Disaster and Displacement

Political upheaval. Economic change. Weird weather.
The 21st century has been marked by natural disasters and man-made crises, each of which has encouraged individuals, communities, and governments to examine civic priorities and strategies. Over the next year, the Byrne First-Year Seminars will explore how disaster, unexpected change, and policy failures have shaped personal, national, and global narratives. We will consider the influence of these events from the perspective of a variety of disciplines including history, anthropology, biology, political science, and geology.
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Office of Undergraduate Education
Division of Undergraduate Academic Affairs
From the Associate Vice President of Undergraduate Academic Affairs

With the generous support of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Byrne, Jr., we developed the Byrne Seminars to give first-year students an opportunity to work closely with tenured faculty and a small group of peers at the outset of their college careers. In the 150 Byrne Seminars being offered this year, incoming students will gather in classrooms and labs, in studios and theaters, in museums and galleries, and in the field, where research is a hands-on venture. As a Byrne student, you will work one-on-one and in small peer groups with a professor in his or her area of research.

We designed these one-credit courses — with correspondingly lighter workloads — to offer you a low-stakes way to explore fields of study outside your comfort zone. Yet, while the stakes are low in terms of credits and grades, the rewards couldn’t be higher. Byrne Seminars engage you directly with knowledge on the ground. You will see how international experts transform theory into lived practice, in medicine and the sciences, in the social sciences, the humanities, and the performing arts, and in business, technology, and the law. Perhaps most importantly, you will experience education not as something you acquire from a book, but as something you do.

If this were all they had to offer, the Byrne Seminars would more than fulfill their educational purpose and our expectations. But the benefits don’t end here. Graduating seniors who took a Byrne Seminar in their first year report that getting to know and study with a professor had a profound impact on their collegiate experience. Many tell us that through their first-year seminar they forged an intimate community of friends with whom they continue to share the academic challenges of college life and beyond, and marvel at the difference their Byrne professors made in shaping the career paths that they later chose.

Such success and excitement has hardly been one-sided. Many faculty continually confide how much they enjoy serving as mentors to students they first encountered in a Byrne Seminar. Five years after we initiated this program, we are more certain than ever of the vital role these unique first-year seminars play in helping students make the transition from high school to college and in building an intimate intellectual and social community in what can seem, at least initially, like a dauntingly large and impersonal environment.

If I may offer any final advice: sapere aude. Dare to know! Many Byrne students report that their seminars occasioned the opportunity to try a field that they might otherwise not have tried. So we challenge you to pursue a whim, find a topic that makes you say, “I’ve always wanted to try this!” “I want to know more about that.” Byrne Seminars are an important part of our welcome to Rutgers, to the career before you, and to the kind of life enrichment that we’re certain the love of learning brings.

Gregory S. Jackson  
Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Academic Affairs
What are the Byrne Seminars?

Byrne Seminars are small, one-credit courses, limited to 20 students. Offered through the Office of Undergraduate Education, these classes are taught by our world-renowned faculty, who come from departments and professional schools across the university. Each unique seminar offers students the chance to experience the excitement of original research as faculty members share their curiosity, their intellectual passion, and how they develop new ideas and fields of knowledge. Some seminars take field trips, do hands-on research, or share a meal at the Rutgers Club.

Seminars typically meet for 10 weeks, starting in the first week of each semester. You may take up to two Byrne courses in your first year, in consecutive semesters. The seminars are graded Pass/No Credit, and have no formal exams. Students may register for a one-credit seminar in addition to the 12–15 credit standard course-load; the seminars are not meant to compete with other courses.

How do I Sign Up?

You can register for a Byrne Seminar through WebReg starting in April. This catalog also includes section and index numbers for each fall seminar, alongside the course description. You may find the Online Schedule of Classes useful in determining which courses are open and will fit best into your schedule. Enter subject code “090” and course number “101” to get a list of Byrne Seminars for the semester, including up-to-date information about time and location.

Have questions? Email Angela Mullis, Director, at mullis@oldqueens.rutgers.edu or call 848-932-8273. You can also visit our website: byrne.rutgers.edu.
FALL 2012


**Alexandria Library 2.0: The Web and the Future of Your Education**  
Paul Hammond (Director, Digital Initiatives, Office of Undergraduate Education)

The World Wide Web has changed the landscape in every sector of our economy and has laid to waste industries and institutions hitherto considered invulnerable, including newspaper and print publishing, the postal service, and the record and movie industries. Yet, higher education, which is supposed to train us to live and work in this new environment, has been remarkably slow in adapting to the realities of a digital world. What does the work of the academy look like—the material we use to prepare for classes and the research studies we compose in these classes—when the destination for thought is no longer the printed page but the liquid crystal display? In this class, we will explore the greatest library that humans have ever created—a library that you have helped to build—to change the way we learn. Field trips will include visits to lecture halls at universities around the globe, tours of the world’s greatest museums, and an underwater expedition along the Great Barrier Reef—all without leaving New Brunswick.

01:090:101 section 56 index 16616

**The Culture Wars Reignited:**  
**Christian Conservatives Mobilize for the 2012 Election**  
Gregory Jackson (VP Academic Affairs; English)

For most college students, the so-called Culture Wars seem like a foreign crusade waged in a distant land. Polls continually show that 18 to 29-year-olds are dramatically more tolerant than older voters on issues like reproductive rights and gay marriage, so the touchstone themes in the Culture Wars simply do not resonate with them. But with the 2012 Election fast approaching, the Culture Wars have come to the fore in mainstream politics. How do religious conservatives and liberals line up for and against issues like energy production and climate change policy? Where is the economy in these debates? As important for college students, leading presidential candidates are now using the Culture Wars to attack public education itself, calling the President a “snob” for saying college should be accessible to all students, and suggesting that the Department of Education should be abolished. What about the split between Church and State? Have liberals gone too far in mandating contraception be included in healthcare coverage? How do Christian conservatives and liberals defend their ideals? To what traditions and sources do they appeal in defense of their values? In this seminar, we will look at how Christian Conservatives use so-called social issues to rally voters and what that means to the very foundation of a secular political system.

01:090:101 section 57 index 12227

**Acts of the Imagination:**  
**Exploring Creativity through Improvisation and Play**  
Julia Ritter (Dance)

This seminar will explore methods and techniques of improvisation and play as applied to the creation of dance and physical theater. Students who take this seminar should be open to immersing their playful selves in creative games, experiments, and improvisations that use the body and the voice. This course is for anyone who loves to move and challenge themselves to solve problems with creative solutions. We will explore the movement and theatrical potential of the body using traditional and experimental techniques of dance improvisation. The seminar will include a field trip to New York City for a performance.

01:090:101 section 60 index 13628
FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS
OPEN TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

HUMANITIES

Visualizing Disaster and Displacement
Ahmet Atif Akin (Visual Arts)
Disasters and displacements cause enormous quantitative changes in population, available local resources, and habitable areas. International narratives tend to convey these numbers through mass media, which often intensifies the shock and awe effect. The narratives created in the “aftermath” are largely constructed by governments to set economic protection measures. Personal narratives rarely include numbers. Revisiting these numbers years after an incident and displaying the quantitative information visually creates another narrative to explore. In this seminar, you will be introduced to the basic notions and processes of data visualization. By focusing on various incidents, we will learn how to find and interpret data and finally present our own visual data sets.
01:090:101 section 03 index 10371

Up and Down the Streets of the Western Metropolis
Andrea Baldi (Italian)
Perhaps the best way to get to know a city is on foot. Walking, one of our most immediate ways of being in the world, of making it “our own,” is also crucial to how we experience space. Through short stories, essays, paintings, and movies, this seminar will explore the ways in which walking is represented in Western cultures and how modern urbanites “map” the city, appropriating its spaces through their own “peripatetic rhetorics.” Of course, we will do some walking of our own as well.
01:090:101 section 03 index 10371

You Are What You Speak
Louise Barnett (American Studies; English)
The seminar will concentrate on talk, both its social and personal dimensions. We will read some sociolinguistics and some fiction, including a one-act play on speech by the wonderfully inventive David Ives. We should be able to see a play, too. Expect to learn things you didn’t know about why you say what you do, why other speakers please or irritate, and how gender and “social capital” affect speech.
01:090:101 section 04 index 08600

Love, Money, Education: Why We Move Across the Globe
Ulla D. Berg (Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Studies, Anthropology)
Global migration is one of the big human issues of our time. Currently, a total of 214 million people live outside of their country of birth. Many people across the globe mobilize and travel great distances to earn a livelihood, help their families or create new families, seek education, get away from oppression, or to experience love. This seminar will explore the motivations, needs, and desires behind some of today’s most significant global movements of people: labor migration, climate refugees, international adoption, and transnational marriages. We will read from a range of sources and screen major documentary films for each topic we address. Documentaries include First Person Plural, Love on Delivery, and Ticket to Paradise.
01:090:101 section 63 index 13740

Voices of the Past: Oral History and the American Experience in World War II
John W. Chambers (History)
Shaun Illingworth (Director, Rutgers Oral History Archives)
This seminar introduces you to oral history as a methodology for helping to reconstruct the social and cultural history of the past. We will focus on the experience of Americans overseas and at home during the Second World War. Students will learn to use the Rutgers Oral History Archives of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War [ROHA—oralhistory.rutgers.edu], including how to conduct an oral history interview. We’ll analyze readings, films, and oral history interviews with veterans and people on the home front.
01:090:101 section 07 index 08601

Yankee Stadium
Theresa M. Collins (Edison Papers)
Why did the Stadium cross the road? In this seminar we will develop multiple perspectives on the history of Yankee Stadium and its epic journey from “The House that Ruth Built” to its current home in the Bronx, New York. We will observe and analyze a number of related themes and issues, including the pluses and minuses of urban development, the relationship between public finance and private enterprise, and the flexible, situational character of change and tradition.
01:090:101 section 09 index 08603

Beyond Starving Babies: Understanding West Africa Through Film
Barbara M. Cooper (History)
What do you think of when you hear the word “Sahel”? For many of us, the image we have of this region of Africa stretching from Senegal to Sudan is of starving babies and desert sands. In this course we will draw upon the many thoughtful documentaries and feature films focusing on West Africa to try to understand the reasons for endemic malnutrition, but also to appreciate the landscape, economy, and lifeways of the people who live in this challenging but beautiful region.
01:090:101 section 65 index 13814

Ready to Duel? Think First!
Uri Eisenzweig (French & Comparative Literature)
Late Nineteenth-Century Europe exhibits a curious fascination with dueling. We will reflect on this social phenomenon and relate it to changes occurring in the literature of that period, changes whose impact is lasting to this day, and not only in fiction. A concrete demonstration will be found in Joseph Conrad’s beautiful short story “The Duel,” which we will read closely and analyze. You will learn new ways of looking at literature, history, and the relationship between them.
01:090:101 section 66 index 16618
Yoga: Finding Calm in Chaos
John Evans (Dance)
This workshop will help you focus on finding calm in your life while being a busy and dedicated college student. Through the study and practice of Yoga, we will explore how to build a stronger mind-body connection and come to understand how that study can support a happy life, even with the crazy lives of today’s college students. Through centering breathing techniques, strengthening and stretching yoga postures, and simple meditations, students will begin to gain a stronger presence and control of their lives. Mindfulness trainings and yoga sequences will be developed and practiced throughout the ten-week seminar.
01:090:101 section 67 index 16619

Picture This! Reading Images
Tatiana Flores (Art History)
Because we live in an image-saturated world, it is easy to take pictures for granted, yet many of the images that surround us, though they may appear transparent, are carefully constructed. This seminar offers the opportunity for students to learn to analyze visual representations carefully and critically, including fine art “masterpieces,” street art, popular films, advertising, and design. We approach the process of “close looking” as analogous to reading a text, establishing that visual language works with a different set of codes than verbal language. Activities include discussions, field trips to museums, film screenings, and guest lectures.
01:090:101 section 12 index 08606

The Politics of Visual Culture in the Middle East
Fakhri Haghani (Middle Eastern Studies)
Last spring democratic waves swamped Arab streets, bringing political and social change in Egypt and Tunisia and creating spectacular protests in other countries in the region. The use of documentary video and social media to document these uprisings has made the news cycle both continuous and immediate. In this seminar, we will examine the impact and reach of visual culture, as it conveys layers of meaning—both within and outside of the society being represented.
01:090:101 section 14 index 08607

