, films, and works of art that were inspired by the Nights in different cultures.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 126 - HISTORY OF VIDEO GAMES
Short Title: VIDEO GAMES
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 history of video games from multiple perspectives: what they're like to play, how they were developed, their impact on society, their reflection of cultural identities, their economic success or failure, their relationship to the law, their artistry, and their place in game development.

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

FWIS 128 - PERSONALITY TRAITS AND TYPES OF INTELLIGENCE THROUGH THEIR LINGUISTIC MANIFESTATION
Short Title: INNER DIMENSIONS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Exploring theories on personality traits and types of intelligence, students will learn more about themselves and others. We will discuss how our verbal behavior reflects our personality.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 129 - CHINGIS KHAN AND THE EMPIRE OF THE MONGOLS
Short Title: THE EMPIRE OF THE MONGOLS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In the thirteenth century, the Mongols conquered China, Eastern Europe and Middle East. This class explores empire building, warfare, government and steppe culture, through reading the letters and memoirs of Mongols, merchants, travelers and adventurers. The students will work closely with primary sources to develop analytical writing skills.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 130 - WRITING EVERYDAY LIFE
Short Title: WRITING EVERYDAY LIFE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course is dedicated to the poetics of everyday life. It draws from the forms and colors of what surrounds us day-to-day, from landscapes, to bodies and objects. Students develop research and writing skills through creative fieldwork assignments and workshops. This course is eligible for credit toward the major in Anthropology.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

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

FWIS 132 - SLAVERY ON FILM
Short Title: SLAVERY ON FILM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will look at the ways major Hollywood (or equivalent) films have dealt with chattel slavery in the United States. We will explore the general question of how feature films deal with controversial historical issues by analyzing more specifically how Hollywood has dealt with American slavery.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)
FWIS 133 - WOMEN AND THE HOLOCAUST: VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS
Short Title: WOMEN AND THE HOLOCAUST
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will examine the Third Reich and the Holocaust from the perspective of women as perpetrators and as victims.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 134 - GLOBAL CRISES AND POLITICS
Short Title: GLOBAL CRISES AND 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: This course examines the role of political actors and institutions in managing and resolving global crises. Students will learn about the nature of international politics, identify how global actors can coordinate actions to respond to different global crises such as pandemics, armed conflict, and climate change, and analyze the consequences of different policy responses.

FWIS 135 - CHILDHOOD ON FILM
Short Title: CHILDHOOD ON FILM
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This seminar examines the filmic representation of childhood across diverse historical periods and places. Of concern will be issues including children’s relations to nature, language and sexuality; modern systems of education; children’s perception of race; and childhood as a cinematic metaphor. Meetings will be based in discussion of films and critical texts.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

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

FWIS 137 - POP MUSIC AND AMERICAN CULTURE
Short Title: POP MUSIC & AMERICAN CULTURE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Recent cultural movements encourage a more serious exploration of popular music. This course will participate by taking a critical look at what 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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 138 - A SEAT AT THE TABLE: THE CULTURE, HISTORY, AND RHETORIC OF FOOD
Short Title: THE RHETORIC OF FOOD
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 examine the way food and food rhetorics shape our perceptions of the self and our connections to larger civic issues surrounding food. Core topics include: food as an identity marker, the appropriation and sanitization of global cuisines, and the rise of foodie culture and food tourism.

FWIS 139 - PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM IN MEDICINE
Short Title: PHOTOGRAPHY & FILM IN 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: Medical photographs and films are not only visual pieces of scientific documentation but also pieces of historical, social, and aesthetic significance and interpretation. The crucial tension between science and aesthetics is the focus of this writing-intensive course that explores medical images used in clinical settings and popular culture.

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, can we identify? How do we correct them? 
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)
YOUTH ACTIVISM & SOCIAL CHANGE

Description: Young people are leading their communities, influencing policy, and shaping discourse on some of the most pressing social issues of our time. This course explores how youth become mobilized to take political action and what kind of personal and public narratives inform their efforts to bring about social change.

Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level

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

Course URL: http://pwc.rice.edu/

TECHNOLOGIES OF TASTE

Description: Does pineapple belong on pizza? Does red Gatorade taste better than blue? Many of our favorite flavors are produced and marketed by food science and the food industry. This writing-intensive seminar investigates how technologies of taste shape our palates and the ways we think and write about what we eat.

Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level

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

Course URL: http://pwc.rice.edu/

WATER AND CITIES

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 Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level

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

Course URL: http://pwc.rice.edu/

WRITING ABOUT GREEK DRAMA

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 Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level

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

Course URL: http://pwc.rice.edu/

AMERICA THROUGH FOREIGN EYES

Description: The United States has always been a source of fascination — both attraction and repulsion — for many people around the world. The course covers the perceptions and interactions of five regions – Africa, China, France, Mexico, and Russia – with America. It offers ways to approach cross-cultural study and concludes with a segment that “reverses the gaze” by analyzing American opinions of other cultures. "America through Foreign Eyes" addresses four overarching themes: 1) democracy and modernity; 2) globalization and capitalism; 3) racism and immigration; and 4) intellectual and cultural life.

Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level

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

Course URL: http://pwc.rice.edu/

SHAPING THE FUTURE: DILEMMAS OF SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Description: This course explores some of the most prominent debates arising from modern science and uses them to investigate the ways in which science and society communicate with and shape one another. Topics will vary from genetic engineering to space colonization, to those chosen by students themselves. All majors welcome.

Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level

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

Course URL: http://pwc.rice.edu/

GRAPHIC MEDICINE

Description: Do graphic novels reflect perceptions of medicine? Can comics orient our notion of care? Formally dependent on interruption, graphic novels demonstrate the complexity of reading—reading texts, reading bodies, reading trauma. Thus, our class will grapple with disruption and healing in comics and will consider these implications for medical practice. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for FWIS 149 if student has credit for CLAS 303.

Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level

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

Course URL: http://pwc.rice.edu/
FWIS 150 - THE WORLD OF MEDIEVAL MEDICINE
Short Title: THE WORLD OF MEDIEVAL MEDICINE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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/MDEM 171/RELI 171.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 151 - MAKING SENSE OF OURSELVES: THE ART OF THE PERSONAL ESSAY
Short Title: MAKING SENSE OF OURSELVES
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 and examines the personal essay as a vehicle for discovery, critical thinking, and self-scrutiny. Students will read great essays from the past and present, write a variety of essays themselves, and analyze the form to draw larger conclusions about thoughtful and engaging writing in any genre.

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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 153 - THE POWERS OF HORROR
Short Title: THE POWERS OF HORROR
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 focuses on how narratives of horror call attention to broad forms of injustice. It examines literary, graphic, and filmic examples of horror from its radical queer beginnings in Horace Walpole's The Castle of Otranto, all the way to Jordan Peele's unflinching examination of racism in Get Out.

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/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 155 - WRITING ASIAN FOOD IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION
Short Title: WRITING ASIAN FOOD
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 exposes students to the exercise of writing about Asian food. Students engage in the activity of "converting" multisensory experience, i.e. eating food, into writing on the one hand and think about transnational Asian food in the context of globalizing world.

FWIS 156 - SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION IN HOMER
Short Title: SPEECH AND COMM IN HOMER
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Introduces students to oral tradition, oral performance, oral poetics, and the Homeric poems. We will read the Iliad and Odyssey closely, focusing on the speeches, songs, and stories performed by characters, and considering what those performances suggest about the constructive and destructive use of speech in human relationships and societies.
FWIS 157 - TRAVEL AND MODERN ASIA: LIVED EXPERIENCES ACROSS TIME AND SPACE
Short Title: TRAVEL AND MODERN ASIA
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course explores the act of walking, in theory and in practice. Through readings, discussions, writing assignments, and group and individual walks, it examines questions about the body and its movements; the construction and navigation of space; the tradition of travel writing; and the relationship between walking and thinking.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

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

FWIS 159 - VOICING DISSENT: MUSIC AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
Short Title: VOICING DISSENT
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 offers an introduction, through a musical lens, into key popular grassroots social movements that have taken place around the world in the last century. Music serves as a stepping stone to discuss both the broader histories of the movements and the foundational relationships between art and social change.

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

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

FWIS 162 - CRITICAL THINKING IN DEMOCRACY
Short Title: CRITICAL THINKING IN DEMOCRACY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Critical thinking runs counter to inherent tendencies toward confirmation bias in decision making. In the political realm, this conflict is often exploited by governmental leaders and media to control specific outcomes. Students in this class will learn to develop their critical thinking and analytical skills in the context of a democratic society.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 163 - INVENTING THE BARD: A CULTURAL HISTORY OF SHAKESPEARE
Short Title: INVENTING THE BARD
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 confronts the political and cultural legacies of Shakespeare’s plays and poems through the history of his evolution from a working actor and playwright in the London theater to the “Bard of Avon,” a mythologized author at the center of the English literary canon.

FWIS 164 - WAYS OF WALKING IN LITERATURE AND CULTURE
Short Title: WAYS OF WALKING
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course explores the act of walking, in theory and in practice. Through readings, discussions, writing assignments, and group and individual walks, it examines questions about the body and its movements; the construction and navigation of space; the tradition of travel writing; and the relationship between walking and thinking.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)
FWIS 165 - REINVENTING WALT DISNEY: THE RHETORIC AND REIMAGINING OF DISNEY
Short Title: THE RHETORIC OF DISNEY
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 study Disney and explore what happens when a company who gains its audiences' trust so early continues to rewrite its past—and our own. Core topics will also include race and gender in Disney animation and the Disneyfication of mythology and fairy tales.

