VI. Course topics arranged by category

Genre Seminars

WR100
The Craft of Fiction  (p. 10)
Heroic Cinema: East and West  (p. 14)
The Modern Novella  (p. 18)
Road Trips  (p. 24)

WR150
American Romantic Fiction and the Occult  (p. 6)
The American Short Story: Tradition and Evolution  (p. 6)
Arts Criticism: From the Old Media to the New  (p. 7)
Central and East European Cinema  (p. 8)
The Colbert Report: American Satire  (p. 9)
Comedy and the Comic Impulse  (p. 9)
The Craft of Fiction  (p. 10)
Documentary Film: History, Theory, and Form  (p. 11)
Evolution of Science Fiction  (p. 12)
Fantasy at the Fin-de-Siècle  (p. 13)
Living Irish Poets  (p. 15)
Living Poets  (p. 15)
Made-Up Lives: Memoirists, Biographers, and Fabulists, 1910–2010  (p. 16)
The Memoir  (p. 17)
The Novel Now  (p. 19)
The Poetics of Rap  (p. 20)
The Poetry of War  (p. 20)
Revisiting Fairy Tales  (p. 23)

Seminars in American Literature

WR100
Conformity and Rebellion in Literature  (p. 9)
Inventing the American Individualist  (p. 14)
Oratory in America  (p. 19)
Road Trips  (p. 24)

WR150
American Colors: Race and Culture in the United States, 1965–present  (p. 5)
American Generations in the Twentieth Century  (p. 5)
American Homestead  (p. 5)
American Literature and World Cultures  (p. 5)
American Manifesto  (p. 6)
American Romantic Fiction and the Occult  (p. 6)
The American Short Story: Tradition and Evolution  (p. 6)
Bob Dylan's Lyrics  (p. 8)
The Damned Mob of Scribbling Women  (p. 10)
Disability in Contemporary American Culture (p. 11)
Ideas of Order (p. 14)
Imagining the Vietnam War: "The Big Muddy" in American Culture (p. 14)
Literature and the Environment (p. 15)
Modern and Contemporary American Poetry (p. 18)
Multiethnic Stories and Histories (p. 18)
Oratory in America (p. 19)
Postwar America (p. 21)
Race and Boston (p. 21)
Reading Disaster (p. 21)
The Rhetoric of Freedom in America (p. 23)
The Rules of Evidence (p. 24)
Sylvia Plath and Her World (p. 26)
Walt Whitman and American Modernism (p. 28)
The Whale (p. 28)

Seminars in Comparative Literature

WR100
The Modern Novella (p. 18)

WR150
Dante and the Modern Imagination (p. 10)
Entering Europe (p. 12)
Friendship, Love, Sex, Poetry (p. 13)
Global Arts and Crafts (p. 13)
Literature, History, Identity (p. 15)
Love and Death (p. 16)
Masterpieces of German Literature (in English translation) (p. 16)
Melville/Kafka (p. 17)
Modern Literature and Society (p. 18)
Mythical Metamorphoses of Gender and Sexuality in Twenty-first Century Fiction (p. 18)
Russian Literary Masterpieces (p. 24)
Studies in Betrayal (p. 26)
Tragedy and the Tragic (p. 27)
Writing An Education (p. 29)

Seminars in English and Anglophone Literature

WR100
Conformity and Rebellion in Literature (p. 9)

WR150
Art Thou Learnèd?: Staging Education in Shakespeare’s England (p. 7)
The Bard in the Digital Age (p. 7)
Literature and Human Freedom (p. 15)
Literature and the Environment (p. 15)
Living Irish Poets (p. 15)
The Matter of King Arthur Then and Now (p. 17)
The Rules of Evidence  (p. 24)
Shakespeare and Performance   (p. 25)
Shakespearian Controversies   (p. 25)
"The Play's the Thing": Literature Influenced by Shakespeare's Hamlet   (p. 27)
Utopia and Dystopia in Philosophy and Literature   (p. 28)

Seminars in History

**WR150**
American Environmental History   (p. 5)
American Manifesto   (p. 6)
Debates in the History of Medicine   (p. 10)
Democracy in Comparative Historical Perspective   (p. 11)
Documentary Film: History, Theory, and Form   (p. 11)
The First Amendment   (p. 13)
Imagining the Vietnam War: "The Big Muddy" in American Culture   (p. 14)
Modern American Liberalism and its Critics   (p. 17)
Policing the Boundaries of American Identity: Anti-Immigration Movements in U.S. History to 1930   (p. 20)
Postwar America   (p. 21)
Representations of War and Justice   (p. 22)

