

New College Courses: Spring 2024



New College
Office:
Lloyd 201

Introduction:

This course booklet provides information about New College classes for Spring 2024. 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. **Unless specifically noted, there are no prerequisites for these courses.**

This list is divided into two sections: (1) courses that fulfill New College seminar requirements, and (2) other courses connected to New College. To the right of course titles, students will find two types of information in parentheses: UA core designations (if applicable: FA, HU, L, N, SB, W) and New College seminar designations (if applicable: CC, ESC, SPSC). This second group of designations is for the use of New College students only. New College students should pay special attention to the section on seminar requirements that follows.

Seminar Requirements: 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 (from different thematic designations) and two upper-division seminars (from any designation, provided that all three themes are represented in students' coursework).

New College Seminar Thematic Designations:

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 on such issues as the urge to create and to appreciate creativity and perspectives on class, gender, race, and place.

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; and civic engagement, social responsibility, and other means of promoting healthy communities.

Other Opportunities in New College:

Minors: In addition to serving students who wish to self-design a major or "depth study," New College also houses various minors. If you are interested in a **self-designed minor** or applying for a minor in **Civic Engagement and Leadership** or **Natural Resource Management**, please contact Dr. Julia Cherry (julia.cherry@ua.edu). For information on the **Environmental Studies Minor**, contact Dr. Michael Steinberg (mksteinberg@ua.edu).

Independent Study: If you would like to design and receive credit for an independent study, you must see Prof. John Miller (mille031@ua.edu) prior to the start of any independent work.

Reminders for New College Students:

Pre-Advising Checklist: All New College students should go to the "Resources" section of the New College webpage to download and complete the Pre-Advising Checklist before advising each semester (<https://newcollege.ua.edu/resources>).

Third Year Review: All juniors are responsible for initiating conversation with their advisor about the Third Year Review. Completion of the Third Year Review is mandatory for graduation in Interdisciplinary Studies and must be completed before enrolling in NEW 495 Capstone Seminar and Senior Project. It should be completed in the year prior to graduation.

COURSE LISTINGS FOR SPRING 2024

REQUIRED COURSES

NEW 100-001: Introduction to Interdisciplinary and Integrative Studies (does not count as NC Seminar)

Julia Cherry

T 3:30pm-5:20pm, LY335

2 Hours

This course is **required for all New College students**, who are encouraged to take it within their first two semesters in New College. It aims to help students better understand the opportunities provided by New College, as well as expose them to ideas behind interdisciplinary studies and themes New College classes will cover. There will be required readings on the idea of interdisciplinarity as well as projects and presentations. **Although non-New College students are welcome, this course's intent is specifically geared toward those interested in, or entering into, New College.**

Appropriate to its academic subject matter, this course seeks to perform multiple tasks. We want to bring you fully into New College, get you up to speed on rules and requirements, 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.

NEW495-001: Capstone Seminar & Senior Project (BY PERMISSION ONLY) (does not count as NC seminar)

Julia Cherry

T 3:30pm-5:20pm, LY335

2 Hours

The senior project is **required of all New College students in their senior year**. It gives students the opportunity to put into practice interdisciplinary and integrative methods of scholarship while refining knowledge of their depth study area. Projects must result in a piece of interdisciplinary writing and a twenty-minute oral presentation at our New College Senior Research Symposium.

NOTE:

- Students planning to attend graduate or professional schools (e.g., Master's, Law School, Medical School) are **strongly encouraged** to take NEW 495 in the Fall semester. This will allow you to use the senior project as part of your applications.
- **ONLY** students who have completed the Third Year Review may enroll in New 495.

NEW COLLEGE SEMINARS

NEW 211-001: Perspectives in Humanities (HU) (CC)

John Miller

MW 1:00pm-2:50pm, LY215

4 Hours

This introductory course in the humanities (art, literature, music, etc.) focuses on problem solving, risk taking and communication. Human behavior and writing skills are stressed. This section of NEW 211 focuses on conceptions of Liberty and Resistance as themes that animate Fiction, Poetry, Political Philosophy and Film. The course meets a New College lower-level seminar requirement.

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

-001: John Miller MW 10:00am-11:50am LY306 4 Hours

-002: Amy Pirkle MW 1:00pm-2:50pm LY202 4 Hours

-003: Holland Hopson TR 9:30am-11:20am LY202 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 213-001: Honors Creativity (FA/HU/UH) (CC)

Amy Pirkle

MW 1:00pm-2:50pm, LY202

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 credit hour requirements.

