

**New College Courses:  
Fall 2015**



New College Office:  
Lloyd 201

Welcome to the New College course book for Fall 2015. All students are invited to take New College courses to satisfy University of Alabama core requirements or pursue subjects they are passionate about. We believe that a diverse classroom environment is imperative to learning, and **we welcome students from other departments and disciplines** to register for New College classes. Beside each seminar title, students will find the usual UA core designations; the second group of designations (CC, ESC, SCSP) are specifically for the use of New College students.

In addition to serving students who wish to self-design a major or “depth study,” New College also offers the opportunity to create a self-designed minor or apply for an established minor in “Civic Engagement and Leadership,” “Environmental Studies,” or “Natural Resource Management.” If you are interested in designing your own minor or applying for a minor in “Civic Engagement and Leadership,” please see Dr. Natalie Adams (nadams@ua.edu). For information on the Natural Resource Management Minor, contact Dr. Carl Williams (carl.williams@ua.edu). For information on the Environmental Studies minor, contact Dr. Michael Steinberg (mksteinberg@ua.edu).

If you would like to design and receive credit for an **independent study** during the Fall 2015 semester, you must see Prof. John Miller before the end of the add/drop period.

All juniors are responsible for initiating conversation with their advisor about the **Third Year Review** process. **A Third Year Review is mandatory for graduation in Interdisciplinary Studies** and must be completed before enrolling in NEW 495 Capstone Seminar and Senior Project.

New College students must take one seminar in each of the areas listed below and at least five New College seminars. Students are required to complete at least two lower-division seminars and two upper-division seminars.

**Creativity and Culture (CC)** These seminars explore the world of the mind, specifically the realms of human thought and expressive practice. They interrogate the beliefs, values, and dispositions that comprise culture, and focus on essential questions about what it means to be human. Seminars focus the following issues: the urge to create and to appreciate creativity; perspectives on class, gender, race, and place; historical memory’s role in identity formation, politics, and ethics.

**Environment, Sustainability, and Conservation (ESC)** These seminars explore the physical world, especially relations among elements of the natural world, and focus on relationships between humans and their environment. Of special interest is the impact humans have had on the environment, including issues of climate change, resource depletion, and pollution. Besides identifying problems, seminars also interrogate pathways that avoid environmental destruction by promoting sustainability and conservation.

**Social Problems and Social Change (SPSC)** These seminars explore the social world, the problems societies confront and the ways human groups cause and respond to social change. Specific areas of interest include: the basis for cooperation and conflict within and between societies; extremes of human destructiveness such as genocide and ethnic conflict; historical dimensions or antecedents of contemporary problems; civic engagement, social responsibility, and other means of promoting healthy communities.





occurs. Throughout the course, students will have the opportunity to explore the issues that they value and the role leadership serves in voicing those values.

**NEW 310 - NEW 322: Independent Study**

**1 to 15 credit hours**

See a New College faculty member for more information.

**NEW 338-001: New College Review I (Doesn't count for NC Seminar)**

**Amy Pirkle**

**W 1:00-2:50PM**

**Lloyd 216A**

**2 Hours**

This workshop provides students with practical experience in writing and publishing a special interest publication, the *New College Review*. Students gain experience in thematic approaches to a publication, conceptual formation for an audience, socially responsible publishing, and writing and editing persuasive essays. Students are strongly encouraged to take both NEW 338 and NEW 339 in sequence.

**NEW 407-001: Landscapes of the South (W) (ESC/CC)**

**Ellen Spears**

**TR 9:30 am – 10:45 am**

**LY202**

**3 Hours**

After a brief overview of major themes in environmental history in various regions of the U.S. South, we concentrate on the cultural, social, and natural ecology of the Mississippi watershed from St. Louis to the Gulf Coast. This interdisciplinary American Studies course examines the river dubbed “the Body of the Nation,” its history, cultural geography, and natural ecology. Through course readings and contemporary film and photography, we explore human interventions into the riverine and coastal plain ecology. We consider the river’s hydrology, including flooding, from the Great Flood of 1927 to the impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. Environmental justice concerns are highlighted, along with environmental public health concerns on “Cancer Alley,” and the racial history of the Mississippi Delta. This course meets a college core writing requirement; a demonstration of writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course.

**NEW 415-001: Gender, Sexuality & Pop Culture (W) (SPSC/CC)**

**Catherine Roach**

**M 2:00-4:50pm**

**LY215**

**3 Hours**

What constitutes “femininity” and “masculinity” in 21<sup>st</sup> century America? How have gender roles changed? Is gender performance? What are the cultural expectations around sexuality, and how is it influenced and policed in society? Includes professor’s current case research in this field. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

**NEW 434-001: Documenting Justice I (BY PERMISSION ONLY) (CC/SPSC)**

**Andrew Grace**

**W 3:00-6:00pm**

**PH325**

**3 Hours**

This is an interdisciplinary course in documentary filmmaking, focusing particularly on analyzing the many dimensions of culture and social experience. Students produce a short documentary film on a story of justice or injustice in Alabama.