The Culture Wars Reignited: Christian Conservatives Mobilize for the 2012 Election
Gregory Jackson (VP Academic Affairs; English)
For most college students, the so-called Culture Wars seem like a foreign crusade waged in a distant land. Polls continually show that 18 to 29-year-olds are dramatically more tolerant than older voters on issues like reproductive rights and gay marriage, so the touchstone themes in the Culture Wars simply do not resonate with them. But with the 2012 Election fast approaching, the Culture Wars have come to the fore in mainstream politics. How do religious conservatives and liberals line up for and against issues like energy production and climate change policy? Where is the economy in these debates? As important for college students, leading presidential candidates are now using the Culture Wars to attack public education itself, calling the President a “snob” for saying college should be accessible to all students, and suggesting that the Department of Education should be abolished. What about the split between Church and State? Have liberals gone too far in mandating contraception be included in healthcare coverage? How do Christian conservatives and liberals defend their ideals? To what traditions and sources do they appeal in defense of their values? In this seminar, we will look at how Christian Conservatives use so-called social issues to rally voters and what that means to the very foundation of a secular political system.
01:090:101 section 58 index 11881

Origin of Religion in Human History
Tao Jiang (Religion)
What is religion? Why do human societies have religion? What is it about human beings that makes religion possible as a uniquely human phenomenon? These are some of the questions that motivate this seminar. Our study of religion will be interdisciplinary, delving into biology, cognitive science, and evolutionary psychology. We will look at ancient Israel, Greece, China, and India for a cross-cultural study of the evolutionary roots of major religions in the world.
01:090:101 section 53 index 09279

What Does it Take to Make a Digital Computer?
Barry Loewer (Philosophy)
Dimitri Metaxas (Computer Science)
This seminar will explore issues at the intersection of philosophy and computer science. We will explain in accessible terms how the search for the foundations of mathematics in the late 19th century led to the exploration of infinity and to the development of formal logic. We will also examine how the investigation of formal logic led to some of the deepest mathematical and philosophical results (Goedel’s theorem and Church’s theorem) and how this led to the development of the computer. Finally, we will discuss some philosophical and social issues that arise concerning computers and robots. For example, “can computers think?” “what if we can make computers that can build even smarter computers which can build...”, and so on. We will use the recent presentation of these matters in logicomix, www.logicomix.com/en.
01:090:101 section 61 index 16617

Ritual Communication in Day of the Dead Celebrations
Regina Marchi (Journalism, Media Studies)
Using Day of the Dead celebrations as a case study in how public art and ritual are forms of media, students will learn about ritual communication and its role in community building, identity formation, and political struggle. Students will also gain an understanding of the concepts of “imagined community” and “invented traditions,” as they relate to traditional print and alternative visual media. In addition to course readings, students will visit the annual Day of the Dead altar exhibit at the New Brunswick Public Library and attend the celebration there, meeting with New Brunswick’s Mixteco and Mayan immigrant communities. They may also visit the community gardens on Rutgers Cook Campus, where the department of Environmental and Biological Sciences works with the Latino community organization Lazos America Unida to grow marigolds each year, specifically for Day of the Dead. (Students
will have an opportunity to speak with Lazos members and may even help them in the garden. A fieldtrip to the Day of the Dead celebration at El Museo Del Barrio in NYC or another local venue will also be planned. In the final class, students will create a large Day of the Dead altar in the lobby of SC&I (or another public Rutgers location), dedicated to a theme of their choosing.

01:090:101 section 80 index 16580

Place and Displacement: American Indian Narratives of Homing and Removal
Angela Mullis (Director, Byrne Seminars)
Since the beginning of the “Native American Renaissance” in the 1960s, American Indian writers have been addressing the continued effects of Indian Removal. Literary representations of displacement often portray alienation, resistance, survival, mixed identity, and individual and communal isolationism. These concepts are essential to understanding the notion of place and identity that are interlinked for many American Indians. In this course, we will complicate our understanding of “home” and what this means for indigenous peoples throughout the United States. We will explore diverse tribal and national narratives to trace the ways in which tribal affiliation shapes the representation of cultural and national identities. Seminar includes a field trip to the National Museum of the American Indian in New York.

01:090:101 section 55 index 11930

Hidden Treasures: Exploring Visual Culture at Rutgers
Tanya Sheehan (Art History)
When it comes to art and visual culture, Rutgers is full of hidden treasures waiting to be discovered by all of you! Each week this seminar will take a close look at one of the outstanding visual collections or archives on the New Brunswick campus. These include the Zimmerli Art Museum, the Institute for Women and Art, the Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions, Special Collections and University Archives at Alexander Library, and the Visualization Laboratory. At these sites, we will look closely at paintings and sculpture, fine prints, archival photographs, illustrated literature, and scientific imaging. We will also see how faculty at Rutgers have used images to enrich their research in the humanities, create dynamic art exhibitions, and break new ground in the fields of medicine and computer graphics. Students from across the disciplines will leave this course knowing where and how to look at our truly special collections.

01:090:101 section 42 index 16412

What If You Can’t Go Home? Cultural Effects of Nazism and Communism
Nancy Sinkoff (Jewish Studies; History)
This seminar will explore, through travel writing and memoirs, the exilic experience of Poles and Polish Jews in the 20th and 21st centuries. Through this literature, we will explore the meanings of home, exile, longing, and the human need for connection to place that is shared, in this case study, by Poles and Jews.

01:090:101 section 44 index 09371

Apocalypse: Religious Movements and the End of Time
Emma Wasserman (Religion)
Many texts in the Christian Bible speak about the end of time, a coming judgment, and the destruction and recreation of the cosmos. What role did apocalyptic expectation play in shaping the thought of the first Christians and the texts of the Christian Bible? What role do demons, Satan, and antichrists play in this literature? What is the relationship between such expectations and violence? This course seeks to answer such questions by comparing apocalyptic texts and movements. We will first treat early Christian and Jewish texts, especially certain “Dead Sea Scrolls” texts, the letters of Paul, and the book of Revelation, and then turn to more modern cases such as the apocalypticism of Christopher Columbus, Heaven’s Gate, and the Left Behind series of Christian thrillers.

01:090:101 section 50 index 11931

SOCIAL SCIENCES

What Do Corporations Owe Society?
Mark Aakhus (Communication)
The social responsibility of business is to increase its profits, according to one of Rutgers’ most famous and influential graduates, the Nobel-Prize-winning economist Milton Friedman. Or is it? What do you think? Everyone in the world has a stake in answering this question because the conduct of business is central to the quality of our everyday life and planet: from the products we purchase—for example, seafood, toys, pet food, gasoline, pharmaceuticals—and the Earth’s resources used in making those products, to the type of work we do. In this seminar, we will examine the words and actions of modern corporations as they respond to pressures from government and consumer groups who demand more responsibility. In particular, we will explore how they communicate their social responsibility to us.

01:090:101 section 01 index 08598

Language and the Body in Conversation
Galina Bolden (Communication)
We engage people in conversation all the time, but what, exactly, are we communicating when we talk? This seminar addresses the question of how human beings use language and the body in everyday talk to accomplish routine social activities. By examining the details of recorded, naturally occurring conversations, you will discover how we negotiate turn-taking, carry out courses of action, repair conversational troubles, and how, in the course of these activities, we construct our identities and relationships with others.

01:090:101 section 06 index 13522

Be Very Afraid: Problems of Risk and Disaster
Lee Clarke (Sociology)
This seminar will introduce students to research on risk perception, risk communication, and disaster. In class, we will focus on Fukushima, the BP oil spill, Katrina, 9/11, and the September 2001 anthrax attacks to explore ideas about fear, the media, and other aspects of social
FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

organization. We will screen numerous videos concerning risky technologies, disasters, global warming, and environmental justice. Seminar includes a field trip. 01:090:101 section 76 index 16628

Growing Up on Psychiatric Medication
Jerry Floersch (School of Social Work)
Ritalin, Xanax. Paxil. Adderall. These medications have become part of our everyday vocabulary as the rate of mental illness in America, especially in young people, has risen. This seminar will examine different perspectives on the role of psycho-pharmaceuticals in the everyday lives of youth. What does it mean to grow up on psychiatric medication? Is the rise in such prescriptions a public health issue? Is it a public policy issue? How do our cultural notions of medicine and mental illness play into this debate? As a class, we will explore various frameworks for thinking about psychiatric medication, mental illness, and everyday life. 01:090:101 section 11 index 08605

How We Shape Language
Nydia Flores (School of Education, Spanish & Portuguese)
Does language shape society or is it shaped by society? This seminar will focus on understanding language as a social phenomenon. We will examine topics such as how language is used; the pragmatics of language; dialects, bilingualism, and code switching; and social aspects that influence the way speakers use certain language features. 01:090:101 section 54 index 08630

Transnational New Jersey: Finding the World in Our Own Backyard
Daniel Goldstein (Anthropology)
Owing to years of transnational migration, New Jersey has become a truly globalized state. Communities across New Jersey have been transformed by the arrival of people who have chosen to make the state their home without severing ties to their places of origin. Getting to know New Jersey means getting out of the classroom and interacting directly with various people and communities, exploring the reality of immigrant life, and helping people overcome some of the difficulties they encounter from an often intolerant society. You will work directly with Latin American migrants to New Jersey to learn about their realities, while also collaborating with a local service organization that helps migrants with the problems that they regularly face. 01:090:101 section 68 index 16620

Criminal Court War Stories
Milton Heumann (Political Science)
This seminar begins with the reading of an engaging journalistic account of the world of criminal justice in a Chicago courthouse. Next, we’ll discuss the general context of criminal-case processing in the U.S. Finally, four or five leading criminal attorneys will visit our class and share the one case that stands out in each of their legal careers. Their “war stories” will include detailed descriptions of these cases, including an analysis of the key decision points made along the way. Through class discussion, students will develop their own considered views of the final results of each case. 01:090:101 section 16 index 16403

New Life at Rusted Places
Wolfram Hoefer (Landscape Architecture)
In many of our American cities, including cities in New Jersey, industries have closed down—and abandoned spaces await new uses. We hear about the so-called “rust belt” in the Midwest, where steel and auto plants now lie fallow. Locally, there are similar sites. Are these locales merely empty wastelands? Or are they fascinating places full of stories and potential discoveries? Why are some people afraid of such sites, and why do others find them so interesting? This seminar will introduce a number of post-industrial projects, found around the world, that use the creative perspective of landscape architecture to bring new life back to old industrial sites. We will also explore some academic careers that seek solutions for resurrecting our “rusted places” for new uses and enjoyments. The seminar includes local field trips. 11:090:101 section 05 index 09332

R.U. Happy?
Briavel Holcomb (Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy)
What makes you happy? What makes other people happy? In this seminar we’ll explore the idea of happiness from various perspectives, including ancient and modern philosophers, the new field of positive psychology, the geography and economics of happiness, and the use of well-being as a measure of success in public policy. We will explore the expressions of happiness in art, music, literature, and poetry, and consider cultural and generational differences that affect how happiness is expressed. We will compare and debate ideas of happiness. Guest speakers and a communal meal will round out our seminar experience. 01:090:101 section 18 index 08610

U.S. Banks in Crisis: Lessons from the Past, Questions for the Future
Joseph P. Hughes (Economics)
Before the current banking crisis, the U.S. last experienced a financial upheaval in the latter half of the 1980s and early 1990s in the savings and loan and banking sectors. Failures of financial institutions surged in the late 1980s and again began to rise dramatically in 2008. There were runs by uninsured creditors of financial institutions in the last crisis as there have been in the recent crisis. Government took strong action to address the crisis in each period, and, in both periods, has received blistering criticism for its attempts to bail out the largest banks. We will address questions of “moral hazard” in the financial system, and the degree to which government action creates and/or is constrained by moral hazard. In this seminar you will have the opportunity to do original research with the professor by working directly with bank data. This is a rare chance to gain a hands-on understanding of modern banking, bank crises, and what constitutes a sound financial institution. 01:090:101 section 19 index 13593

“…to be able to see examples of a professor’s work outside of the classroom was truly a great experience.”
—Kaitlin Morey, ‘RU 14
Why Is It So Hard to “Just Say No”?
Valerie Johnson (Center of Alcohol Studies)
Team-taught by a group of faculty affiliated with the internationally recognized Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies (CAS), this seminar explores controversial issues surrounding addictive behaviors, especially as they affect contemporary college students. Topics include drugs and sports, random drug testing, the legal drinking age, drug-use decriminalization, alcohol advertising, risky behaviors, and addiction treatments.

