

**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.

Course Listings for Fall 2015

NEW 100-001: Introduction to Interdisciplinary and Integrative Studies (FC)

Catherine Roach **T 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm** **TBA** **2 Hours**

This course, completed by all New Collegians, usually within their first two semesters in New College, aims to help students better understand the opportunities provided by New College, as well as expose them to some of the ideas behind interdisciplinary study and some of the themes that New College classes will cover. There will be required readings on the idea of interdisciplinary as well as projects and presentations. Non-New College students are welcome, but should recognize that a key component of the class is preparation of application materials.

Appropriate to its academic subject matter, this course seeks to perform multiple tasks simultaneously. We want to bring you fully into New College and get you up to speed on rules and regulations and give you the support you need to succeed on your academic journey. We want to introduce you to innovative college programs like New College and hopefully make you feel part of an extended American educational tradition. We want to begin the task of making you into critical, engaged, and skillful interdisciplinary thinkers. And, finally, we want to give you the opportunity to come together as a community of learners.

NEW 120-001: Inclusive Leadership through Sustained Dialogue (Doesn't Count as NC Seminar)

Lane McLelland **R 3:30 - 4:45 pm** **TBA** **1 Hour(pass/fail)**

In an increasingly globalized world, leaders need the skills to resolve conflict across lines of difference. *Sustained Dialogue* is a five-stage dialogue-to-action model that builds transformative relationships in order to address controversial issues. This course will explore the theory behind this powerful social action model and ultimately consider how *Sustained Dialogue* applies to visions for positive change at the University of Alabama. Students will first receive an introduction to *Sustained Dialogue* principles and then meet in dialogue groups weekly to work through the five stages to address specific issues of diversity and social identity on campus.

Lane.mclelland@ua.edu

NEW 201-001: Recreation For Life (Doesn't Count For a NC seminar)

Marysia Galbraith **TBA** **TBA** **1 Hour**

Interested in taking up a *new* physical or health-related activity? Want to run a 5K? Take up karate? Walk a section of the Appalachian Trail? NEW 201 is an opportunity to motivate you to take that first step. Grading is “Pass/Fail” only. For information, contact Marysia Galbraith mgalbrai@nc.ua.edu.

NEW 212: Creativity (FA/HU) (CC)

-001: Jennifer Caputo **MW 10:00 am – 11:50 am** **LY202** **4 Hours**

-002: John Miller **MW 1:00 pm – 2:50 pm** **LY319** **4 Hours**

This interdisciplinary seminar uses creativity as an organizing principle. Human culture and consciousness are explored through reading, writing, the arts, projects, studios, and discussion.

NEW 212-003: Creativity and Computing (FA/HU) (CC)

Holland Hopson **TR 12:00 pm – 1:50 pm** **LY319** **4 Hours**

This interdisciplinary seminar explores the role of computing in creativity and challenges students to work with computers as creative partners. We will consider computing as an artistic medium through reading, writing, the arts, studios, discussion and hands-on projects. Students from computer science, engineering, arts and humanities are all welcome.

NEW 213: Honors Creativity (CC)

John Miller **TR 9:30 – 11:20** **LY319** **4 Hours**

Registration requires enrollment in UA Honors College.

This interdisciplinary seminar uses creativity as an organizing principle. Human culture and consciousness are explored through reading, writing, the arts, project, studios, and discussion. As an Honors College approved New College seminar, this course can be counted both toward New College seminar requirements and Honors College course hour requirements. Please note, admission is restricted to Honors College students.

NEW 215: Perspectives on Environmental Literature (HU) (ESC)

Michael Steinberg **W 4:00 pm – 7:50 pm** **LY202** **4 Hours**

This course surveys the ways in which nature is expressed by media forms, including literature, documentary, newspapers, and journal articles. It also examines the evolution of empirical, scientific awareness of nature. In other words, how have our views, awareness, and uses of nature changed through time? Through close readings and viewing of a wide variety of environmental media, we will explore the theory and practice of about nature—especially the description of landscapes, wildlife, plant life and a variety of ecosystems where human nature has integrated itself or set itself apart from nature as the literal and figurative ground of human being. We will study nature media as it has been used by philosophers, politicians, literary writers, naturalists and scientists. And we will give ourselves a strong intellectual and creative background in thinking about contemporary issues related to nature and the environment.

