

**COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
FRESHMAN ACADEMIC SEMINARS  
(FAS), FALL 2008**

These freshman-only courses are offered by the College of Arts & Sciences as automatic substitutes for certain core requirements on designated degrees. Designed to be limited to 20 students per section, these freshman seminars are accepted for honors credit within the Honors Program,\* but are also open to freshmen interested in the subject matter across disciplines. Pre-requisite for the course: ACT scores of 21 minimum or SAT of 550 verbal or above.

**FAS 1302 (01)  
THINKING AND WRITING ABOUT  
AMERICAN MUSIC  
DR. CORETTA PITTMAN, ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

Music invades almost every aspect of our lives. When we watch television programs, motion picture movies, attend sports events, or walk through department stores, we are inundated with the sound of music. In other words, we cannot escape music. In this course, we will examine the influence of music on American society. In doing so, we will read musical lyrics as text. For instance, we will consider what historical, cultural, or political lessons we can learn from blues, jazz, soul, rock-n-roll, alternative, and hip-hop music. The goal of the course is to help students read critically as well as to enhance the writing skills they have already acquired. Examining twentieth century music will give us the background information we need to begin the process of building on the writing skills you currently have. Dr. Pittman combines her expertise in the blues, jazz, and other modern American music traditions with her teaching of composition. Innovative methodologies will be used as students explore and write about this original and influential aspect of American culture. The course meets the requirement for English 1302.

**Schedule: MWF from 9:05 - 9:50 a.m. in Carroll Science (English Bldg) 302. This course meets the requirement for English 1302.**

**FAS 1303 (01)  
MEDICINE AND MEANING:  
REFLECTIONS ON SUFFERING,  
ETHICS, AND HOPE  
LAUREN A. BARRON, M.D., HILLCREST  
BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER**

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\* Please note that an Honors Program student must not concurrently enroll in both a First-Year Seminar (FYS 1399) and a Freshman Academic Seminar (any course with prefix FAS ).

This course will look at the practice of medicine as it intersects with disease, suffering, and the search for meaning in the midst of illness. Focus will be given to the narrative nature of medicine and the significance of the physician/patient relationship. Suffering, human freedom, and the presence of the divine all intersect at the bedside, and this course will attempt to give students a glimpse of that possibility. Dr. Barron brings experience as a physician to this course. She is a practicing physician within the Hillcrest Medical System in Waco. FAS 1303 meets a social science core requirement on the B. A. degree and on some B. S. degrees. It also meets a requirement on the Medical Humanities major and/or minor.

**Schedule: Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:45 pm in Baylor Sciences Building (BSB), room D 114.**

**FAS 1305 (01)  
DISEASE AND THE PATIENT-  
PHYSICIAN RELATIONSHIP**

**DR. WILLIAM D. HILLIS, PROFESSOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY**

This seminar will investigate the science and practice of medicine through the study of diseases, their causes, and functional effects. Class experiences will offer opportunities for students to interact with health care providers and to examine the patient-physician relationship. The instructor brings to this course his experience as a medical doctor and as a professor of epidemiology, medicine, and nephrology at the Johns Hopkins Medical School. This course meets a core social science requirement on the B. A. or B. S. degree. The Business School BBA degree will count this course as a social science or humanities credit.

**Schedule: 7:00 - 9:45 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. Baylor Science Building, A 235.**

**FAS 1306 (01)  
LAUGHTER AND TEARS:  
A THEATRICAL  
SURVEY OF TRAGEDY AND COMEDY**

**DR. DEANNA TOTEN BEARD, ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE  
ARTS**

Theatrical performances are public and communal statements about the condition of humankind, both hopeful and heart-breaking. Comic and tragic plays therefore teach us volumes about the particular society for which they were created. Through the reading of a variety plays written over the past 2500 years, students in this course will seek to understand the purpose of comedy and tragedy in the lives of human beings. We will examine definitions of both comedy and tragedy, discuss the traditional structure of both, and explore those common themes that elicit

our laughter and our tears. This course meets Fine Arts requirement on the B. A. degree. An exception to this rule will be allowed by petition only for Theatre majors

Schedule: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 – 12:15 in Hooper-Schaeffer Fine Arts Bldg., Room 128.

## **SCIENCE FRESHMAN ACADEMIC SEMINARS WITH LABS**

### **FAS 1407 (01) AND LAB A SOCIETY AND ECOLOGY: CURRENT ISSUES FOR OUR CHANGING ECOSYSTEM**

**DR. JACQUELYN DUKE, DEPARTMENT OF  
BIOLOGY**

This course is an introduction to ecological concepts and to the impact of human populations on ecosystems (focusing on how the success of our species has altered many ecological processes). Using current events and case studies in the popular press, students will examine topics such as general science techniques, the history and process of ecology, biological diversity / natural selection, behavioral ecology, population dynamics, and community ecology. This course meets a core science requirement in Laboratory Science, Group Three on the B. A., BFA or BSFCS degree. This course does not count on the Bachelor of Science degree.

Schedule: Lecture is MWF 1:25 - 2:15 p.m. Baylor Sciences Building C 230. Laboratory for FAS 1407 (01) Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:50 p.m., BSB A222. Students must enroll in both the laboratory and course for Fall 2008.

### **FAS 1407 (02) AND LAB B GLOBAL CLIMATIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES**

**DR. ZHAODONG (JORDAN) FENG,  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF  
GEOLOGY**

This course is designed to provide a more thorough understanding of the scientific basis of both natural and anthropogenic (human produced) climate and environmental changes. Students will explore the key issues surrounding 20th-century climate change and the role of human activities

in shaping the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the environment that sustains life on Earth. Through readings, lectures, discussions, student presentations, class debates, films, and laboratory exercises, students will gain insight regarding how these anticipated changes are likely to affect their future, and they will explore actions by which they may contribute to solutions. A key objective will be to provide students with a knowledge base and skills to critically evaluate information concerning climate change and related issues. This course meets a core science requirement in Laboratory Science, Group Three on the B. A., BFA or BSFCS degree. This course does not count on the Bachelor of Science degree.

**Schedule: Tuesday/Thursday from 9:30 - 10:45 a.m., Baylor Science Building, E 414. Laboratory B on Thursdays, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., BSB E 434. Students must enroll in both the laboratory and course for Fall 2008.**