**NEW 441-001: Climate Change and Public Perception (ESC/SPSC)**

**Julia Cherry**

**TR 12:30 – 2:15 pm**

**LY215**

**3 Hours**

This seminar is designed to introduce students to the scientific body of evidence surrounding climate change so that they can evaluate arguments for and against global warming and climate-related issues. In addition to the science, this seminar covers public perception and coverage of the topic in the media. Resources are taken from a variety of sources including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), scholarly articles, popular magazines and other media outlets, and fictional accounts of climate change from movies and novels.

**NEW 442-001: Environmental Ethics (W) (SPSC/ESC)**

**Ellen Spears**

**TR 3:30-4:45 pm**

**LY319**

**3 Hours**

This seminar explores the ethical dimensions of ecological relationships, with particular attention to conceptions of nature, justice, and environmental health. We will consider classical ethical concepts, such as utilitarianism and natural law theories, and contemporary environmental approaches, including biocentrism, deep ecology, environmental justice, eco-feminism, and sustainability. This course will be highly interactive, inviting critical thinking about changing ideas about the human place in the natural world. Examining various case studies, we will explore the ethical debates surrounding such topics as genetically altered crops, global climate change, biodiversity, and emerging crises in global environmental public health. Readings also address corporate responsibility, science ethics, and public policy. We will consider the ethics of sustainability from the campus to the transnational level. Students write regular short commentaries, one short and one long research essay, and will be evaluated on seminar participation.

**NEW 445-001: Technology and Humans (CC/SPSC)**

**Barbara Brickman**

**TR 11:00am – 12:15 pm**

**LY202**

**3 Hours**

This interdisciplinary seminar provides an introduction to the key debates and questions raised by the increasingly close relationship between humans and advanced technologies. The course will draw on critical works, as well as narrative fiction and popular culture texts, to examine how a dependence on technology might change the very definition of "human" and what subsequent ethical, psychological, and philosophical dilemmas result from this close relationship. "Emigrants to Mars received androids so sophisticated it was impossible to tell them from true men or women. Fearful of the havoc these artificial humans could wreak, the government banned them from the Earth. But when androids didn't want to be identified, they just blended in." While many readers might quickly recognize the preceding quotation as a typical sci-fi plot (it's actually describing Philip K. Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*), few comprehend how close we are, at the start of the 21st century, to the world described by writers like Dick. How many of us text with a network of friends every day or depend on social networks, text, and e-mail for basic communication? How often have we allowed the playing of a video game or a search on the internet to consume not minutes, but hours? Some might go so far as to say not that we will someday merge with our technologies, but that we are already cyborgs. This course begins with the presumption in the last sentence and extends it to ask: if we are irrevocably joined with technology, so what? What are the consequences of such a union? We will use popular and critical essays and some literature and film to examine how the union with technology might change the very definition of "human," and, hopefully, you will learn for yourselves the issues that arise from these ethical and philosophical dilemmas by spending time throughout the course in an immersive on-line environment. This course meets the New College designation for Creativity and Culture.

**NEW 472-001: Social Change (W) (SPSC)**

**Jerome Rosenberg**

**W 3:00-6:50PM**

**LY215**

**4 Hours**

The class will study Genocides and the Holocaust, attempting to understand it as an intense and unparalleled human experience. The causes, events, outcomes and implications are researched through books, films, interviews, tapes, various documentaries and class discussions. This course will look at the historical event, the trends of prejudice, anti-Semitism and mass movements, and the many historical antecedents that led to the Holocaust and are identifiable as contributors to other examples of mass destruction. For the Holocaust, we will study the rise of Nazism, the emergence of the institutions of the Holocaust and the Final Solution, the victims and victimizers, the immediate and long term implications and consequences of the Holocaust and the world today. As a paradigmatic model, the Holocaust will lead us to examine other genocides.

**NEW 490-001: Special Topics: Outdoor Leadership (ESC)**

**Stephan Middleton**

**F 10:00 am – 12:50 pm**

**Outdoor Rec**

**4 Hours**

Outdoor leadership is designed to give students an introduction to principles of leading and facilitating groups in an outdoor recreational setting. As a result of this course, students will gain an understanding of their own leadership style, group dynamics, and methods for addressing group behaviors. Hard skills such as backcountry