NEW 226: Organic Farming (ESC)

-001: Leah Connell T 3:00pm-4:50pm Jeremiah's Garden; W 9:00am-10:50am LY215 4 Hours

-002: Leah Connell W 9:00am-10:50am LY215; R 3:00pm-4:50pm Jeremiah's Garden 4 Hours

In this course, we will study and practice organic farming. Students will learn and enact the basics of how to grow food organically, with an emphasis on healthy soil, composting, cover crops, seed starting and transplanting, pest control, etc. At the same time, we will address fundamental questions and issues behind the organic model: Why do it? What are the problems with industrial agriculture? And how does it shape the way we eat and think about food? How does it influence our relationship to the land and to our communities? How does our food production fit into an analysis of current environmental problems and solutions? What does organic even mean? Each week, students will spend one day in the classroom and one day in the "field" at Jeremiah's Garden, a 1-acre farm site and community food organization across the street from Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Students will be evaluated on their active participation, weekly writing assignments, and semester-long research and/or community-based project. This course requires students to provide their own transportation to the field site and to engage in moderate physical activity.

NEW 237: Social Problems and Social Change (SB) (SPSC)

-001: Marysia Galbraith MW 11:00am-12:50pm LY215 4 hours

-002: Vincent Willis TR 9:30am-11:20pm LY319 4 hours

This seminar explores significant social problems in contemporary society and the complex ways in which social change occurs. Students investigate and seek solutions for current social problems. This course has a 12-hour service-learning component.

NEW 238-001 Honors: Social Problems and Social Change (SB/UH) (SPSC)

Marysia Galbraith

MW 11:00am-12:50pm, LY215

4 Hours

Registration requires enrollment in UA Honors College. This honors seminar explores significant social problems in contemporary society and the complex ways in which social change occurs. Students investigate and seek solutions to current social problems. This course has a service-learning component that may involve 12 service-learning hours outside of class time.

NEW 243: Interdisciplinary Sciences (N) (ESC)

-001: Leah Connell M 1:00pm-4:50pm MSB1010 4 Hours

-002: Emily Elliott T 12:30pm-4:20pm MSB1010 4 Hours

-003: Leah Connell W 1:00pm-4:50pm MSB1010 4 Hours

-004: Amanda Espy-Brown W 1:00pm-4:50pm LY319 4 Hours

-005: Amanda Espy-Brown R 12:30pm-4:20pm MSB1010 4 Hours

This seminar demonstrates how laboratory and field research play an essential role in the understanding and advancement of science. 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 papers, 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. This is a field-based class that involves frequent outdoor excursions and hands-on activities. This 4.0 credit hour seminar meets the University's Natural Science (N) core requirement. For New College students, it also counts as an Environment, Sustainability, and Conservation (ESC) seminar. There are no prerequisites.

NEW 273-001: Social Issues and Ethics (SB) (SPSC)

Natalie Adams

TR 11:00am-12:50am, LY306

4 Hours

This seminar is designed to develop an awareness of the methodologies and concerns of the social sciences as they relate to ethical inquiry. The primary focus is on the nature of inquiry and models for the analysis of ethical issues confronting the modern world. Students will explore the complexity of moral dilemmas and effective societal responses to competing moral obligations in the areas of health care, socio-economic disparities, affirmative action, immigration, and racism.

NEW 335-001: Everyday Wildlife in Alabama (ESC)

Wayne Ford

M 2:00pm-4:50pm, LY319

3 Hours

Everyday Wildlife in Alabama will cover management practices on how to maximize wildlife in woodlands or in a neighborhood. It will cover practices on how to improve the habitat to increase the wildlife population as well as practices on wildlife predator control for wildlife critters who have become invasive in various areas. Some topics that will be discussed will include backyard wildlife management, how to manage a recreational fishpond, wildlife identification, compass and pacing, the use of aerial photography in managing for wildlife, and how to prepare wildlife food plots. Much of this course will include “hands-on” outdoor field trips.

NEW 360-001 Sound Studies (W) (CC)

Andrew Dewar

MW 11:00am-12:15pm, LY319

3 Hours

How do we experience, define, use and abuse sound? What elements of a sound determine their meaning to us, and why? What can we learn about the world by focusing on its sounds? An emerging interdisciplinary field of research, sound studies ask these questions and more, in an attempt to uncover the important role of sound in our lives. Why do shopping malls sound like they do? What do cellphone ringtones tell you about a person? How has the changing soundscape of the ocean affected natural processes and wildlife? How is music used to both soothe, entertain, and torture or control people? This interdisciplinary course explores sound in a variety of current and historical global contexts – of which music is only one small part – examining the many ways sound signifies and defines our cultures and histories. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course. We will also have a special focus on the “golden record,” an audio (and video) record sent into space 41 years ago on the Voyager probes. The record was intended as an introductory document of human culture for alien intelligences. We will consider what it means to represent the sounds of a planet.

NEW 412-001: Songwriting Workshop (W) (CC)

Ted Trost

R 2:00pm-5:50pm, LY 215

4 Hours

Songcraft: songwriting workshop focuses on how songs are made with particular emphasis on lyrics. After a study of various genres (blues, folk, popular) students will produce their own songs. Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course.