Stress, Health, and Disease
Alexander Kusnecov (Psychology)
Why are you more likely to get sick during final exam week than during any other part of the semester? Can “germs” make you feel like you have depression, give you schizophrenia, or affect your brain development? Is stress always a health risk? This seminar will explore how stress and psychosocial factors affect disease processes that involve the immune system, the body’s defense against disease and infection, and a source of inflammation. Stress can compromise the immune system, leading to illness, but researchers have discovered that the opposite is also true: inflammatory immune responses influence brain and behavioral function. Thus, some immune responses have been linked to diseases affecting mental health. We’ll discuss links between stress and rates of infection, cancer, and autoimmune disease. In addition, we’ll learn about connections between inflammatory immune processes and depression, schizophrenia, autism, and Alzheimer’s disease.

Occupy the Media
Susan Keith (Journalism and Media Studies)
This seminar examines the news media’s response to social unrest that occurred in the United States and around the world more than 40 years before Occupy Wall Street. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the staid, male-dominated world of U.S. journalism was shaken by the Civil Rights Movement, the Women’s Movement, and anti-war movements, all of which had effects not only on events the media covered but also on who practiced journalism and how. In this seminar you will look at how journalism reacted to and was transformed by these times.

The Economics of College and Pro Football
Mark Killingsworth (Economics)
Randy Smith (Sociology)
This seminar will describe and analyze two very different “industries”: college football and professional football. These two industries are full of paradoxes. Pro football players are paid big salaries, but their careers are very brief and the risk of injury is very high. Big-time college football generates millions of dollars in revenue, but college football players do not receive a salary. Both colleges and professional football teams build large and expensive stadiums, frequently with taxpayer subsidies. At both the college and pro levels, many coaches receive multimillion-dollar salaries. Where does all the money for this come from at the college and pro levels, and where does all the money go? Should the government regulate college and/or pro football more stringently, or more leniently? Should taxpayers continue to fund stadiums for college or pro football? What are the factors that affect coaches’ salaries? Is there evidence of racial discrimination in pro football players’ salaries? This seminar will explore these questions and more.

Volunteers in Times of Crisis
Laurie Lewis (Communications)
Volunteers serve a multitude of organizations worldwide in a vast array of roles. In 2009, 63.4 million Americans volunteered in their communities providing 8.1 billion hours of service that has an estimated dollar value of $169 billion. During times of crisis, volunteers come together spontaneously as well as through long-established organizations such as the American Red Cross, faith-based organizations, environmental organizations, advocacy organizations, social service organizations,
and many others. Scholars of organizations are interested in understanding how these volunteers organize and are managed by longstanding or new organizational structures. In crises such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks, hurricanes, tornados, the BP oil spill, or current economic crises, volunteers step forward—sometimes in great numbers. In this seminar, we’ll explore how those volunteers view their roles, how they are enabled or not in their attempts to help, and how organizations tasked with managing crises and disasters manage their labor.

01:090:101 section 72 index 16624

Texting and Sexting: Growing Up in the Digital Age
Jeffrey Longhofer (School of Social Work)

This seminar will explore our engagements with the digital world. We will look at how everyday modes of relating have been affected by the digital age, and we will consider the digital as a specific kind of mental space. We will look in particular at how gender, race, and sexuality are expressed through and shaped by technology and how the digital world offers new understandings of cultural difference. Is it possible to transcend the limits of the body through digital means? Is dancing in Second Life the same as dancing in the physical world? If I am labeled Caucasian in material space and African American in virtual space, which one is the “real” me? Does it matter? How does the digital world create new virtual spaces for expressing alternative identities, cultures, and communities? We will consider gaming, telepresence, virtual communities, and the changing nature of work.

01:090:101 section 30 index 08620

The 2012 Elections and You—What’s Up With That?
Ruth Mandel (Director, Eagleton Institute of Politics; Board of Governors Professor of Politics)

After a seemingly endless period of contentious campaigning, on November 6th, U.S. voters will finally have the deciding say about who will occupy the White House and who will serve in the House and Senate beginning in January 2013. In this seminar, we will talk about the politics of this election season and try to understand the dynamics on the ground. We’ll invite guest speakers from various programs inside the Eagleton Institute of Politics and snag a variety of visitors from the heat of the campaigns. We’ll ask them to tell us what’s going on and why it matters, posing such questions as: What have the fights been about? What is a “battleground state”? What issues will have the biggest impact on election day? Do the debates matter? What is the “gender gap” and why should we care? What about endorsements by newspapers, political leaders, labor unions, musicians, and TV/Hollywood celebrities? And finally, what about your vote—does it matter?

01:090:101 section 78 index 17590

Storytelling in Conversation
Jenny Mandelbaum (Communications)

We tend to think of story tellings as monologues, with one person actively speaking and others passively listening. In this seminar, we re-examine our taken-for-granted notions about storytelling. By examining videotapes of story tellings at the family dinner table during Thanksgiving, Easter, and Passover, we come to see how stories are actually constructed by teller and “audience” together, and used to construct and manage relationships between family members and others present. This close examination will enable us to rethink our preconceptions about communication itself.

01:090:101 section 31 index 08621

The Politics & Practice of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)
Rocio Magaña (Anthropology)

Ariana Manguel Figueroa (School of Education)

Why is it so important to feel like you belong? What is necessary to create a sense that you are a part of a larger community? By studying Día de los Muertos celebrations, you will explore how ethnographic research can help provide you with a better understanding about immigrants, the conditions of their migration, and their community-making practices. You will participate in Day of the Dead celebrations in Central New Jersey and New York City, examining first-hand the processes of social and cultural community building. This seminar will provide you with a vantage point from which to assess current debates about migration and belonging, and develop a grounded understanding of cultural and social change dynamics. Spanish proficiency will be useful, but it is not mandatory.

01:090:101 section 77 index 16629

The Meaning of Video-Gaming
Paul McLean (Sociology)

Playing video games is a way to have fun, hang out with friends, and spend your time. But how does video-gaming both shape and reflect our culture and our way of living as a society? In this seminar, we’ll learn about the meaning of video-gaming from a sociologist’s perspective, as an “idioculture.” Video-gaming is fundamentally a social activity: in game-play we learn to follow rules, but also how and when we are supposed to bend the rules. We learn about honor, cheating, and honorable forms of cheating. We make pretend claims to status, and we participate with the tools of the game—heroes, villains, music, competition—to develop a sense of ourselves. In this course we will study the nature of play, play video games, and critically observe other game players in order to understand this idioculture both theoretically and practically.

01:090:101 section 32 index 09273

Insiders and Outsiders: Religious and Political Identity in the United States
Andrew Murphy (Political Science)
Joseph Williams (Religion)

Americans in the early 21st century find themselves at a pivotal cultural moment where, we might say, the stories they told themselves about who they were seem increasingly disconnected from reality “on the ground.” Evidence of this disconnect as it pertains to religion and culture is all around. What was once called the “Protestant mainline” continues to shrink in numbers and cultural influence. A small but growing American Muslim community struggles for acceptance into the American mainstream, with the “Ground Zero mosque” controversy showing just how tenuous that acceptance remains. Even the evangelical movement, which powerfully reentered American politics during the 1970s and 1980s, has undergone generational turnover and struggles to connect with a new generation of American youth. Perhaps most remarkably, the fastest-rising religious demographic in most public opinion surveys is “none.” This seminar will explore Americans’ various reactions to these profound dislocations. How have some Americans attempted to reassert American Christianity, or some variant thereof, as fundamental to what it means to be American? How have other Americans embraced diversity and multiculturalism as the foundation of what it means to be an American? How do some navigate issues of religious identity and national identity by simultaneously allowing space for both common values and deep diversity on the ground?

01:090:101 section 73 index 16625
Safe, Exciting, and More Livable Cities of the Future
Anton Nelessen (Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy)
You will live in a city sometime in your life, and so will billions of other people worldwide. Why are some cities more beautiful and desirable to live in than others? This seminar will answer these questions and prepare you for potential careers that will engineer, finance, and implement policies and plans for the new generations of city dwellers. You will be exposed to a range of livable cities, vision plans, and policies for the future. We will discuss infrastructure, mobility, landscaping, building form as well as political implementation and public mental and physical health. Discussions will follow each lecture presentation using videos and multi-media presentations of livable cities worldwide.
01:090:101 section 34 index 08623

Foreclosure and the City
Kathe Newman (Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy)
While news of foreclosure frequently makes headlines, we hear far less about what foreclosure means for New Jersey cities. In this course, we will learn about how finance came to play such a large role in the economy and what that has meant for urban places. We will dive into the problem of foreclosure in New Jersey communities, looking at the factors that caused the crisis, the landscape of foreclosure, and what communities are doing about it. We’ll take a trip to Newark to learn first-hand what foreclosure looks like in a city. There we’ll talk with community organization staff about their efforts to deal with this crisis.
01:090:101 section 35 index 08624

The Origins and Durability of Beliefs
Daniel M. Ogilvie (Psychology)
Some beliefs are easy come, easy go. Many children believe in Santa Claus, but most children are not devastated when they realize that Santa is a myth. Other beliefs are more enduring. They operate as basic, sometimes unspoken, assumptions about the nature of life that resist being penetrated by evidence that these assumptions might not be valid. For instance, some people in the Middle Ages were executed for arguing that the Earth was not the center of the universe. You will live in a city sometime in your life, and so will billions of other people worldwide. Why are some cities more beautiful and desirable to live in than others? This seminar will answer these questions and prepare you for potential careers that will engineer, finance, and implement policies and plans for the new generations of city dwellers. You will be exposed to a range of livable cities, vision plans, and policies for the future. We will discuss infrastructure, mobility, landscaping, building form as well as political implementation and public mental and physical health. Discussions will follow each lecture presentation using videos and multi-media presentations of livable cities worldwide.
01:090:101 section 34 index 08623

Media in the Digital Age
John V. Pavlik (Journalism and Media Studies)
Emerging communication technologies have the power to affect, rapidly, everything from personal relationships to presidential races to the success of a new restaurant. In this course, we will focus on understanding the nature and impact of digital technology on media and society. Students will examine the changing nature of media in the digital environment, including social media, and their consequences, especially implications for civility, democracy, journalism, and beyond. The course includes creating your own blog and discussing other students’ blogs.
01:090:101 section 36 index 08625

Polling and the 2012 Election: How Dare They Tell Me What I Think?
David P. Redlawsk (Political Science)
Americans are inundated with public opinion polling, especially around elections. We seem to be obsessed with knowing who’s winning and who’s losing well before the election actually happens. We are also obsessed with knowing whether our opinions fit the “mainstream” or are somehow out in left (or right) field. In this seminar we will explore the role of polling in the run up and aftermath of the 2012 general election, which will no doubt be one of the most intensely contested campaigns in recent times. Taking advantage of the unique resource of the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling, we will look at polling data, question wording, and examine how 800–1000 people can actually represent the opinions of millions of Americans.
01:090:101 section 74 index 16626

Cold War Politics and Policy in Film and Literature
Hal Saltzman (Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy)
The Cold War looms large in our popular imagination and in shaping the post-war path of globalization. In this seminar, we will examine how popular films and novels portray the Cold War period and the relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States. We will study major events and themes from nuclear war, spying, and McCarthyism, to Cold War global expansion and the fall of the Berlin Wall. We will watch five feature films, starting with Dr. Strangelove, and students will read one spy novel. We will also take field trips to the United Nations and the Zimmerli Art Museum’s exhibition of Soviet-era art.
01:090:101 section 39 index 10381

The Self and its Disorders
Louis A. Sass (Psychology)
In this seminar, you will be introduced to current thinking about several personality disturbances or mental disorders that involve major alterations of the self or sense of identity: narcissistic, borderline, schizoid, and schizophrenic conditions. We will discuss theories from psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral, and existential psychology. We will pay special attention to the perspective of the suffering individual, the possible relevance of modern and postmodern cultural factors, and the relationship between madness and rationality. The seminar offers an introduction to some key topics in contemporary psychiatry and clinical psychology.
01:090:101 section 40 index 08626

Republic of the Web: Information of the People, by the People, for the People
Chirag Shah (Library and Information Science)
People can change information, but can information change people? The Web is increasingly becoming a peer-to-peer connection network. It is not uncommon for a piece of information, such as an online video, to be blogged and tweeted through various channels, connecting a myriad of people in the process. This seminar will introduce students to the “Republic of the Web,” by examining the ways in which new media is redefining our democratic thinking and affecting various socio-political issues. As a group, we will carry out a series of experiments and analyses around a number of online communities to explore how people, information, and technology connect in synergetic ways.
01:090:101 section 41 index 09277

Money: A Gentle Introduction to Economics in Exciting Times
Neil Sheflin (Economics)
This seminar is an introduction to the nature, role, history, impact, art, and future of money. We will discuss elements of finance, monetary theory, monetary policy, monetary mischief (bubbles, manias), and the art of money (engraving, minting). We will explore how to make and use money wisely through both personal finance and career ideas. Finally, we will look at some...
current research on monetary policy. This seminar is oriented to non-economics, non-business majors, though all are welcome.