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.

FWIS 167 - BOOKS YOU CAN'T PUT DOWN: AN EXPLORATION OF THE READING EXPERIENCE
Short Title: BOOKS YOU CAN'T PUT DOWN
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 it about certain books that draws us in and keeps us turning the page? To answer this question, this class examines selected works of fiction and creative nonfiction with a focus on literary form, the psycho-social functions of narrative, and the physical and emotional experience of reading.

FWIS 168 - CASE STUDIES OF BUILDING DESIGN PROBLEMS
Short Title: BUILDING DESIGN PROBLEMS
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: We will analyze buildings that ended up in legal battles. Problems include structural failures, design blunders and near disasters. You will write about what went wrong and why, who saved that day and who should have acted differently. You will learn to write critically and present a convincing argument.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 169 - WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?
Short Title: WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: We hear and talk about "human rights" frequently, but few of us have an easy time defining ideas so inherently contested and pitted against one another. This class will read, discuss, and write about the history and future of human rights in the United States and elsewhere in the world.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

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

FWIS 171 - MENTAL HEALTH IN LITERATURE, FILM, AND SOCIAL MEDIA
Short Title: MENTAL HEALTH IN LIT & 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: How have literature, film, and social media represented the changing history of mental health? Have our understandings of conditions like depression, schizophrenia, anxiety, and psychosis come to be thought as, themselves, essentially cinematic and literary experiences? Has social media now assumed some of this responsibility of narration and explanation? And if so, to what end?

FWIS 172 - SITES, SOUNDS, & STORIES: THE RHETORIC OF PUBLIC MEMORY
Short Title: RHETORIC OF PUBLIC MEMORY
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 invites students to consider whose stories we remember, and how/when/where. How does the framing of historical events bolster or disrupt dominant narratives of public memory? Students will examine scholarship on public memory and conduct analyses of the sites, sounds, and stories of national and local histories.
FWIS 173 - DESCRIBING THE ABSTRACT: COMMUNICATING THE MYSTERIES OF MATHEMATICS
Short Title: DESCRIBING THE ABSTRACT
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: Mathematics is beautiful, and this course will help us see how. Students will develop the skills to describe mathematics, ancient to cutting-edge, with accurate, exciting, and compelling prose. Along the way, they will learn about mysteries and solutions from pockets of the diverse and flourishing world of mathematics. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for FWIS 173 if student has credit for FSEM 159/HIST 159.

FWIS 174 - SOUNDING THE CITY
Short Title: SOUNDING THE 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: Sound surrounds us. And yet we often put little thought into what role it plays in our lives and the lives of our public spaces. This course aims to correct this oversight by offering an introduction to the field of sound studies focused on Houston's audio environment, past and present.

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

FWIS 176 - WRITING WITH AND ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA
Short Title: WRITING SOCIAL MEDIA
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In this course, we will explore social media from a number of perspectives: we will learn its history; explore its technicalities; think critically about its contact; and ultimately seek to understand why and how social media has quickly become a mainstream tool for written and audiovisual communication.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 177 - STORYTELLING IN BUDDHISM
Short Title: STORYTELLING IN BUDDHISM
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 forms and contexts of storytelling in Buddhism, with a broad eye toward literature, visual arts, and performance. Students engage in both creative and academic writing to understand the importance of narrative in Buddhist cultures and different approaches to writing in the modern day. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for FWIS 177 if student has credit for FSEM 109.

FWIS 178 - LITERATURES OF THE PRISON
Short Title: LITERATURES OF THE PRISON
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 literatures written about, within, and against prisons, developing critical perspectives on this institution and its functions. We will attend to a diverse set of voices, whose contexts include postcolonial and decolonial struggles, differently situated feminisms, the civil rights movement, and the prison abolitionist movement.

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

FWIS 180 - BEING THE CHANGE: WRITING FOR ACTIVISM, ADVOCACY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
Short Title: WRITING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: In this course, we’ll take a deep dive into social movements from across time and space, thinking critically about the communicational tactics of each one. Using this knowledge, students will choose an issue important to them, develop a communicational strategy and—if they want—put it out into the world!
FWIS 181 - GRAPHIC BLACKNESS: THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMIC BOOK TRADITION  
Short Title: AFRICAN AMERICAN GRAPHIC NOVEL  
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 struggle for black representation in comics and graphic novels. We will discuss the unique opportunities that sequential narratives present to creators as they represent race on the page and we will examine the history of black artists working in the comic book industry.