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

Catherine Roach

W 2:00pm – 4:50pm, LY 306

3 Hours

What constitutes “femininity” and “masculinity” in 21st century America? How have gender roles changes? 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 422-001: Girls’ Culture (W) (CC/SPSC)

Barbara Brickman

TR 11:00pm-12:15pm, LY215

3 Hours

This interdisciplinary seminar introduces students to the key debates, concepts, and questions raised by the emerging field of Girls’ Studies. The course will examine the history and social construction of girlhood in the 20th and 21st centuries, as well as draw on girls’ lived experiences, activism, and cultural productions, in order to challenge established definitions of “girls” and “girlhood.” Writing proficiency within this discipline is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

NEW 436-320: Public Leadership (W) (SPSC)

TBA

MW 11:00am-12:50pm, LY202

4 Hours

This is a general public leadership course dealing with the skills necessary to lead any organization, group or community. The primary text is *The Leadership Challenge* by Posner and Kouzes. The secondary text is *Good to Great* by Jim Collins. The course requires a weekly one-page response. There are two papers, including the final. The syllabus reserves the right to administer test if students do not demonstrate sufficient familiarity with assigned reading material. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course. A student who does not write with the skill normally required of an upper-division student will not earn a passing grade, no matter how well the student performs in other areas of the course.

NEW 472: Social Change (W) (SPSC)

Kim Colburn

MW 9:00am-10:50am, LY 202

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: Arts Entrepreneurship (SPSC/CC)

Holland Hopson

TR 2:00pm-3:50pm, LY202

3 Hours

This course is an exploration of Arts Entrepreneurship in a seminar format. Our class goal is to gain a deeper understanding of the creative process as applied to entrepreneurial activity, with a focus on socially conscious, value-driven, arts-based endeavors. Students will study a variety of creative, entrepreneurial approaches within the context of the Design Thinking Process. Throughout the course students will practice what they learn by developing their own entrepreneurial micro-ventures.

NEW 490-002: Special Topics: Snake & Frog Hunting (ESC)

Scott Jones

R 1:00pm-4:50pm, LY306

3 Hours

This seminar explores the relationship between reptiles, amphibians, and people. Students will explore topics relating to the natural history, cultural references, and myths about these organisms. There will also be laboratory time to examine preserved specimens and field trips to look for animals in their habitats. Examples of assignments include research papers, 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. This is a field-based class that involves frequent outdoor excursions and hands-on activities. For New College students, this seminar counts as an Environment, Sustainability, and Conservation (ESC) seminar. There are no prerequisites.

NEW 490-003: Special Topics: Fly Fishing (ESC)

Michael Steinberg

T 2:30pm-6:20pm, LY319

3 Hours

This course provides a broad introduction to the “arts and science” of fly fishing. By arts, I mean we will explore the field of fly-fishing literature. Sporting literature is a well-established and widely read genera, and fly fishing specifically is one of the more popular subfields within outdoor writing. By science, I mean we will study watersheds, streams, insects, and environmental issues that impact all these “things” through the act of fly fishing, and fish.

NON-SEMINAR COURSES

The following courses *do not fulfill* New College seminar requirements

NEW 140-001: Sexuality & Society (SB) (does not count as NC seminar)

Catherine Roach

TR 2:00pm - 3:15pm, SM205

3 Hours

American society today features more cultural acceptance and legal protection than ever before for sexual and gender diversity, but we don't always know how to live out these changing norms and how to talk about controversial sexual material in the public sphere. This course engages debates around sexuality as central to human behavior and to social structures, in both America and the world. It provides an overview of the "new sexual revolution" and the growing interdisciplinary field of sexuality studies. The course adopts a consent-based model of sexual wellbeing. Its

approach is sex-positive - aiming toward sexual justice, responsibility, and pleasure - within a classroom that functions as an open and affirming space for discussion and learning. Students gain the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and cultural competence to evaluate for themselves issues of sexuality in society.

FA 200: Introduction to Fine Arts (FA) (does not count as NC seminar)

-001: Andrew Dewar MW 2:00pm-3:15pm LY226 3 Hours

-003: Barbara Brickman TR 8:00am-9:15am LY226 3 Hours

An introduction to the fine arts, drawing especially on campus and community cultural events. This course is usually open to freshmen.

NEW 310 to NEW 312: Independent Study (does not count as NC seminar)

1 to 15 credit hours

Go to <http://ncis.as.ua.edu> for more information and schedule an appointment with John Miller (mille031@ua.edu) to discuss particulars. Be sure to download and read instructions.

NEW 339-001: New College Review II (does not count as NC seminar)

Amy Pirkle

W 3:00pm - 4:50pm, LY215

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.