01:090:101 section 43 index 11799

Growing Up on The Wire: Exploring Adolescents’ Lives in Urban Settings
Cassandra Simmel (Social Work)
The HBO series The Wire is considered a masterpiece by many TV critics. Part of this praise stems from its stark, realistic, and compelling depiction of the characters in this series, especially the adolescent characters. Using this series as the focal point, this seminar will explore adolescents’ psychological development, especially how it is affected by different family, neighborhood, and societal factors. How is identity formation influenced by complex family and social relationships? We will also examine the depiction of adolescents in The Wire and compare how they are portrayed in this series versus by the general media. Do adolescents get a bad rap? Do we pay enough attention to how and where adolescents grow up?

01:090:101 section 75 index 16627

Digital Media Storytelling
Anselm Spoerri (Library and Information Science)
In this course, students will explore, learn, and discuss how best to use innovative digital media technologies, such as gigapixel and image fusion photography, and digital mapping tools, such as Google Maps and Google Earth, to develop and tell digital stories. Students will work as a team to create and edit digital media that captures unique aspects of the New Brunswick campus as part of the whereRU project—whereRU.rutgers.edu.

01:090:101 section 45 index 10383

Autism and Parkinson’s: An Overview
George Wagner (Psychology)
Autism is a disorder that emerges in childhood, often before a child is three years old. Parkinson’s disease is a degenerative disorder that affects adults and increases in severity as people age. What do these two disorders have in common? That is one question we will explore in this seminar. We will begin by examining autism from its genetic and neuroanatomical basis to its symptoms and therapy. We will discuss important issues and theories about the origins of autism. Additional topics will include symptoms and epidemiology of autism, animal models of autism, and theory of mind. Finally, we will discuss the similarities between autism and Parkinson’s disease, a disease normally associated with aging. We will explore the possibility that the origin of Parkinson’s disease may be very early in life and, in many ways, quite similar to autism.

01:090:101 section 49 index 13618

The ABCs of Patents: How to Protect Your Creative Inventions and Avoid Stealing From Others
Connie Wu (Rutgers Libraries; Confucius Institute)
Young minds think big! Today’s students can be tomorrow’s entrepreneurs and inventors. New Jersey is the birthplace of Thomas Edison, as a great inventor, Edison has inspired creativity and sparked big ideas in others. In this seminar, we will learn from famous inventors and hone our own creative thinking process. This seminar will also introduce you to various types of intellectual property, with an emphasis on patents. Any student who wants to follow Edison’s footsteps needs to know how to protect their inventions. We will think about the uses of intellectual property and examine ways to protect your own valuable contributions while learning to avoid stealing the ideas of others. This seminar is particularly aimed at students interested in science, engineering, business, and law.

01:090:101 section 52 index 08629

Radio Astronomy: Jersey Roots, Global Reach
Andrew Baker (Physics and Astronomy)
Just like Rutgers, the field of radio astronomy — the investigation of the universe and its contents through observations of radio waves — has “Jersey Roots, Global Reach.” This seminar will introduce students to the history of radio astronomy in New Jersey, which includes the construction of the first radio telescope and the discovery of the cosmic microwave background (i.e., the afterglow of the Big Bang). Students will also learn about the scientific and technical advances made by modern radio astronomers, and will obtain and analyze their own observations of atomic hydrogen gas in the Milky Way using an on-campus telescope.

01:090:101 section 02 index 08599

The Doctor Is In: Malevolent and Magnificent Microbes
Joan W. Bennett (Assoc. VP for Academic Affairs, Women in Science, Engineering and Math; Plant Pathology)
Douglas Eveleigh (Microbiology)
Microbes are organisms too small to be seen by the naked eye. The best-known microbes cause diseases, but most microbial species are an essential and beneficial part of the living world. This seminar will explore the many roles of microbes: in food such as bread and yogurt; for beverage fermentations—e.g., wine and beer; as sources of biologically active chemical compounds such as penicillin and hallucinogens; and in processes such as bio-deterioration and sewerage treatment. Students will also examine microbial diseases in human history, including plagues, syphilis, and tuberculosis.

11:090:101 section 10 index 16666

High-Tech Sustainability: Food For Thought
A.J. Both (Plant Biology and Pathology)
You’ve probably heard the slogan “Buy Local” and know about the growing popularity of urban gardening and farmer’s markets around the US. The Obamas have even planted a vegetable garden at the White House as part of this movement. But how can we maintain a safe, year-round supply of food and flowering plants in the face of increased energy costs, food safety concerns, and environmental issues? In this timely seminar, you will learn the fundamentals of growing plants in controlled environments such as greenhouses. In particular, we’ll investigate the challenges
and opportunities associated with sustainable greenhouse production. We’ll visit greenhouse facilities on Cook Campus, learn about different greenhouse production systems, and work in teams to present a topic for class discussion on issues related to controlled environment plant production.

11:090:101 section 01 index 09330

Intriguing Connections between Nutrients, Environment and Disease
Paul Breslin (Nutritional Sciences)
Sue Shapero (Nutritional Sciences)

Our environment is always changing (i.e., weather, toxins, trends in farming, and disasters) and this affects what we eat, how we metabolize, and whether we contract diseases. This class will provide a debate format to introduce students to complex topics. We will help students develop critical and analytical thinking skills on topics that might not initially appear to be related to one another. For example, we will explore the interaction between vitamin D from diet and from the sun and its impact on disease, and we will discuss salt and the balance between risk for hypertension and depletion due to exercise. We will also debate questions like: Do the “fit” obese live longer than the lean sedentary? And are vitamin supplements preventing or causing disease?

11:090:101 section 13 index 17565

Weather Gone Wild: Will Climate Change Cause More Extreme Weather?
Anthony J. Broccoli (Environmental Sciences)

Global temperatures are rising, and increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are likely responsible for most of the recent warming. Because fossil fuels remain the most important energy source, continuing greenhouse gas emissions are expected to lead to more warming for the next few decades and probably beyond. Some evidence indicates that more extreme weather may result from this warming and that some of these changes may be already underway. In this seminar we will examine the evidence that global warming can increase the likelihood of extreme weather events such as heat waves, heavy rainstorms, and hurricanes.

11:090:101 section 02 index 10373

Volcanoes of New Jersey
Michael Carr (Earth and Planetary Sciences)
Vadim Levin (Earth and Planetary Sciences)

Did you know there were volcanoes in New Jersey? Volcanoes occurred in New Jersey when the east coast of what is now the United States was in the middle of supercontinents. Jurassic volcanism includes the Watchung Mountains, the Palisades, Round Valley, Sourland Mountain, and many other New Jersey locales. We will go to the field to examine nearby examples of these volcanics; specifically, the Rutgers Core Repository on Livingston campus, Chimney Rock County Park, and the Palisades.

01:090:101 section 64 index 13813

Exploring New Jersey’s Waterways By Boat
Robert Chant (Marine and Coastal Sciences)
John Reinfelder (Environmental Sciences)

Is the Raritan River ecosystem devoid of life or is it on its way back to becoming the “Queen of Rivers”? How are New Jersey’s rivers connected to the NY/NJ Harbor and the sea? Can the New Jersey Meadowlands keep up with sea level rise? After decades of declining water quality due to industrial activity, waterborne commerce, and population learning how these civilizations fell apart, we will gain valuable insights and lessons on how we can steer clear of the same fate. The class will examine the impact of a volcano/Tsunami on Minooan civilization, the end of Angkor, and the demise of the Mayan and Aztec civilizations. We will also look at the impact of human activity on the environment, using Australia as a case study.

01:090:101 section 08 index 08602

The History of NO: From Phlogiston to the World Trade Center Dust
Andrew Gow (Pharmacology and Toxicology)

Joseph Priestley in his early experiments to discover the nature of Phlogiston (the gas that supported life) found that the gaseous oxide of azote produced change in the vasculature. This was the first experiment with Nitric Oxide (NO), a simple diatomic molecule that has since been discovered to be produced by the human body, to have over forty six different physiological functions, and to be involved in disease pathologies as diverse as Alzheimer’s and asthma. This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of its discovery as the primary controller of blood flow for which the Nobel Prize was awarded in 1998. This seminar will examine both the science and the history of this intriguing molecule and how its unique chemical reactivity lies at the base of its varied pathophysiological roles (from a mediator of blood flow to a potential component in the pathology of individuals exposed to World Trade Center dust).

01:090:101 section 69 index 16621

Lasers and Fiber Optics in Medicine and Surgery
James Harrington (Materials Science and Engineering)

Many modern surgical techniques involve the use of lasers for least-invasive procedures which are inherently less painful and heal faster. Laser light is now being used for many applications in dermatology, including skin resurfacing and tattoo removal. Laser energy is also delivered by fiber optics inside the body for surgical operations, such as heart surgery and tumor removal. This seminar will focus on the use of lasers and fiber optics for surgery and diagnostic techniques, and in veterinary medicine. In addition, we’ll discuss ethical issues related to scientific misconduct in medicine. The course includes a lab tour of a local medical laser company, with demonstrations of the use of laser radiation for tattoo and hair removal.

01:090:101 section 15 index 08608

“First-year students do not take anything for granted and ask challenging questions that often go to the root of the problem.”
— Prof. Thomas Papathomas (Engineering)
Traditional Organic Food and Farming Systems
Joseph Heckman (Plant Biology and Pathology)
Before supermarkets and an obesity crisis, we were closer to the source of our food. Fresh foods from fertile soil were consumed raw or specially prepared by soaking or fermentation. Milk, meat, and eggs were obtained from animals on pasture. Soils were maintained by keeping livestock and crops together and through composting. In this course, we will study traditional organic food and farming systems through field trips and by reading selected writings of organic pioneers. We will also explore the challenges and rewards of producing and preparing traditional nutrient dense foods on an organic homestead or building a relationship with a local organic farmer to secure these whole foods.
11:090:101 section 04 index 16550

Evolution and the Argument from Design
Jody Hey (Genetics)
Human beings and other living organisms are highly complex with many amazing adaptations which give them the appearance of having been designed. One common idea about how this came to pass is that life was indeed designed by a creator (the Argument from Design). In contrast, Darwin’s theory of evolution offers an alternative mechanism (natural selection) for how complex organisms came into being. Although the Argument from Design is an ancient idea, it has received a lot of attention in recent years under the name “Intelligent Design.” This seminar will explore basic ideas on the nature of science and about the conflict between evolution and religion as they have emerged in the debates about Intelligent Design.
01:090:101 section 17 index 08609

Drugs and Genes: The Development of Personalized Medicine
M. Marcel Iba (Pharmacology and Toxicology)
What causes lactose intolerance, hay fever, or extreme reactions to peanuts or penicillin? What if scientists could create “personalized medicine” that targets each person’s unique response to food and drugs? Some scientists are now saying that we can. Drug and food intolerance stems from genetic differences in individuals, and affects whether they are protected from toxins in food or in the environment, or whether they are more susceptible to these toxins. These genetic differences, or mutations, have developed over the course of human evolution. In this seminar, we will learn about the history of the role of genes in food, chemical, and environmental intolerance. We will also discuss the relationships between modern drug therapy, disease management, and genetics, and trace the development of personalized medicine.
01:090:101 section 20 index 08611

Complementarism: A Biology-Derived Philosophy of the 21st Century
Sungchul Ji (Pharmacology and Toxicology)
Niels Bohr, the early twentieth century Danish physicist, is famous for his theory of complementarity, that items could have different and seemingly contradictory properties, depending on the way in which they are studied. One example of this is the wave-particle duality: light behaves either as a wave or a stream of particles, depending on the experimental framework. This once-revolutionary idea has become standard among physicists. In the 1990s, an extension of Bohr’s idea, called “Complementarism,” was promoted by Professor Ji, the instructor of this seminar. Complementarism suggests that the ultimate reality is a complementary union of opposites, and that there exists a transcendental level where these opposites are reconciled and harmonized. This philosophical framework, supported by research on super-coiled DNA and by the mechanics of protein machines, builds conceptual bridges between western science and eastern religions. Students will study several aspects of complementarism, in physics, cell biology, and the human brain.
01:090:101 section 59 index 10428

