

## New College Courses: Fall & Summer 2024



New College Office:  
Lloyd 201

### Introduction:

Welcome to the New College course list for Summer and Fall 2024. All students are invited to take New College courses to satisfy The University of Alabama's 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 a minor in **Civic Engagement and Leadership** or **Natural Resource Management**, please contact Dr. Julia Cherry ([julia.cherry@ua.edu](mailto:julia.cherry@ua.edu)). For information on the **Environmental Studies Minor**, contact Dr. Michael Steinberg ([mksteinberg@ua.edu](mailto:mksteinberg@ua.edu)).

**Independent Study:** If you would like to design and receive credit for an independent study during Summer or Fall 2024, you must see Prof. John Miller ([mille031@ua.edu](mailto: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.

# COURSE LISTINGS FOR FALL 2024

## REQUIRED COURSES

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

**Barbara Brickman**

**W 3:00pm-4:50pm, RH 355**

**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)**

**Barbara Brickman**

**W 3:00pm-4:50pm, RH 355**

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

**-001: John Miller**                    **MW 10:00am-11:50am LY202 4 Hours**  
**-002: Andrew Dewar**                **MW 12:00pm-1:50pm LY202 4 Hours**  
**-003: Jennifer Caputo**              **TR 9:30am-11:20am LY306 4 Hours**  
**-004: Holland Hopson**              **TR 2:00pm-3:50pm LY306 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 12:00pm-1:50pm, LY306**  
**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 230-001: Environmental Studies (ESC)**

**Julia Cherry**  
**TR 9:00am-10:50pm, LY215**  
**4 Hours**

This course engages students in the study of environmental problems and solutions. It includes an examination of fundamental assumptions about the ethical human-nature relationship and of how to value nature. The approach is interdisciplinary, drawing on the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. We will engage a variety of texts and other resources to examine and discuss the historical origins of environmental problems and their potential solutions in the context of current events.

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

**-001: Kimberly Colburn**            **MW 9:00am-10:50am LY215 4 hours**  
**-002: Natalie Adams**                **TR 12:30pm-2:20pm LY202 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)**

**Natalie Adams**  
**TR 12:30pm-2:20pm, LY202**  
**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 (NS) (ESC)**

<b>-001: Amanda Espy-Brown</b>	<b>M 1:00pm-4:50pm</b>	<b>MSB1010</b>	<b>4 Hours</b>
<b>-002: Leah Connell</b>	<b>T 12:30pm-4:20pm</b>	<b>MSB1010</b>	<b>4 Hours</b>
<b>-003: Emily Elliott</b>	<b>W 1:00pm-4:50pm</b>	<b>MSB1010</b>	<b>4 Hours</b>
<b>-004: Leah Connell</b>	<b>R 12:30pm-4:20pm</b>	<b>MSB1010</b>	<b>4 Hours</b>

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. There are no prerequisites.

**NEW 273-001: Social Issues and Ethics (SB) (SPSC)****Kimberly Colburn****TR 11:00am-12:50pm, LY319****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 300-001: Outdoor Leadership (ESC)****Clif McIntosh****M 2:00pm-4:50pm, FA322****3 Hours**

The goal of this course is to prepare students to successfully and safely plan and lead small group excursions into wilderness, back-country, and front-country outdoor areas using various outdoor recreational activities as a medium. There will also be an emphasis placed on teaching techniques and presentation skills as students will be required to present information to the class.

**NEW 334-001: Everyday Forestry in Alabama (ESC)****Wayne Ford****M 2:00pm-4:50pm, LY306****3 Hours**

This course will prepare students to understand natural resource practices to better manage one's woodlands in a rural or urban situation. This course is for any student interested in basic forestry management techniques and should serve future home and landowners, individuals interested in conservation issues, and as an introduction to a broader field for students with professional interest in forestry or environmental studies. This course 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 tree species in Alabama as well as all major forest insects and diseases. Other topics that will be discussed will include compass and pacing, forest site evaluation, timber estimation, topographic map interpretation, and invasive woodland species. This course does not presuppose any previous knowledge and no prerequisite is required. Much of this course will include "hands-on" outdoor field trips.

**NEW 350-001: Community Arts (CC)****Marysia Galbraith****TR 12:00pm - 1:50pm, LY 215****4 Hours**

What functions do arts serve in communities? How do creative activities affect cognitive and social learning? We will explore these questions as we develop and offer arts workshops in local public schools. Arts are broadly defined to include theatre, dance, creative media, language arts, engineering, painting, pottery, etc.