FWIS 182 - TRANSLATING GLOBAL CHINA  
Short Title: TRANSLATING GLOBAL CHINA  
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 how the global flow of knowledge, people, and things transforms China, and how China as a socioeconomic actor impacts the world. It mobilizes “translation” as a conceptual groundwork making possible social, cultural, and political communications. Class material primarily covers contemporary scholarship of China in humanistic social sciences.

FWIS 183 - VIRTUAL VICTORIANS AND STEAMPUNK CULTURE  
Short Title: VIRTUAL VICTORIANS & STEAMPUNK  
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: Replete with gears and gadgets, Steampunk comments as much on the past as on our contemporary technological moment and asks us to critically consider the human-machine relationship. This FWIS will grapple with the rise of the techno-human as we engage with 19th century and Steampunk texts and various digital projects.

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/ (http://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 - CROSSING BORDERS  
Short Title: CROSSING BORDERS  
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: “Humans are in a constant state of transformation and face numerous extrinsic as well as intrinsic barriers over the course of their lives. We will read about uprooting and losing identity, the traumatic loss of homeland, as well as about the walls in our psyche.”
FWIS 188 - INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION
Short Title: ENG DESIGN & COMMUNICATION
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students. Enrollment limited to students in the School of Architecture or School of Engineering colleges.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Students learn the engineering design process to solve real-world problems by evaluating design requirements and constructing innovative solutions in the OEDK. Several communication assignments will be completed by individuals rather than teams. Fall limited to ENGI and NSCI students; spring open for engineering and architecture students. Mutually Exclusive: Cannot register for FWIS 188 if student has credit for ENGI 120.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 189 - POST-APOCALYPTE 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 191 - THE ART OF THE SHORT STORY
Short Title: THE ART OF THE SHORT STORY
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: How exactly does the length of a piece of writing connect to its expression as a work of art and our interpretation of it? In this course, we'll consider “shortness” as a challenge authors undertake, investigating the ways they weave complex tales into brief, often pithy, masterpieces.

FWIS 192 - THE ROARING TWENTIES
Short Title: THE ROARING TWENTIES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: The 1920s were about new possibilities, aesthetic experimentation, and frenzied expression. We'll examine iconic '20s literature by Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Woolf, and others, as well as the linchpins of '20s culture: jazz, Prohibition, the Harlem Renaissance, and modern art. Highlights include lessons on the Charleston and a Roaring Twenties soiree.

FWIS 193 - THE HOSPITAL, ASYLUM AND SANATORIUM: LONG-TERM ILLNESS IN LITERATURE AND FILM
Short Title: LITERATURE AND QUARANTINE
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: Covid-19 made concepts like quarantine and isolation seem new when they are actually quite old. This course examines the way the West has quarantined, isolated, and distanced the sick in the last century and what we might learn from tracing the evolution of these concepts in film and literature.

FWIS 194 - EMPIRES
Short Title: EMPIRES
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Is the United States of America an empire? This course will examine civilizations from Ancient Rome and Han Dynasty China to the superpowers of the twentieth century in order to identify the nature and mechanisms of imperial power. It will investigate imperial literature, architecture art, dress, rituals and technology.
Course URL: pwc.rice.edu/ (http://pwc.rice.edu/)

FWIS 195 - LAW AND ITS TRANSGRESSIONS
Short Title: LAW AND ITS TRANSGRESSION
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 rule of law is a fragile and frequently threatened “belief” system that is constantly challenged, negotiated and re-negotiated. We will analyze the rule of law and its transgressions, its relationship to the concepts of rights, justice, guilt and innocence in texts and films from varying historical and political contexts.
FWIS 197 - SCIENCE, PSEUDOSCIENCE AND SKEPTICISM: HOW TO TELL GOOD SCIENCE FROM JUNK SCIENCE
Short Title: SCIENCE OR PSEUDOSCIENCE?
Department: First-Year Writing Intensive
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This class focuses on scientific skepticism and critical thinking, and how they can be utilized to distinguish science from pseudoscience. Core topics include the fallibility of perception; mechanisms of self-deception; as well as metacognition, cognitive biases and logical fallacies. These topics will be illustrated through examples of good and bad science.

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

FWIS 199 - THE GHOSTS OF SEGREGATION
Short Title: THE GHOSTS OF SEGREGATION
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 how legacies of segregation and discrimination continue to permeate areas of U.S. social life, related to education, health, housing, sports and leisure, wealth and so on. We will engage the question: what are the causes and consequences of enduring racial and economic inequalities in the U.S.?

University Courses (UNIV)
Description 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 codes: COMM, FWIS, UNIV