Creating 2D and 3D Innovation with Polynomigraphy
Bahman Kalantari (Computer Science)
Through a unique software, called Polynomigraphy, you will be introduced to a fantastic and very powerful visualization medium, easy to use, where polynomials turn into 2D and 3D objects that can be used to create artwork of diverse types, to invent games, and to discover many new concepts as well as creative and innovative ideas that can be applied to many subject areas. Students of Polynomigraphy courses have found its applications in many fields of study: art, math, computer science, dance, linguistics, psychology, physics, chemistry, architecture, cryptography, and more. Working with Polynomigraphy software is similar to learning to work with a sophisticated camera: one needs to learn the basics, the rest is up to the photographer.
01:090:101 section 70 index 16622

Barcoding Species with DNA for Biodiversity Studies
Karl Kjer (Ecology, Evolution and Natural Sciences)
The DNA “barcoding” initiative is a major international research project that is dedicated to sequencing a small fragment of mitochondrial DNA from every animal species on earth. From these sequences, we can make accurate species identifications. For example, different species of caddis flies have specific temperature requirements and different tolerance to pollution. Therefore, studying species identification can track things like changes in water quality, as well as factors that contribute to global climate change. The class will travel to Stokes State Forest to collect aquatic insects, and these insect samples will be compared to those collected in the Rutgers Ecological preserve. We will extract DNA from these samples, amplify the DNA with PCR, and sequence them. These sequences will then be submitted to the BOLD (Barcode of Life Data Systems) website for identification, allowing us to link species diversity with water quality. You will learn a broad and interconnected set of skills, including insect biodiversity, DNA sequencing technology, and the link between human activity, and aquatic ecosystem health. (Students will need to attend one of the Rutgers Laboratory safety courses.)
11:090:101 section 11 index 17559

Alternative Energy
Lisa C. Klein (Materials Science and Engineering)
Batteries, fuel cells, and alternative energy devices will be the focus of this seminar. Students will learn what is needed to improve current technology and what is required to make new technologies practical in the area of energy generation. The seminar will focus on energy storage (in devices such as batteries) and energy conversion (in devices such as solar cells). Other activities will include meeting researchers actively involved in materials research in energy related fields and assembling and testing actual solar cells.
01:090:101 section 24 index 08615

Space Exploration in the 21st Century
Doyle Knight (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
This seminar will explore the economic, political, and social impact of the extraordinary growth of space programs in the 21st Century. In contrast to the Cold War
era when space exploration was dominated by the United States and the Soviet Union, there are currently nine countries plus Europe (European Space Agency) engaged in space missions. Additionally, there are more than 50 countries presently operating earth satellites for telecommunications, weather, surveillance and other purposes, and the number is expected to increase dramatically over the next several decades. Moreover, several countries are in various stages of planning year-long human missions to Mars, and robotic exploration of the outer planets in the solar system remains an active area of investigation.

01:090:101 section 25 index 08616

Of Tinman and Scarecrow: Understanding the Heart and the Brain
Mary Konsolaki (Genetics)
Sunita Kramer (UMD NJ)
The heart and the brain are the two most vital organs in the human body, but how much do we know about them? By studying the development of non-human organisms, such as fruit flies, worms, and mice, scientists have discovered that the genes controlling the pattern of the body are almost the same in all animals. For example, the genes that instruct fly embryos to form wings and human embryos to form arms and legs are nearly identical. Through lectures, discussions, and lab visits, we’ll focus on how the study of “model” organisms can transform our understanding of both the healthy human body and human diseases, particularly those that affect the heart and the brain. We will also engage in a panel discussion to explore how biological phenomena have shaped the current state of medical research and by consequence, the medical establishment of our country.

01:090:101 section 26 index 08617

Mind-Body Approaches to Managing Stress
Paul Lehrar (Psychiatry, RWJMS)
You will learn about several ways that voluntary control of the body (muscles, heart, lungs etc.) can help manage psychological stress and some psychiatric and medical diseases, which has direct application for everyone, from athletes to artists. The seminar will include personal training and research readings on such topics as progressive muscle relaxation, self-hypnosis, and biofeedback, and include experiential learning. You will learn to relax your muscles, and to control your heart rate and skin temperature, and observe the effects on your emotions, sleep patterns, and tolerance for stress.

01:090:101 section 79 index 17796

Hollywood Biotechnology: Fact or Fiction?
Paul Meers (Plant Biology and Pathology)
In this course we will investigate the occasionally wide gap between public perception and a true understanding of the way science “works.” Students will be introduced to some of the concepts of modern biotechnology and nanotechnology via viewing and discussion of the portrayal of these fields in popular movies. We will analyze misconceptions and accurate portrayals and build a basic understanding of the latest exciting work in rapidly emerging areas such as genomics and epigenetics.

11:090:101 section 06 index 16552

ExoBiology: Is There Life On Other Planets?
Gaetano Montelione (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry)
Yuanpeng Janet Huang (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry)
This class will explore the basic chemistry of life, what we know about the early evolution of molecular life forms, and how this is related to three basic factors: energy source, liquid states, and organic molecules. How did these appear on the earth and function together to create life? Do these right combinations exist on other objects in the solar system and outside of our solar system? What are the roles of asteroid impacts and comets in the evolution of life? How about solar wind? What is the role of the earth’s magnetic field? How about the Martian magnetic field? What kinds of life forms exist on earth? Would life on other planets use DNA? How about RNA? How can we detect life on other planets in our solar system and also outside of our solar system?

01:090:101 section 33 index 08622

Will Geoengineering Solve the Problem of Global Warming?
Alan Robock (Environmental Sciences)
Is there a technological solution to global warming? Prominent atmospheric scientists have proposed that geoengineering—creating an artificial cloud in the upper atmosphere to reflect sunlight—might reduce global warming enough to buy society time to find a more permanent fix. In this course, we will look at the science of global warming and consider geoengineering schemes as well as the consequences they might have, both positive and negative on society and global warming. Do the benefits of geoengineering outweigh the risks? We will also discuss mitigation—using energy more efficiently and using green sources of energy—as an alternative solution to the global warming problem.

01:090:101 section 07 index 09333

Oceanography: Oceans of Opportunity in Research and Careers
Peter A. Rona (Marine Science and Geological Sciences)
Oceanography is a multi-disciplinary science with amazing opportunities for education, research, and fieldwork. The great age of ocean exploration is just beginning. This seminar will introduce students to the fascinating field of oceanography. A tour of Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences will give students a chance to meet researchers and to see experiments in action. They will view the award winning IMAX film Volcanoes of the Deep Sea about Rutgers’ exploration of hot springs and their ecosystems in the deep ocean. Students will attend lectures and interact with faculty and graduate students to learn about educational, research, and career opportunities in oceanography.

11:090:101 section 08 index 09334

Endocrine Health and Diseases
Dipak K. Sarkar (Animal Sciences)
What are the health consequences of alcohol consumption? What is the relationship between stress, sleep disturbance, and alcohol abuse? This seminar will explore these questions, and more, as students learn about various research approaches currently being used in Rutgers’ labs to understand how stress and alcohol consumption affect endocrine health and cause various diseases. Readings and discussions will focus on identifying the physiological mechanisms involved in various endocrine diseases.

11:090:101 section 14 index 18149

Cooking Through Change: A Spicy Walk Through the Last 10,000 Years
Lena Struwe (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources)
Calling all “foodies”! In this seminar, we will explore the evolution of cooking and taste from a scientific and historical perspective. Since the beginnings of agriculture, humans migrated, fought and/or traded with each other, and experienced natural disasters—how did this affect what was eaten and cooked? How do cooking and taste changed with the introduction of new ingredients and spices from far-away places? How has the movement of major crops around the world affected
First-Year Seminars

Making Mutants: Understanding the Control of Gene Expression through the Analysis of Mutant Genes
Andrew Vershon (Waksman Institute of Microbiology; Molecular Biology and Biochemistry)
The control of gene expression is one of the fundamental processes in all organisms and unregulated gene expression is often the cause for cancer and other diseases. Understanding how gene expression is regulated will help researchers develop mechanisms to combat disease. This course will discuss current research in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* that is being used to understand the process of gene regulation in eukaryotes. Students will get first-hand laboratory research experience by performing experiments to isolate and analyze mutants in a protein that regulates transcription in yeast.

World of Glass
Jack Wenzel (Materials Science and Engineering)
Glass has been used for millennia and is perhaps the oldest man-made material. It is also the most modern: fiber optics made of ultrapure glass form the basis of the internet. In this seminar we will discuss the nature of glass, the evolution of technologies for its manufacture, and the properties which make it a unique and useful engineering material as well as a medium for artists. We will conclude with a demonstration of glass melting and pouring at the Rutgers-Corning glass laboratory.

All Stressed Out and Nowhere to Run: Plant Tolerance and Survival
Barbara Zilinskas (Plant Biology & Pathology)
Plants are “stuck,” they cannot run away from environmental or biological stressors. Survival in harsh conditions, whether natural or man-made, demand that plants have clever and various means to avoid or tolerate stress. Whether there are severe droughts or ravaging floods, sweltering or freezing temperatures, polluted air or soil, devastating pathogens or insect pests, plants have evolved various ways to survive. Scientists are determined to understand these tolerance mechanisms with the goal of reducing the adverse effects of stress on plant growth and crop productivity, which is of paramount importance as we move forward to address issues of global food security.
Walt Whitman and the Poetic Imagination
Arthur D. Casciato (Director, Distinguished Fellowships)
In the poem “Song of Myself,” Walt Whitman muses about a simple question—“What is the grass?”—and chooses to answer using metaphor and humble guesses rather than “expert knowledge.” In this seminar, we will encounter Whitman and three other writers who emulate his example by resisting the temptation to speak from the position of professional or institutional authority: Kenneth Patchen, Memoirs of a Shy Pornographer; John Steinbeck, The Log From the Sea of Cortez; and Henry Miller, Tropic of Capricorn—all of whom use language in ways that seek relief from what Miller calls the “Air-Conditioned Nightmare.” Their meandering road to understanding through shared puzzlement is the less traveled one; but my students and I will follow it in hopes of fostering in each of us the possibility of a revitalizing and truly critical poetic imagination.

Hell’s Plot: Performing Jesus, Popular Christianity, and the Cult of Fear
Gregory Jackson (VP Academic Affairs; English)
While this seminar will be fun—with lots of bone-chilling descriptions of the afterlife—it also seeks to help students better understand what faculty do at research institutions. Students will work in this professor’s discipline—in the field of American religion—examining different forms of religious cultural production, from the Puritan gravestone (we will spend some time in a churchyard reading seventeenth-century gravestones), to a real Hell House, in which we will go on a tour led by a demon-guide to witness the consequences of sin. We will read popular fiction, view documentaries, and learn about how these materials comprise a field of academic research. What can we learn about our world, about Americans’ views of life, death, and afterlife, about the role of religion in American politics and culture, and the influence of religion in our day-to-day lives?

Gender and Disaster
Specifically for Douglass Residential College Students Only.
Jacquelyn Litt (Dean, Douglass Residential College and Douglass Campus; Women’s and Gender Studies)
Natural, manmade, and technological disasters have become a way of life in the 21st century. This seminar explores the social dimensions of disasters on populations, with a particular focus on social inequality in disaster recovery. We explore national and international policy regarding disasters, disaster relief efforts, and new models for understanding disasters. Examples include: 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, the BP and Exxon Valdez oil spills, and the Haiti and Japan earthquakes.

Utopia
Benjamin Justice (Education)
What is the ideal society? Should social institutions regulate how we work? Play? Love? Think? Is contemporary America more like a utopian dream or a dystopic nightmare? In this seminar we will explore these and other questions by reading three utopian/dystopian classics: Thomas More’s Utopia (1516), Aldous Huxley’s Brave New World (1932), and George Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty-Four (1948). We will also view and critique the film versions of 1984 and Brave New World. With luck, we may be in time for the release of the new film Brave New World, directed by Ridley Scott and starring Leonardo DiCaprio. Expect pleasurable reading and lively discussions.