**NEW 390-001: Special Topics: Intermedia Arts (W)****Andrew Dewar****MW 3:30pm – 4:45pm, BR109 (Oliver Barnard)****3 Hours**

Music you can see? Art made using lightning in the middle of a desert? Avant-garde art festivals in 1970s Iran? This course discusses intermedia intersections in 20th and 21st century art and music. We will examine the cultural and historical roots of intermedia art that explores an area between the lines of traditional art forms. Spanning work created for galleries, in urban streets, and rural villages, we will discover examples from the visual arts, dance, music, film, and architecture to learn how and why artists work with and combine different media to find new possibilities. In addition to engaging with a variety of artistic works, we will discuss the cultural, philosophical, theoretical, and compositional issues that meet at intermedia junctions.

**NEW 390-002: Special Topics: Zen Meditation, Experimental Arts, and Time (CC)****Henry Lazer****M 2:00-4:50 pm, LY215****3 Hours**

The course will involve an introduction to Zen Buddhism, relying on Shunryu Suzuki's classic *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*, Lao Tzu's *Tao Te Ching*, and at least one other book (perhaps Octavia Butler's *Dawn*). We'll learn and practice zazen (sitting meditation). Through the lens of Zen practice, we will explore a range of experimental arts/artists, with particular emphasis on contemporary music, performance art, environmental art, dance, conceptual and found art. Artists we might consider include George Quasha, John Cage, Marcel Duchamp, Andy Goldsworthy, Mei-meï Berssenbrugge, Linda Montano, Marina Abramovic, Javanese Gamelan music, Bill Viola, and Kazuaki Tanahashi. Students will both discuss the art we examine and make some related art works of their own. And we'll do our best to learn to be present.

**NEW 399-001: Civic Leadership Development (SPSC)****Jackson Harris****TR 3:30pm-4:45pm, BR109 (Olivar Barnard)****3 Hours**

A 2016 Pew Research study found that the political polarization in the U.S. continues to deepen and grow more hostile, and the widening economic disparities predicted by the July 2019 McKinsey Global Institute report *The Future of Work in America* are likely to further accentuate our national divides (Blumenstyk, 2019). In response to these alarming trends, this course takes an innovative approach to prepare students to be citizens more capable of addressing a politically divisive environment, locally and globally. Serving as a civic learning "laboratory," the Civic Leadership Dialogues offer students the opportunity to acquire the "democratic knowledge and capabilities" that can only be "honed through hands-on, face-to-face, active engagement" (*A Crucible Moment*, AAC&U, 2012). This course does not count as a New College seminar and enrollment is by instructor permission only. No prerequisites.

**NEW 403-001: Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Global Health (W) (SPSC/ESC)**

**Amanda Espy-Brown**

**MW 9:00am-10:50am, LY306**

**3 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. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course.

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

**Jack Carey**

**M 2:00pm-4:30pm, TH105**

**3 Hours**

A study of cultural and environmental landscapes of the American South, with a particular emphasis on the historical processes through which successive waves of Southerners have turned physical and geographic spaces into socially defined places. 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 415-001: Gender, Sexuality & Pop Culture (W) (CC/SPSC)**

**Catherine Roach**

**W 2:00pm-4:50pm, LY319**

**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 438-001: Overview of American Law (W) (SPSC)**

**John Miller**

**MW 2:00pm-3:50pm, LY202**

**4 hours**

This course will teach students about key components of the American legal system using movies, fiction, current events, and academic readings. Through written assignments, presentations, and discussion, students will gain basic knowledge about various bodies of law, conceptions of law/ justice, and the implications of law and society on one another. This course would be beneficial for students who plan to attend law school, students making up their minds about law school, and those who just want to know more about law. Students will learn introductory concepts relevant to: criminal law, torts, contracts, wills/ trusts, constitutional law, and procedure/ evidence. Writing proficiency is required for a passing grade in this course.

**NEW 484-002: Church, State and American Education (SPSC)**

**Natalie Adams**

**TR 9:30am-10:45am, LY319**

**3 Hours**

A critical look at the role of religion in public education, the separation of church and state in American education, and educational policies emanating from debates about the separation of church and state.

**NEW 490-001: Special Topics: Arts Entrepreneurship (CC/SPSC)**

**Holland Hopson**

**TR 11:00am-12:15am, LY328**

**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: Museum Studies (SPSC)**

**William Bomar**

**W 2:00pm-4:50pm, RJ204**

**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 interdisciplinary 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 490-003: Students, Democracy & Civic Engagement (CC/SPSC)**

**Vincent Willis**

**W 10:30am-1:20pm, LB7033**

**3 Hours**

This interdisciplinary seminar will investigate the various ways students have used civic engagement and social responsibility throughout history to address social problems that prevent democratic participation.