NEW 237: Cooperation and Conflict (SB) (SPSC)

-001: Melanie Miller **TR 3:00 pm – 4:50 pm** **LY215** **4 Hours**
-002: Robert Hayes **TR 12:00 pm – 1:50 pm** **TBA** **4 Hours**
-003: STAFF **TR 9:30 am – 11:20 am** **LY215** **4 Hours**
-004: STAFF **MW 8:00 am – 9:50 am** **LY202** **4 Hours**
238-001(Honors): Marysia Galbraith **MW 10:00 am – 11:50 am** **LY215** **4 Hours**

This seminar will explore the role of cooperation and conflict in society through class dialog and examining historical conflicts as well as social movements and how the conflict has been resolved. Students will identify sources of conflict and learn to communicate within the midst of conflict. Students will explore ways that conflict can be approached in a productive manner. Students will also be able to identify the role of parties not directly involved in the conflict and how those outside the conflict can contribute to the resolution including the role of social justice allies in affecting social change.

NEW 243-001: Natural Science I: Interdisciplinary Sciences (N) (ESC)

-001: Julia Cherry **M 1:00 pm – 4:50 pm** **LY202** **4 Hours**
-002: Amanda Espy-Brown **T 1:00 pm – 4:50 pm** **LY202** **4 Hours**
-003: Amanda Espy-Brown **R 1:00 pm – 4:50 pm** **LY202** **4 Hours**

This seminar demonstrates how laboratory and field research play an essential role in the understanding and advancement of science. Several multidisciplinary experiments and exercises are performed in an effort to increase scientific literacy and to provide knowledge for addressing the scientific basis of real-world problems. Examples of assignments include laboratory write-ups, student presentations, and discussions of scientific topics. Readings are taken from a variety of sources providing fundamental scientific knowledge on topics related to laboratory exercises, as well as books about the history and practice of science. Students participate in several outdoor field trips and labs that require moderate physical activity (e.g., canoeing, hiking, wading in streams).

NEW 270-320: Leader Social Justice Activism (SPSC)

Richard Wallace **M 6:00-8:50PM** **LY202** **3 Hours**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the leadership principles that have been effective in bringing about major cultural reforms. Students will explore the methods by which reformers have addressed social injustice. The goal of the course is to: 1) prepare self-reflective students equipped with an awareness of national and international social justice initiatives; and 2) develop an understanding of the methods by which cultural change

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 21st 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

cooking, packing gear, and land navigations will be taught. This course culminates with an applied outdoor trip where students will demonstrate competency in classroom material. By the end of the course, students will have the knowledge and skills necessary to seek employment with the UA Outdoor Recreation program as a trip leader.

NEW 490-002: Special Topics: Everyday Forestry in Alabama (ESC)

Stanley Ford **M 3:00 pm – 5:50 pm** **LY319** **3 Hours**

Everyday Forestry in Alabama will cover management practices on how to better manage your natural resources in woodlands or in a neighborhood. It will discuss basic forest management concepts in order to improve the woodland's habitat according to the objectives of a landowner. Students will learn how to identify all major trees species in Alabama as well as all major forest insects and diseases. Other topics that will be discussed will include compass orienteering, forest site evaluation, timber estimation, topographic map interpretation, and helping control invasive woodland species. Much of this course will include "hands-on" outdoor field trips.

NEW 490-003: Special Topics: Ethics Matter (SPSC)

Stephen Schwab **MWF 1:00pm – 1:50 pm** **TBA** **3 Hours**

This colloquium is designed to provide an overview of the field of ethnics and international affairs; that is, where they intersect. Three basic questions will provide its structure: What relevance do ethical considerations have in international conduct? Is ethical action possible, given the realities of national interests and power politics? And how, in ethical terms, can international acts be evaluated? The class will analyze choices that are made about the use of force, resolving conflict, promoting human rights and social justice, encouraging democracy and economic development, preserving the environment, and participating in international organizations. Special attention will also be devoted to the American experience as a principal case study of ethics and statecraft.

NEW 490-004: Special Topics: PARC II (BY PERMISSION ONLY) (Doesn't Count as NC Seminar)

Martina Thomas **TBA** **TBA** **3 Hours**

PARC II is an advanced course focusing on current best practices in civic engagement and how those practices can be tailored to meet the needs of diverse communities. Course content will focus on sustainable programs, strategic planning for long term impact, and effective implementation of civic engagement principles. This course is only open to the interns who participated in Civic Engagement Scholars program in Jasper during the summer.