Illusions: A Royal Path to Interdisciplinary Brain Research
Thomas V. Papathomas (Assoc. Director, Laboratory of Vision Research; Biomedical Engineering)
In the famous “figure-ground” drawing, a black-and-white image appears to be a vase or two profiles facing each other. Which is it? The answer depends on factors we will study in this course. This seminar presents an interdisciplinary approach to brain research using visual and auditory illusions. First, we’ll examine how the brain organizes information that it gathers through sight and sound by using psychophysical methods and brain imaging. Next, we’ll use illusions in vision and audition to test the hypothesis that perception is not an automatic, data-driven (“bottomup”) process, but is subject to cognitive, schema-driven (“topdown”) influences. Examples will include an “everascending pitch illusion,” the “hollow mask illusion,” striking 3D art pieces (“reverspectives”) that appear to move as one moves in front of them, as well as some of the instructor’s own illusions. One of the classes will be a guided tour of the Zimmerli Museum.
**The class will utilize an array of sources to complexes will receive close attention.**

**Mussolini’s Rome:**
**Italian Fascism and the Classical World**
T. Coray Brennan (Classics)
This course examines Fascist appropriation and misappropriation of Roman history, art, literature, architecture, and archaeology during the short-lived Italian Empire with a particular emphasis on Rome from 1922-1943. The focus is especially on Mussolini’s casting about in the past to shape his public image, first as Julius Caesar, but eventually as the 20th century’s answer to Augustus, the founder of the Roman empire. The Fascist regime’s dual emphasis on restoring ancient monuments and building new monumental complexes will receive close attention. The class will utilize an array of sources to understand the main developments in the era, including small media and ephemera (postage stamps, coins, medallions, postcards, school notebooks); contemporary newsreel footage (culled from the ca. 4,000 hours newly available on the Cinecittà Luce website), and unpublished material from a newly-rediscovered archival collection in Rome. No knowledge of Italian is required.

**Melodrama: From Oliver Twist to Twilight**
Matthew Buckley (English)
When we think of melodrama, we think of creaky old stage or early film dramas of emotional excess, of helpless heroines tied to the tracks, of ridiculous villains and impossible, fantastical plots, and we often forget, in consequence, that almost all of the “drama” we see in film and on TV, on stage and in literary fiction, even in popular journalism, is the same basic form. Twilight, Titanic, Slumdog Millionaire, The Wire, and Law and Order are all obvious examples. In this seminar you will explore melodrama’s origins around the time of the French Revolution, investigate its logic and meaning as the fundamental form of modern storytelling, and interrogate its unique and ongoing appeal in the modern world. Our materials will include plays, novels, films, television shows, print, and broadcast journalism drawn from the last two centuries.

**What is Africa to Me?**
Abena P.A. Busia (English)
We all know that aspects of one culture are carried over to and embed themselves in another culture in fascinating ways. African immigrants to the U.S., such as the instructor for this seminar, often recognize familiar forms of “home” shadowed in American culture. This course focuses on recognizing ways in which Africa is “remembered,” as legacy and metaphor, as well as in practices of daily living, in the United States. Through films, performances, and a field trip to the African Burial Ground in New York City, we will look at a wide range of African American cultural texts and trace them back to their origins in Africa. The class will explore the multiple ways in which the arrival of Africans in America has shaped the everyday lives of people in the New World, and continues to do so.

**History of Rutgers**
Paul G. E. Clemens (History)
In this seminar, we will discuss both what a state university should be and how your state university became what it is today. We will look at areas such as student life and student protest (over Vietnam and civil rights issues), curriculum, debates over co-education (and over Douglass College’s future as a college for women), athletics, research, state-university relations, “town and gown” issues, fraternities, and architecture. We’ll read Michael Moffatt’s Coming of Age in New Jersey—about a Rutgers professor who lived for a semester in a college dorm—and you’ll have a chance to sit in on an oral history interview with someone whose career spans the last thirty years at Rutgers. We will also read part of Richard P. McCormick’s study of the Black Student Rebellion at Rutgers.

**Twin Towers:**
**The Rise and Fall of the World Trade Center**
Angus Kress Gillespie (American Studies)
The attack on the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001 marked one of the most unforgettable days in American history. This seminar will focus on the history of the Twin Towers, from construction to destruction; on current efforts to rebuild; and on the status of the World Trade Center Memorial. Through discussion, documentary films, and guest lectures, we will engage in an inquiry together to address questions such as: Could the attacks have been predicted and prevented? Was there a conspiracy afterwards to hide the facts from the American people? Professor Gillespie’s best-selling book on the Twin Towers will serve as the foundational text for the course.

**Baffling Paradoxes: Finding Solutions or Not?**
Peter Klein (Philosophy)
Paradoxes, as we will study them, are what appear to be perfectly valid arguments from premises that appear to be true to conclusions that seem false. Thus, they are baffling, and our question will be what
to think about them. We will examine four paradoxes that concern 1) moral obligation, 2) the extent of our knowledge, 3) the possibility of there being a surprise quiz, and 4) the nature of motion. They conclude respectively: our moral judgments are not to be trusted, we know almost nothing, there can be no surprise quizzes, and there is no motion. We will examine each argument carefully and consider at least the following possible responses: Yikes, it shows what it claims to show; at least one of the premises is false; there is something wrong with the reasoning; or, maybe, there is no good response because our reasoning is simply unreliable. Our challenge will be to defend one (or more) of these responses or develop a better one.

Music and Tragedy
Min Kwon (Music)
“Life without music is a mistake,” said Nietzsche. Throughout human history, music has had the power to comfort and soothe our soul. Music is the true soundtrack of life. As a group, we will explore the history and background of many famous classical composers, how certain events in their lives—from the death of loved ones to the destruction of society (e.g. French Revolution, WW II)—affected their creativity. How do artistic minds deal with or respond to such struggle and tragedy? We will explore and experience the examples of their survival through their masterpieces. The great artists found solace, even triumphed over difficulties, through their creations and the gift of music, and as their artistic genius still resonate today, centuries after their mortal existences are gone. Our class will create a soundtrack of our own, of each student’s life, together discovering the repertoire that heals and touches us. A field trip to a Philharmonic concert at Lincoln Center is included.

100 Years of Butterfly
Allan Isaac (American Studies)
Rick Lee (Instructor, English)
The “Butterfly” story of a self-sacrificing Asian woman has been told and retold for more than a hundred years. This seminar will trace the evolution and challenges to the Butterfly narrative, from John Luther Long’s short story (1898) and Puccini’s opera (1904) to M Butterfly (1988) and Miss Saigon (1989), to look at issues of race, empire, gender, and sexuality.

Hell’s Plot: Performing Jesus, Popular Christianity, and the Cult of Fear
Gregory Jackson (VP Academic Affairs; English)
While this seminar will be fun—with lots of bone-chilling descriptions of the afterlife—it also seeks to help students better understand what faculty do at research institutions. Students will work in this professor’s discipline—in the field of American religion—examining different forms of religious cultural production, from the Puritan gravestone (we will spend some time in a churchyard reading seventeenth-century gravestones), to a real Hell House, in which we will go on a tour led by a demon-guide to witness the consequences of sin. We will read popular fiction, view documentaries, and learn about how these materials comprise a field of academic research. What can we learn about our world, about Americans’ views of life, death, and afterlife, about the role of religion in American politics and culture, and the influence of religion in our day-to-day lives?

Another Age of Crisis and Its Reflections in the Arts
John F. Kenfield (Art History)
The seventh and eighth centuries CE were an age of crisis for the Late Roman/Early Byzantine Empire, a period dominated by the rise of Islam and the threat it posed to engulf Christian Europe, both east and west, like a great tsunami. These political and religious events were accompanied by near financial collapse. As the Arab tide swept away most of its eastern and North African provinces, it is estimated that the revenues of the Roman state fell by 75% in the seventh century, and to demonstrate further what was interpreted as divine displeasure, these man-made events were accompanied by cataclysmic geophysical activity in the eastern Mediterranean. The parallels with our own time are striking. This course will examine through readings and discussion, the ways in which the imperial government in Constantinople dealt with those problems and the reflection in the visual arts of those problems and the attempted solutions.

Serious Comics
Michael G. Levine (German; Comparative Literature)
In 1986, Art Spiegelman published Maus I, a comic book about the Holocaust, which inspired a generation of cartoonists and graphic novelists and encouraged readers to rethink the comic book genre. In this seminar, we will discuss the history of underground and independent comics and explore comic book form and meaning. We will hone our visual literacy skills, while considering the advantages and limits of the comic book and graphic novel.

The Birthplace of the Modern Age: Renaissance Florence
David Marsh (Italian)
The 1400s in Florence witnessed revolutionary movements in architecture, the visual arts, classical studies, literature, and education—movements that raise important questions about the emerging culture of the modern West. What inspired humanist scholars and Renaissance artists to forge a new literary and visual culture? What is a “Renaissance man,” and what was the status of women in Florentine society? The versatile genius and self-fashioning of Leon Battista Alberti (1404-1472) afford a focal point for a history of the early Renaissance in its interacting spheres of creative endeavor. In addition to readings in primary and secondary texts, the artistic context of this period will be illustrated by slides and videos, and a trip to the Metropolitan Museum may be arranged to view Renaissance paintings.

Caribbean Sexiles
Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel (Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Studies; Comparative Literature)
From the standpoint of cultures of sex and sexuality, the Caribbean today is a complex place. On the one hand, we find pockets of extensive sex tourism, and the zone is imagined as the perfect place to fulfill erotic fantasies. On the other hand, as “traditional” cultures, Caribbean peoples may reject those in the community who engage in sexual behaviors that are seen...
as threatening to the stability of the family and the nation, such as sexually assertive women and gay, lesbian, and transgender people. In this seminar, we will review short stories, documentaries, films, and poems addressing sexual minorities in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico, to study the interplay between Caribbean culture and sexuality. You will discover how scholars of comparative literature analyze cultural texts across national and linguistic boundaries in order to understand or problematize human experience. A focus of the class is female sexuality, including the graphic novels of Erika Lopez, a California lesbian of Puerto Rican and Jewish descent.

War, Terrorism and Ethics
Jeff McMahan (Philosophy)
Larry Temkin (Philosophy)
In this seminar, we will discuss a range of issues about war and morality, such as humanitarian intervention, preventive war, military occupation, the killing of civilians as a side effect of war, anti-terrorism, torture, and the role of civilian contractors in war. We will discuss the so-called “War on Terror” and in this context we will consider whether terrorists are properly understood as combatants in war or as criminals. This will lead us to discussions of whether the current US practice of targeted killing should be seen as a form of combat, or as law enforcement, or as murder. We will also address the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the limited intervention in Libya.

Portraiture
Benjamin Paul (Art History)
Portraiture reflects how the concept of individuality has changed throughout history. While in the fifteenth century portraits primarily focused on the social status of the represented person, in the following centuries, individuality and personality became more important. Fast forward to the twentieth century, however, and portraiture began to question these conventional concepts of individuality and subjectivity. This seminar will investigate portraiture from the “invention” of the individual in fifteenth-century Italy to its “deconstruction” in the twentieth century. We will discuss these developments in front of originals in the collections of New York City museums, including the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art.

Catalyst and Catastrophe: Natural Disasters in the Ancient Greek and Roman World
Tim Power (Classics)
How did peoples and communities in the ancient Mediterranean world (ca. 1800 BC-600 AD) respond to and recover from natural disasters? In this seminar, we will read works by Greek and Latin writers (in English translation) that offer accounts of cataclysmic environmental events, primarily volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, fires, and plagues. We will explore how Greek and Roman societies collectively conceptualized and psychologically “processed” such life-altering events, and how they dealt practically with the threat and consequences of natural violence. We will think about ways in which ancient reactions to large-scale catastrophes both differ from and resemble those in our own time (e.g., responses to Hurricane Katrina). We will spend time too looking at the ecology of the modern Mediterranean world and thinking about how environmental catastrophes in contemporary Greece and Italy—forest fires, industrial pollution, climate instability—affect the archaeological legacy of the ancient world.