## **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, NL 2006**

**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 well-being. 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: TBA TR 3:00pm-4:15pm LY 226 3 Hours**

**-002: Barbara Brickman MW 12:00pm- 1:15pm LY 226 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](mailto:mille031@ua.edu)) to discuss particulars. Be sure to download and read the instructions.

**NEW 338-001: New College Review I (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.

# Course Listings: Summer 2024

## May Interim

### Summer 1

**FA 200-910 / FA 200-920: Introduction to Fine Arts (FA) (does not count as NC seminar)**

**Barbara Brickman**

**MAY-28 - JUN-26, ONLINE**

**3 Hours**

This course introduces you to the function, value, and character of the arts in our everyday lives. We want to give you the opportunity to consider the value of the arts in your own development as a person, a student, and as a professional. We hope this course will push you out into your various art communities: local, formal and informal, professional and amateur. We encourage you to develop for yourself the resources necessary to make good decisions about your future with the arts as consumers, practitioners, citizens, lifelong students, and maybe even lovers of the arts.

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

**Amanda Espy-Brown**

**MTWRF 8:00am-12:00 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, and wading in streams).

### **NEW 300-001: Outdoor Leadership (ESC)**

**Margaret Peacock**

**MAY-28 – JUN-26 INTL**

**3 Hours**

The goal of this course is to prepare students to successfully and safely plan and lead small group excursions into wilderness, backcountry, and front-country outdoor areas using various outdoor recreational activities as a medium. There will also be an emphasis placed on teaching techniques and presentation skills as students will be required to present information to the class.

## **Summer 2**

### **FA 200-911 / FA 200-921: Introduction to Fine Arts (FA) (does not count as NC seminar)**

**Andrew Dewar**

**JUL-03 - JUL-31, ONLINE**

**3 Hours**

This course introduces you to the function, value, and character of the arts in our everyday lives. We want to give you the opportunity to consider the value of the arts in your own development as a person, a student, and as a professional. We hope this course will push you out into your various art communities: local, formal, and informal, professional, and amateur. We encourage you to develop for yourself the resources necessary to make good decisions about your future with the arts as consumers, practitioners, citizens, lifelong students, and maybe even lovers of the arts.

## **Full Summer Term**

### **NEW 311-150 to NEW 311-151: Independent Study (does not count as NC seminar)**

**MAY-28 - JUL-31**

**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](mailto:mille031@ua.edu)) to discuss particulars. Be sure to download and read the instructions.

### **NEW 450-800: Conservation Field Studies in Belize (ESC)**

**Michael Steinberg**

**MAY-28 - JUN-26, International Study Abroad**

**6 Hours**

The course is designed for students who are interested in conservation issues, biogeography, marine sciences, and outdoor adventure. Be part of a long-term research project focused on marine conservation in a tropical paradise. Snorkel every day on the longest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere. Contact Dr. Steinberg with questions at [mksteinberg@as.ua.edu](mailto:mksteinberg@as.ua.edu).

### **NEW 450-801: Conservation Field Studies in Belize (ESC)**

**Michael Steinberg**

**JUL-03 – JUL-31, International Study Abroad**

**6 Hours**

The course is designed for students who are interested in conservation issues, biogeography, marine sciences, and outdoor adventure. Be part of a long-term research project focused on marine conservation in a tropical paradise. Snorkel every day on the longest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere. Contact Dr. Steinberg with questions at [mksteinberg@as.ua.edu](mailto:mksteinberg@as.ua.edu).

**GY 449-800: Field Studies in Europe: Ireland (ESC) (NC students can count as one seminar)**

**Mary Wallace Pitts**

**MAY-28 - JUN-26, International Study Abroad**

**6 Hours**

Ireland with its long history of occupation, colonization, invasion, emigration, and immigration, together with its diverse geology, geomorphology, culture, history, and heritage is an ideal location to study the intricacies of human-earth relationships in a dynamic modern setting. Located on the westernmost edge of Europe, and a member of the European Union, Ireland welcomes over 11 million visitors each year and during the last decades has evolved into a forward-thinking center of globalism and multiculturalism. This course is designed to immerse each student in all things Irish, past and present, and through readings, field visits, excursions and exposure to the Irish people and culture develop an understanding of the complexity, interdisciplinarity, and global interconnections that exist in Ireland and throughout our global community. This is a unique opportunity for experiential learning in another country.