

Johnson State College - Spring 2012 First Year Seminars

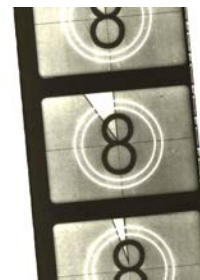
Language of Film

M/W 6:00-7:15 WLLC MARS ENG-1330-J01

Just as learning a foreign language requires a sensibility for rules and structure, effective communication using film & video requires an understanding of the filmic conventions that have grown up over 100 years of film history. Understanding these conventions is especially important as changes in computer technology bring the tools for video creation to the PC desktop. Students and workers of today will see unprecedented opportunity for video "expression" in both their academic and professional careers.

The "Language of Film" presents an overview of the tools of the moving-picture author, both in historical/cultural perspective and as a means of artistic expression. Coursework will include reading assignments, film screenings, writing and analysis, and scripting, shooting and editing videos. Class work will be done individually, and in small production teams.

Instructor: David Grozinsky



If I Can't Dance - Keep Your Revolution

T 10:00-12:45 MCC 211 DAN-1210-J01



History is not just about important revolutions, battles, politicians and changing borders. It is also about everyday people, and what is important in their everyday lives. This course is a multicultural exploration of the simple things that give people pleasure: their dance, games, social activities, cuisine; some of the things that make a nation's culture. We see how geography, climate, work, religion/ritual, gender, and age all have their impact on a country's customs. This course investigates the similarities and differences between the various cultures of people around the globe. This course celebrates what Emma Goldman called everybody's right to beautiful, radiant things".

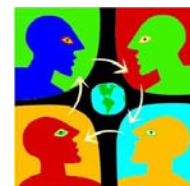
Instructor: Maris Wolff

Cultivating the Cross-Cultural Mind

T/TH 4:00-5:15 MAR 225 HUM-1020-J01

Do you know how long it takes to make the shoes you are wearing? Do you have an idea how many countries are involved in the process of making your t-shirt? This FYS will explain that, and other important concepts involved in producing and trading in a global world. Concepts such as globalization, international trade and cultural differences will be explored in this course. Students taking this FYS will go on a day trip to Canada, where they will apply concepts discussed in class, and observe how another country perceives international trade.

Instructor: Martha Lance



DYSTOPIA: Cautionary Tales of a Nightmarish Future

T/TH 8:30-9:45 DEW 132 ENG-1360-J01

As opposed to the utopian vision of a more perfect world, dystopian literature and film depict the worst of all possible worlds. Probing basic questions of human nature and society, they reveal anxieties that remain chillingly applicable today. In this course, we will explore such issues as the self, alienation, freedom, complicity, citizenship, love, faith, sex, technology and happiness through a variety of novels and films.

Instructor: Jeff Bickerstaff



iMe: Reinventing Yourself in the Digital Age

T/TH 11:30-12:45 WLLC MARS ART-XXXX-J01



Have you ever uploaded a photo to Facebook, viewed cats from around the world on Youtube, or conquered a video game with online teammates? Digital technology is making it easier than ever to express yourself and communicate on a global scale. With the advent of virtual realities like Second Life, you can reach beyond globalism and enter the realm of total imagination. With all of these exciting changes, how do you navigate this new world? In this seminar we will explore technology's role in our lives. Through an interdisciplinary approach we will examine science, art and literature's take on topics including Web 2.0, cybernetics, and virtual reality. We will look at how these topics have influenced robotics, viral videos and most importantly, you.

Instructor: Sean Clute

Thinking Globally, Eating Locally

TH 2:30-5:15 MCC (TBD) ENG-1440-J01

This course concerns itself with the growing field of study related to how colleges can best institute environmental innovations, particularly as relates to food production and consumption. As this burgeoning new discipline of "Campus Greening" is explored, emphasis will be placed upon students developing the critical reading and thinking, expository writing, and research skills what will serve them well throughout their college career. An important aim of the course will be to sharpen student awareness of how their social patterns related to their food consumption affects themselves and the local foodshed. Another objective will be to "educate in order to activate," inspiring students to play an ongoing role in the stewardship of the JSC Community Garden. All students will choose a project related either to the garden or to the JSC cafeteria and also make contributions to the food-related sections in the pending "JSC Eco-Master Plan."

Instructor: Russ Weis