Uncle Tom’s Cabin: Everybody’s Protest Novel, Everybody’s Racist Novel
Barry Qualls (V.P. Undergraduate Education; English)
Harriet Beecher Stowe’s antislavery novel Uncle Tom’s Cabin was an immediate best seller and became the most widely read English-language novel in the world during the nineteenth century. Indeed, when President Lincoln went to meet her he said, “So you are the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war.” Today, this famous novel continues to generate debate and anger, accused of stereotypical depictions of its black characters, of inappropriate language and, at the extreme, of undermining black freedom struggles. In this seminar we will read and discuss Uncle Tom’s Cabin, including its afterlife in popular culture around the world (minstrel shows, stage plays, figurines, even Uncle Tom cereals). We will ask, what is a protest novel? What is a stereotype and what are the uses of stereotypes? We’ll meet the characters who lived on the page and evaluate for ourselves the multilayered literary, cultural, and racial meanings of a book that changed American history.

Acts of the Imagination: Exploring Creativity through Improvisation and Play
Julia Ritter (Dance)
This seminar will explore methods and techniques of improvisation and play as applied to the creation of dance and physical theater. Students who take this seminar should be open to immersing their playful selves in creative games, experiments, and improvisations that use the body and the voice. This course is for anyone who loves to move and challenge themselves to solve problems with creative solutions. We will explore the movement and theatrical potential of the body using traditional and experimental techniques of dance improvisation. The seminar will include a field trip to New York City for a performance.

American Adventure for Our Times
Michael Rockland (American Studies)
Adventure is often associated with escaping community, leaving civilization, and “entering nature,” in part because of the common view that human beings are separate from nature. In this course we’ll assume the contrary, that the environment humans have built—including cities, highways, and even sewers—is a part of nature and also a place of adventure and wonder. Reading select chapters from books that explore the human built environment (including Looking for America on the New Jersey Tpke and The George Washington Bridge: Poetry in Steel), we will plan a field trip, perhaps walking the length of the island of Manhattan and crossing the George Washington Bridge on foot, or hiking along the Delaware and Raritan Canal. Beyond following the professor’s research agenda, the goal here is to have fun, to engage your imagination in relation to your immediate surroundings and environment, and to see the familiar world differently.

Taking It to the Streets: The Culture of the City in the Americas
Marcy Schwartz (Spanish and Portuguese)
We interact with cities when we attend a rally, watch a parade, notice graffiti, or look at murals in the subway stations. The city is a scenario for cultural expression, social organizing, and public participation. This seminar will explore our interactions with cities in Latin America and the US, from political protests to public art. The seminar will expose students to dynamic arts initiatives in local urban environments such as Philadelphia’s 3500 public murals painted by community groups; Latin American short story contests offered through public transportation.
programs; and a new movement of alternative publishers who bind their books in hand-painted recycled cardboard. Many of these projects support environmental sustainability and rely on the public to join in their design and implementation. Of course, we will take advantage of our own local urban surroundings with several walking tours and experiment with our own "travel" writing blogs.

The Emerging Dragon: Contemporary Perspectives on China
Richard VanNess Simmons (Asian Languages and Cultures)
In the past twenty-five years, China has burst upon the world stage, from its status as an isolated developing country to a critical world player in the age of globalization. The country’s dramatic rise has prompted many to predict that the twenty-first century will be China’s century. Is that true? Where has China come from? And where might it be headed? Through readings, videos, and discussions, this seminar will explore modern China's emergence and the explosive development of its cities as witnessed by people from the U.S. and Canada who have studied, lived, and worked there in the past quarter century. We will see China on a personal level and consider the possibilities for the future of this vast, ever-changing, and multi-layered land of the dragon.

Is Water a Human Right?
Trevor Birkenholtz (Geography)
This seminar examines the historical evolution of water rights. By 2025, fifty percent of the world’s population will face water scarcity. Recognizing this, in 2002, the United Nations laid the basic foundation for an internationally codified “human right to water,” grounded in broader universal rights discourses. Yet an actual human right to water has yet to be ratified. Should water be a human right? If water is to be considered a human right, how do we get there? Would making water a human right help eliminate disparities in access to clean and safe water?

“Isn’t it Fair!”: Complaining in Everyday Conversation
Galina Bolden (Communication)
Jenny Mandelbaum (Communication)
This seminar will examine complaints in everyday conversations. Complaining is a pervasive human activity that can have devastating or positive consequences. In this class students will examine complaints that occur in audio and video recordings of naturally-occurring conversations. Our goal will be to determine how we produce and react to complaints in our personal and professional lives. We will consider the implications and consequences of complaining in a variety of contexts, from dinner table conversations to customer service calls. We will also examine how complaints affect and are affected by our relationships.

The Devil in the Text
Alessandro Vettori (Italian)
This seminar will examine how the image of Satan has inspired theological, artistic, and literary representations. Students will read and analyze biblical stories depicting Satan such as The Book of Genesis and The Book of Tobit, poems like “Paradise Lost,” and prose writing like The Screwtape Letters. In addition, portrayals of Lucifer in medieval painting and frescoes will be shown and discussed.

Poets of New Jersey
Carolyn Williams (English)
What does it mean to be a poet of place? How does growing up or living in a particular region shape a writer’s view of the world? This seminar will focus on a number of poets who have called New Jersey home, including some of America’s greatest and best-known: Walt Whitman, William Carlos Williams, and Allen Ginsberg. We’ll also read A. R. Ammons, Amiri Baraka and Robert Pinsky, a graduate of Rutgers and recent Poet Laureate of the United States. Finally, we’ll read and discuss the work of several current and former Rutgers faculty members, including Mark Doty, Alicia Ostriker, Rachel Hadas, and Evie Shockley. The seminar will include audio and video—and perhaps a day trip to get a taste of the current poetry scene in New Jersey. Students will participate in a group project of creating a short anthology of poems about New Jersey by New Jersey poets.

Jewish Narratives of Dislocation
Yael Zerubavel (Jewish Studies)
This course will focus on the experience of displacement as a result of war, persecution, and immigration in contemporary Jewish literature and film. Discussion will focus on the impact of displacement following the Holocaust and migration to Northern America or Israel. We will focus on individuals’ stories, their lives before the crisis, their experience during a period of transitions and turmoil, and the period after their immigration to a new country. Among the themes discussed will be the changing perceptions of self; life in between languages; memory, trauma, and forgetting; impact of displacement on the family or the loss of family; strategies of survival; and encounters with cultural “others.” The course will feature the diversity of Jewish experience, drawing on individuals from various communities and countries of origin in Europe and in the Middle East.

Stigmata Non Grata: Can We End the Stereotypes of Mental Illness?
Beth Angell (School of Social Work)
James Walkup (School of Social Work)
Nearly half of all Americans will meet criteria for a mental disorder at some point during their lives, yet only a fraction of them will actually seek counseling or other mental health services. One of the major reasons people avoid seeking help is because of the stigma that is associated with having a mental disorder. This seminar will explore this phenomenon of stigma from a variety of perspectives, taking up questions like: Where does stigma originate? Why are some mental health problems more dreaded or feared than others? Do the stereotypes about mental disorders contain a kernel of truth? What, if anything, can be done to reduce or eradicate the problem of stigma?

Social Sciences

First-Year Seminars

BYRNE.RUTGERS.EDU 23
No More Mistakes: Practical Techniques to Improve Your Reasoning
Clark Chinn (School of Education)
People try to think rationally and make sound decisions, yet sometimes they fall short. For example, people form first impressions quickly, and then resist changing those impressions even when they are mistaken. People are sold on the latest diet fad even when the evidence strongly indicates that this diet is unsafe. Businesses cling to traditional incentive plans even when faced with evidence that these plans hinder creativity and innovation. When we make mistakes in seeking out and evaluating evidence, we may make decisions that harm our health, well-being, and happiness. In this seminar, we’ll look at research from the fields of psychology and education to discover common reasoning biases and fallacies. You will learn practical techniques to evaluate evidence and improve your reasoning and decision-making ability.

The Power of One: Understanding Resilience and Relationships
Caroline Claus-Ehlers (Educational Psychology)
No matter who you are or where you come from, your life is bound to be crowded with challenges. How do individuals successfully overcome challenges? This is the central question of resilience research, also produced limiting social boundaries. Simply put, as long as people communicate with each other, social networks exist, with both expansive and constraining effects. This seminar introduces you to how scholars study social networks and use them to make sense of society. We’ll examine how forms of communication affect our opportunities to achieve our goals and to manage our relationships, and how, collectively, individuals’ communication combine to create a social fabric of relationships.

What is Human Memory?
Arnold Glass (Psychology)
Ask me to tell you the story of my life, and I will weave an answer based on what I best remember of my experiences. But are all of my memories true? Did they really happen? Thirty years ago human memory was believed to be the result of some sort of recording device in the brain. We now know that autobiographical memory is a narrative that is constantly being rewritten. So, some of our memories of past experiences are in fact false. In this seminar, we will examine the neuro-cognitive evidence for this new view of memory and its implications for society.

Sound Mind, Sound Body: The Last 50 Years of Intercollegiate Athletics
Carl Kirschner (Professor and Special Counselor for Integrative Academic Programs, Office of the Executive VP for Academic Affairs)
The world of intercollegiate athletics has changed dramatically from the days of regional competitions without media coverage to the present national stage with television and internet coverage. What were the factors underlying the change? What role have the universities played? What role has the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) played? The seminar will review the history of intercollegiate athletics with a special emphasis on the last ten years. Significant case studies of positive and negative behaviors by players, coaches, and universities and the reactions (sanctions) by the NCAA will be studied.

The Digital Storytelling of Illness
Casimir A. Kulikowski (Computer Science)
How do we go about designing and writing computer programs that will allow us to describe a personal medical history? What are the computer models and databases needed to capture the information about a person’s medical history so that we can most easily “thread” the stories of an illness? How do timelines help us in chronicling medical or health histories of patients—or ourselves? You will design scenarios to experiment with digital storytelling involving innovative combinations of the visual, narrative and computational ways of describing experiences in health disruption—and the resulting disruption of lives—and how we portray them to each other.

Irish Identity: Endurance Beyond War, Famine, Strife, and Troubles
Claire McInerney (Library and Information Science)
For centuries Ireland was an economically deprived, colonized country. Before that, it was largely a rural society where storytellers were honored, and the land was ruled by chieftains. This seminar will focus on the emergence of Ireland as a leading high
tech nation despite continuous wars and other disasters that influenced its ancient and modern identity. It is a country that retains its love of stories. We will read works by author Sebastian Barry (nominated for the Booker Prize for literature in 2008 and 2011) and Brian Friel, one of Ireland’s notable playwrights. The readings will be chosen to reflect the turmoil and troubles that are integral to Irish history as well as the dark humor that emerges from Irish literature. During the course of the seminar we will travel to New York to attend a play at the Irish Repertory Theater.

The Art and Science of Asking for Money: Fundraising for Disaster Relief
Ronald Quincy (Director, Center for Nonprofit Management and Governance; Lecturer, School of Social Work)

In this seminar, we will examine the challenges that nonprofit organizations encounter to amass the assets and resources needed to manage their charitable and public services to mobilize for disaster relief. Traditional and nontraditional fundraising methods will be discussed. You will learn the art and science of “asking” for money; inside tips on successful grantsmanship; and how to write winning funding proposals. We will explore fundraising efforts utilized in Haiti as a case study. Following the course, students will be able to write grant proposals, enhance their techniques on how to “ask” for funding, and develop a knowledge of fundraising and strategic planning for disaster relief efforts.

Anonymous Agencies, Backstreet Businesses, and Covert Collectives: Identifying Hidden Organizations in Society
Craig Scott (Communication)

Contemporary society is increasingly characterized by hidden collectives that escape our attention amid the focus on more transparent/visible organizations. Among these more hidden collectives are terrorist cells, undercover government agencies, crime cartels, shadow economies, anonymous support groups, online hacker organizations, stigmatized businesses, new religious groups, secret societies, and other underground organizations that remain invisible to most. Yet, these organizations matter because of their growing size, substantial influence, and their potential to act without accountability. This seminar will help inform students about these hidden organizations based on research that goes beyond media portrayals. Specifically, we will examine these organizations in terms of how they and their members communicate and conceal their identity to various audiences. The goal here is not only to expose students to interdisciplinary research about hidden organizations and how they compare to one another, but also to help students think about issues of transparency and anonymity when it comes to collectives in contemporary society.

Lunar Settlements as Humanity Becomes a Spacefaring Civilization
Haym Benaroya (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)

Join us in this tremendously exciting and empowering study of how humans will become a spacefaring people and how the people of Earth will benefit from this greatest of adventures. What are the critical technical and non-technical problems that need to be solved before we can settle the Moon? What benefits will Earth see from a vigorous effort to settle the Moon over the next century? What will a lunar and a Mars civilization look like by 2200? In addition to engineering challenges, we will examine the psychological, physiological, legal, and financial issues that humanity faces as it becomes a spacefaring civilization.