NEW 490-005: Special Topics: History Gamers (CC)

William Field **TR 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm** **TBA** **3 Hours**

Role-playing game in which students play characters from specific episodes of history. Class promotes engagement with big ideas and improves skills in speaking, writing, critical thinking, problem solving, leadership and team work. Students learn these skills in order to win the game. Active and collaborative learning at its best

NEW 490-006: Special Topics: Designing and Maintaining Sustainable Home Landscape (ESC)

Mary Modica **MW 12:00pm – 1:50pm** **LY215** **4 Hours**

In this course we will learn to incorporate the principles of sustainability and the ethics of permaculture into our home or apartment landscapes. This course is intended for any student interested in learning the basics of sustainable gardening, water management, pest management, and the use of native plants to provide a backyard habitat for birds or other wildlife. No prerequisite is required.

NEW 490-007: Special Topics: Global Health (ESC/SPSC)

Amanda Epsy-Brown **MW 9:00am-10:50am** **LY319** **4 Hours**

This course explores contemporary global health issues and challenges through an interdisciplinary perspective using frameworks of both the natural and social sciences. Key concepts in current and emerging global health such as disease burden, health determinants and disparities, health programs, interventions and policies will be covered. The social, economic, political and environmental factors that affect health and help shape health

initiatives will be examined on a variety of scales ranging from the local to the global. Students will explore global health topics through independent reading, lectures, class discussion and service learning experiences.

NEW 490-008: Special Topics: Sporting Conservation (ESC/SPSC)

Michael Steinberg **TR 8:00 -9:15am** **LY215** **3 Hours**

This course examines the role sporting groups (fishing and hunting) play in natural resource management and conservation planning. Students will examine, in depth, one of these organizations and complete a research project or remote internship with the group of their choice. This course will help inform students who are interested in sporting-oriented, natural resource management careers.

NEW 490-009: Special Topics: Language and Mind (CC) (SPSC)

Thomas Sawallis **TR 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm** **LY319** **3 Hours**

Is there knowledge we're born with, or do we get it all through the "live and learn" route? People have argued whether human nature is universal and inborn or contingent via experience at least since the ancient Greeks, through the schools of rationalism and empiricism, all the way to our times. Currently, these two stances are reflected in two schools of thought on cognition and neuroscience: symbolic/computational processing and connectionism. Their proponents also contest whether certain human mental capacities are innate or emergent, with Steven Pinker a leading thinker of the symbolic/innatist camp. These schools have argued long and hard over the nature of language, with Pinker in the foreground, since it is one area where specific claims of innate knowledge have been made and can be evaluated. This course will examine the language-centered arguments between the two schools via important texts in the discussion and via demonstrations and discussions of the two methodologies, all centering on classic problems of language learning and language structure (sounds, words, and sentences). This course will appeal to students interested in languages, child development, cognition, neuroscience, or philosophy.

NEW 490-010: Special Topics: Museum Studies (SPSC)

William Bomar **W 3:00 pm – 5:50 pm** **LY319** **3 Hours**

This course utilizes case studies, analysis of timely typical issues, and problem based learning exercises to explore many facets of museum studies relevant to administration and management in not-for-profit museum types (art, history, natural history, or science/technology). Intended for students considering a career in arts administration, or museums specifically, this course provides an inter-disciplinary introduction to museum work. Students will gain an understanding of the history and philosophy of museums, the role of museums in society, collection policies, governance, strategic planning, budgeting, grant-writing, museum ethics, multicultural issues, and legal issues in museums. Behind-the-scenes visits to museums and guest speakers will be included.

NEW 490-011: Special Topics: Creative Industries (CC) (SPSC)

STAFF **TR 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm** **TBA** **3 Hours**

Managing in the Creative Industries is survey course of business in the arts and cultural industries (including architecture, art, crafts, fashion, film/TV, music, theater, publishing, toys, and video games – based on the interest of the students enrolled). The creative industry continues to be one of the most rapidly developing industries in the modern world. The course will study the conflicts between the creative industries and the business world, understanding various roles of gatekeepers in this field, and how to become involved in the creative industries after graduating college. The course will study various arts and artists and the management side of these professions – how artist and entertainers make money and sell creative products. Topics of study will include art, history, basic economics, and management strategy. No previous business classes or business experience is required.

NEW 490-012: Making Music in the Digital Age (CC)

Holland Hopson **MW 11:00am – 12:50 pm** **LY319** **4 Hours**