Seminars in Philosophy

**WR100**
Ethical Issues in Public Health   (p. 12)
Perspectives on Friendship   (p. 19)

**WR150**
Bioethics and Science Policy   (p. 8)
The Ethical Imagination   (p. 12)
Ethical Issues in Public Health   (p. 12)
Literature and Moral Ambiguity   (p. 15)
The Nature of Consciousness   (p. 19)
Personal Ethics and Social Policy   (p. 19)
Representations of War and Justice   (p. 22)
Representing Dreams   (p. 23)
Utopia and Dystopia in Philosophy and Literature   (p. 28)

Seminars in Religion and Literature

**WR100**
Boston Confucianism   (p. 8)
Defining "America": Representing Race and Religion in the United States   (p. 11)

**WR150**
The Religious Use of Psychoactive Substances   (p. 22)
To Embody the Way: Studies in Early Chinese Spirituality   (p. 27)
U.S. Presidents and American Secularism   (p. 27)
Seminars in Technology and Society

WR150
Playing Games: How Video Games Work and What They Mean   (p. 20)
Reading Marcel Proust in the Digital Age   (p. 22)
Science in Foreign Affairs and International Diplomacy   (p. 24)
Technology, Innovation, and International Development   (p. 26)
Visions of Technology and Society   (p. 28)

Seminars in the Classics

WR150
Persuasive Speech in Ancient Literature   (p. 20)
A Tail of Enlightenment?: Apuleius’ The Golden Ass   (p. 26)

Seminars in the Fine Arts

WR150
Arts Criticism: From the Old Media to the New   (p. 7)
Global Arts and Crafts   (p. 13)
Reviled Architecture: The Buildings We Love to Hate   (p. 23)
Shakespeare and Performance   (p. 25)
Turn-of-the-Century Modern: American Art at 1900   (p. 27)

Seminars in the Natural Sciences

WR100
Structures of Language   (p. 25)

WR150
Bioethics and Science Policy   (p. 8)
Debates in the History of Medicine   (p. 10)
Measurement and Methodology   (p. 17)
The Nature of Consciousness   (p. 19)
Science in Foreign Affairs and International Diplomacy   (p. 24)
Visions of Technology and Society   (p. 28)
Writing About Controversial Science   (p. 29)

Seminars in the Social Sciences

WR100
Defining "America": Representing Race and Religion in the United States   (p. 11)
Ethical Issues in Public Health   (p. 12)
Half the Sky: Political, Social, and Biological Perspectives on Gender Today   (p. 14)

WR150
American Environmental History   (p. 5)
Beauty and the Body   (p. 7)
Bedside Manners: The Doctor-Patient Relationship in Context   (p. 7)
Consumer Society and the American Family: A Sociological Perspective   (p. 9)
Disability in Contemporary American Culture   (p. 11)
Ethical Issues in Public Health   (p. 12)
Modern American Liberalism and its Critics   (p. 17)
Public Gardens and Urban Wilds: Boston’s Natural History  (p. 21)
Race and Boston  (p. 21)
Readings in Cultural Anthropology  (p. 22)
The Religious Use of Psychoactive Substances (p. 22)
Representing Dreams  (p. 23)
The Rhetoric of Freedom in America  (p. 23)
Sex, Gender, and the Social Self  (p. 24)
Spike Lee’s America  (p. 25)
U.S. Presidents and American Secularism  (p. 27)

Seminars in Values and Institutions

WR100
Structures of Language  (p. 25)

WR150
Approaches to Death  (p. 6)
Beauty and the Body  (p. 7)
Consumer Society and the American Family: A Sociological Perspective  (p. 9)
The First Amendment  (p. 13)
Friendship, Love, Sex, Poetry  (p. 13)
Public Gardens and Urban Wilds: Boston’s Natural History  (p. 21)
Reviled Architecture: The Buildings We Love to Hate  (p. 23)
Sex, Gender, and the Social Self  (p. 24)
Source and Sorcery: All About Food  (p. 25)
Writing An Education  (p. 29)

Seminars in World Literature

WR100
Shahrazad, Arabesques and Storytelling: Fables of Resistance in Modern Middle Eastern Literature  (p. 25)

WR150
Approaches to Death  (p. 6)
Entering Europe  (p. 12)
The Ethical Imagination  (p. 12)
Literature and Moral Ambiguity  (p. 15)
Literature, History, Identity  (p. 15)
Manuscripts Don’t Burn: Fairy Tales, Grotesque, Science Fiction, and Satire in Russian Literature  (p. 16)
The Poetry of War  (p. 20)
Reading In: Ambiguity in Twentieth-Century Fiction  (p. 21)
Reading Marcel Proust in the Digital Age  (p. 22)
Russian Literary Masterpieces  (p. 24)
Sympathy for the Devil  (p. 26)

Seminars on New England or Boston Themes

WR100
Boston Confucianism  (p. 8)
Boston: Forefront of Science and Art  (p. 8)
WR150
Constructing Boston  (p. 9)
Public Gardens and Urban Wilds: Boston's Natural History  (p. 21)
Race and Boston  (p. 21)
The Whale  (p. 28)