Obesity Today: Health, Environment and Society
Sara Chelland Campbell (Exercise Science and Sports Studies)

Obesity has become a serious health issue in America; in the last twenty years, rates of obesity in every state have risen by at least ten percent. Most of the strategies aimed at combating obesity focus on prevention and treatment; First Lady Michelle Obama has started the “Let’s Move” campaign and the USDA recently released “MyPlate,” an icon designed to replace the food pyramid as the go-to guide for how to eat healthy. In this seminar, we will focus on investigating the environments that promote unhealthy eating habits and sedentary behavior, and understanding their physiological consequences. Students will learn about making healthy eating choices and designing appropriate exercise plans.

Introduction to the Forces Shaping Clean Energy’s Future: Technology, Policy and Economics
Kimberly Cook-Chennault (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)

In this seminar, we will discuss the overriding forces that shape the portfolio of America’s power generation infrastructure and how the interaction of these forces will determine its future. This seminar will offer an overview of how generation, transmission, and distribution systems are organized and regulated in the United States. We will discuss major conditions that are driving the need for new forms of power, including natural pressures (physical wear-and-tear), environmental and policy initiatives (like the EPA clean air and water policy initiatives), and national security. Finally, we will examine the categories of clean energy technologies available to replace aging, existing ones, and we will also address the growing and changing demands for power and how the generation of it is financed. We will examine the Fukushima disaster and the Cape Wind offshore wind farm project as case studies.

Repairing the Raritan: Environmental Remediation at Rutgers
Donna Fennell (Environmental Science)

New Jersey was the first industrialized state in the union and has suffered from substantial environmental contamination as a result of heavy production and usage of industrial chemicals. Fortunately, New Jersey is also where some of the earliest applications of waste treatment and environmental cleanup technologies have evolved. Indeed, some of the earliest scientific research on pollutant biodegradation was produced by scientists at Rutgers, and Rutgers faculty continue to lead vibrant research programs to repair the environment. In this seminar, we’ll explore the history of environmental pollution and environmental remediation in New Jersey, specifically focusing on...
contaminated sites along the Raritan River. Students in this course will continue an important Rutgers tradition by participating in laboratory research activities and developing ideas related to environmental cleanup in the Raritan River Basin.

Wars of the Future: Chemical and Biological Weapons
Donald R. Gerecke (Pharmacology and Toxicology)
In this seminar we will examine potential weapons of biowarfare—including biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons—from several perspectives. Topics include their mechanism of action, biological impact, detection and recognition, epidemiology, and treatment. Using risk assessment and critical thinking, we will evaluate the potential dangers and effectiveness of using these types of weapons. We will also investigate strategies for defense against attacks, and the bioethical challenges of anti-bioterror research.

The Theory That Wouldn’t Die
Edwin Green (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources)
What is the difference between a guess and an inference? An inference is based on evidence and reasoning, and scientists use inference to develop theories. In this seminar, we will explore the life (and death?) of one particular theorem: Bayes’ theorem of probability. We will trace the fascinating tale of how Bayes’ theorem has been declared dead several times by leading mathematical statisticians, only to keep popping up as investigators in other fields used it to solve real problems like cracking the Enigma code in WWII and locating missing nuclear bombs during the Cold War.

Spinal Cord Injury and Stem Cells: Pushing the Frontiers, Raising the Ethical Questions
Martin Grumet, Patricia Morton, and Wise Young (Cell Biology & Neuroscience)
Rutgers is home to one of the leading centers for spinal cord injury research in the nation. Drawing on the expertise of our world-class research center, this seminar will introduce students to scientific, social, and political issues related to spinal cord injury and stem cell research. Leading experts will present lectures to address: the challenges and state of spinal cord injury research, clinical trials and the China SCI Clinical Trial Network, the capabilities of stem cells, and the role of public advocates in scientific research and stem cell legislation in New Jersey. Special presentations by people who have spinal cord injuries will help students understand what it’s like to live with a spinal cord injury.

A Ray of Light in a Sea of Dark (Matter)
Charles Keeton (Physics and Astronomy)
Einstein famously predicted that gravity bends light. Astronomers observe this phenomenon through “gravitational lensing,” in which the gravity of a distant galaxy distorts our view of an even more distant source of light. In this seminar we will join the citizen science project Galaxy Zoo to search for new gravitational lenses in images from the Hubble Space Telescope. We will then learn how to use light bending to study dark matter, the invisible substance that binds galaxies and the universe together.

The Ecology of the Jersey Shore
Julie Lockwood (Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources)
This seminar will introduce you to basic principles in ecology through an in-depth exploration of Atlantic coast shorelines, particularly the New Jersey shore. You’ll learn the basic principles needed for understanding the natural history of the Jersey Shore: continental drift, past sea-level change, winter ice, barrier islands, tides and waves, food webs, reproduction, competition, facilitation, and succession. Field trips will explore two major ecosystems that make up the Jersey shore: the Tuckerton salt marshes (including a visit to the Rutgers Marine Field Station) and the soft sediment beaches, tidal flats, and barrier dunes of Island Beach State Park. The goal of the course is to foster your intellectual curiosity about the species that live on the Jersey Shore and to introduce you to current research ideas on how to conserve and sustainably use these species.

Kitchen Chemistry & Food Physics
Richard Ludescher (Food Science)
What’s really in that cheeseburger? Foods are complex and heterogeneous mixtures of bio-molecules (starch, fat, protein, vitamins, colors, flavors, etc.) that provide nutrition and, of course, are tasty to eat. The quality of foods is related to many factors: safety, physical properties (texture), chemical and physical effects of processing and cooking, stability, sensory appeal, etc. This course will investigate how fundamental concepts in biology, chemistry, and physics are used to describe, explain, and manipulate the properties and ensure the high quality of foods. In the seminar, we will prepare some foods, play with some food ingredients, watch videos, discuss issues related to genetic engineering, and go behind the scenes in a commercial kitchen, all the while analyzing specific topics and foods of interest to students in the class. The course will culminate in a group project in which students analyze a food of their choice and present their findings to the class.

What is Plastics Engineering—And Why Should We Care?
Jennifer Lynch (Materials Science and Engineering) Thomas Nosker (Materials Science and Engineering)
Americans have a love-hate affair with plastic. We often look down on plastic imitations of natural products, yet we use plastic every day—and there are more than 10,000 kinds of plastic! This seminar focuses on the importance of plastics recycling and engineering for creating structural materials. We will discuss the development of recycled plastic lumber—an advancement that resulted in structural plastic lumber—and its infrastructure applications. Advanced materials research at Rutgers has resulted in patented and licensed recycled plastic blends used in railroad ties, pilings, I-beams, bridge substructure, and decking. The seminar culminates in a field trip to a vehicular bridge in New Jersey composed of a recycled plastic lumber blend or to a plant where recycled plastic lumber is manufactured.

Climate Change and Water Resources
Jim Miller (Marine and Coastal Sciences)
What are the global geopolitical and policy implications of climate change? This seminar will introduce students to global climate change that is occurring in response to increasing levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases. After an introduction to the science of climate change, we will focus on potential future changes in water resources, both globally and in New Jersey, including the potential for increased floods and droughts, sea-level rise and coastal salt-water intrusion, and changes in groundwater reservoirs. Hands-on assignments will include learning about the sources of water in students’ hometowns, how the water is obtained and processed, and what local companies are doing to address climate change. This seminar may include a boat trip on the Raritan River and/or a field trip to a local water processing plant.

The Future is Solar: Harnessing Sunlight to Meet Worldwide Energy Demands
Robert A. Niederman (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry)
Within fifty years, the world’s primary energy source, usable fossil fuel, will be
depleted. Where will our energy come from then? One answer lies in our ability to harness sunlight as a source of clean and renewable energy. In this seminar students will learn how an improved understanding of photosynthesis—especially in simple organisms such as photosynthetic bacteria—can help scientists harness solar energy for a variety of applications: from solar-driven microbial bio-refineries that produce molecular hydrogen as a fuel source, to the fabrication of bio-solar photoelectric cells that can convert sunlight into electric current. Readings and discussions will be based upon current popular science literature.

**Engineers against Disasters**
Kaan Ozbay (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
Hani Nassif (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

World populations are continuing to concentrate in urban areas that are highly vulnerable to both natural and man-made disasters. In this course we will study engineering solutions for reducing the vulnerability of these urban populations before and after the occurrence of disasters, based on two decades of research work conducted by the instructors. We will assess the risk of failure of major urban infrastructure in the presence of various types of hazards, and look at post disaster management of recovery operations.

**Illusions: A Royal Path to Interdisciplinary Brain Research**
Thomas V. Papathomas (Assoc. Director, Laboratory of Vision Research; Biomedical Engineering)

In the famous “figure-ground” drawing, a black-and-white image appears to be a vase or two profiles facing each other. Which is it? The answer depends on factors we will study in this course. This seminar presents an interdisciplinary approach to brain research using visual and auditory illusions. First, we’ll examine how the brain organizes information that it gathers through sight and sound by using psychophysical methods and brain imaging. Next, we’ll use illusions in vision and audition to test the hypothesis that perception is not an automatic, datadriven (“bottomup”) process, but is subject to cognitive, schemadriven (“topdown”) influences. Examples will include an “everascending pitch illusion,” the “hollow mask illusion,” striking 3D art pieces (“reverspectives”) that appear to move as one moves in front of them, as well as some of the instructor’s own illusions. One of the classes will be a guided tour of the Zimmerli Museum.

**Order, Disorder, and Patterns**
Troy Shinbrot (Biomedical Engineering)

In this seminar, we will examine several examples of chaos and pattern formation within physics, chemistry, and biology. For example, we will show how the dripping faucet undergoes a transition to periodic, at low water flow, to period doubling, to chaotic as the flow rate increases. We’ll discuss the history of the field, starting with Poincaré’s revelation that planetary orbits in the solar system are not stable; leading through Lorenz’s discovery that models for the weather exhibit strange attractors; and culminating in modern studies that reveal chaos and pattern formation in the heart. The seminar will be example-oriented, using simple models that rely only upon elementary algebra.

**Parasites and Pollution in the Raritan River**
Michael Sukhdeo (Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources)

This class will introduce you to the ecology and evolution of parasites and their life cycles. Examples will include parasite diseases in our pets, domestic animals, and wildlife. We will study the changing dynamics of infection in our wildlife along the Raritan River (using fish as the natural hosts) to show the effects of human dominated systems (i.e. pollution) on the incidence and prevalence of parasites in natural systems. Field trips will be made to collect invertebrate and vertebrate (fish) hosts along three sites of the Raritan River that differ in their rates of pollution and habitat degradation.

**Death from the Skies?**
Theodore Williams (Physics and Astronomy)

The universe is a dangerous place and our Earth is a fragile home. If an asteroid can wipe out the dinosaurs, what would a nearby supernova do to human civilization? We will explore the astronomical facts, not fictions, of the many perils that threaten our planet, and estimate the odds of surviving to the end of the semester and beyond.

**Harry Potter and Behavioral Genetics**
Lei Yu (Genetics)

Our behavioral patterns are deeply rooted in genetics. Not only do they include patterns of physical behaviors, but also patterns of cognition and thought processes. We readily observe such patterns in everyday life, even though it is not easy to determine their genetic basis. In this Byrne seminar, we will use examples of behavioral patterns from the popular Harry Potter book series as a literary platform to introduce scientific approaches for studying behavioral genetics.
“As a senior, I look back and see that, through my Byrne Seminar, I was able to create bonds that have lasted till now, and that I can easily see lasting beyond graduation. I have yet to take another class where I have formed so many close friendships.”
— Allie Bobak, RU ’12
About Byrne Seminars

The First-Year Seminars at Rutgers-New Brunswick were launched in fall 2007 under the leadership of President Richard McCormick and Vice President for Undergraduate Education Barry Qualls. The program was re-named the Byrne Family First-Year Seminars in fall 2008 to honor a generous donation by Mr. and Mrs. John J. Byrne. Mr. “Jack” Byrne graduated from Rutgers College in 1954.
The 21st century has been marked by natural disasters and man-made crises, each of which has encouraged individuals, communities, and governments to examine civic priorities and strategies.