

A Beautiful Mind

DR. BENJAMIN RHODES
#35195, TTH 800-930A, BUR 234

This seminar will focus on three prize-winning, creative efforts: a 1994 Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to the mathematician John Forbes Nash for his contributions to game theory; a National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography given to Sylvia Nasar for *A Beautiful Mind*, her biography of Nash's life; and the Ron Howard movie, *A Beautiful Mind*, winner of four Academy Awards, including Best Picture for the year 2000. The major requirements for this course are class participation and non-fiction writing. Students should have an interest in one or more of the following: mathematics; economics; 20th-century history; non-athletic games; mental illness; or movie making. The basic concepts of game theory will be introduced so that students will understand how "zero-sum" and "win-win" have come into our language. Only pre-calculus mathematics will be used.

***Africa in Films:
History and Knowledge***

DR. TOYIN FALOLA
#35200, TH 330-530P, PAR 103

With the aid of visual materials, this seminar will introduce students to major themes in African history and culture from earliest times to the present. Readings and projects will focus on the ability of students to connect Africa with their own experiences and cultures. In addition to films, other visual material will be employed, but the course will have a vital lecture and discussion component to enhance the visual experience. Reading assignments



Toyin Falola
African Films: History and Knowledge

Toyin Falola is the Frances Higginbotham Nalle Centennial Professor in History at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of numerous articles and books, most recently *The History of Nigeria* (1999), *The Culture and Customs of Nigeria* (2001), and *Nationalism and African Intellectuals* (2001). A teacher at numerous institutions in various countries since the 1970s, he is the recipient of the 2000 Jean Holloway Award for Teaching Excellence at the University of Texas at Austin.

will be no less important than in any more conventional course.

American Humor

DR. ROBERT G. BRUCE
#35205, W 400-600P, PAR 303

This course is designed as an introduction to American Humor, with a focus on how specific cultural environments and attitudes reflect and transform perceptions of what is (and what is not) laughable. A selection of short stories, novels, political cartoons, and film excerpts will serve as the primary material for the seminar. Among the authors and directors we will study are Mark Twain, James Thurber, Flannery O'Connor, Langston Hughes, Ken Kesey, Joel and Ethan Coen, and S.R. Bindler. Our analysis of author, subject, situation, and audience will hopefully bring about an understanding of one of the more puzzling human questions: why, exactly, do we laugh?

American Life Stories

DR. KATHLEEN ARONSON
#35210, W 300-500P, MEZ 1.122

This seminar is designed as an introduction to American autobiography, with a focus on how men and women write their life stories. In examining a variety of self-expressions, we will ask ourselves what "autobiography" is—how do we tell others who we are? What, for instance, would we emphasize about our lives if we wrote a self-portrait? Through our exploration, we will begin to understand how American culture influences the ways in which people think and write about themselves. We will also look at how narrative life stories are translated into art and film. We will focus on the autobiographies of Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, Leslie Marmon Silko's *Sacred Water*, Maxine Hong Kingston's *Woman Warrior*, Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*, and Lance Armstrong's *It's Not About the Bike*.

***American Music and Life:
Blues, Country, Rock-n-Roll***

DR. GEORGE WARD
#35215, M 200-500P, GEO 3.222

Twentieth-century American music in its many forms—ragtime, jazz, blues, country, rhythm'n'blues, rock'n'roll, etc.—has had an international impact, both musically and culturally. This seminar will focus on twentieth-century history and culture of the United States, particularly after World War Two, as reflected in the numerous folk and popular music styles that developed over the century. We will examine many musical styles and performers (Woody Guthrie, T-Bone Walker, Loretta Lynn, Chuck Berry, and others), with an emphasis on how these influential styles and performers (and the culture surrounding them) provide insights into such issues as

politics, race, religion, war, women's rights, and other significant aspects of American life. The seminar will include lectures, class discussion, listening to music, and watching films and videos. We will read about performers and examine their impact on issues (Bob Dylan and Political Activism; Muddy Waters and African American Urbanization; Elvis Presley and the Sexual Revolution; Janis Joplin and the Women's Movement; and others).

American Symphonic Tradition

DR. KARL MILLER
#35217, MWF 1200-100P, SZB 434

Many music historians suggest that it was in the 1930s that American composers began to break away from their European antecedents and discover their own distinct voices. Beginning with the works of Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Roy Harris, and William Schuman, and concluding with the music of the younger generation of composers, including Philip Glass, Libby Larsen, Ellen Zwillich, and Michael Daugherty, this seminar will trace the evolution of American symphonic music.

***The American West: Manifest
Destiny and the Environment***

DR. RICHARD RICHARDSON & BOBBY BRIDGER
#35220, W 300-600P, GEO 2.218

In the past few decades multinational agreements for global "free" trade have increased environmental degradation and brought social and economic disruption. The United States has been a leader in these developments, whose roots can be traced back to the Fur Trade Era that began in 1822. The class will explore the connections between fur trading and the Indian Wars of the nineteenth century and the present manifestations of global warming, energy crises, unsustainable agriculture, terrorism, and loss of biodiversity. This course will be offered in conjunction with Bobby Bridger, a world renowned historian and balladeer (see <http://www.bbridger.com/>) and the great grand nephew of Jim Bridger, the Mountain Man who discovered the Great Salt Lake in 1824.

***Ancient Greek Athletics and
the Olympic Games***

DR. JOHN H. KROLL
#35225, MW 1100-1200P, CBA 4.336

As the world gears up for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, this seminar will provide a chance to explore the ancient reality behind the modern games. We will discuss readings of ancient Greek writers that deal with various aspects of physical training, formal competitions, and the religious, military, and cultural background of the ancient Greek obsession with athletic achievement. We will study the archaeology of ancient Olympia and depictions of athletes

on Greek vases and in sculpture. Inevitably we will be comparing the role and nature of athletics in ancient Greece with the character and importance of sport in our own lives and culture. Grading will be based on class participation, occasional quizzes on the reading, and three assigned essays.

The Art of Being Human

DR. DAVID SPRINGER
#35230, TH 900-1100A, SSW 2.140

This interactive seminar will explore how individuals overcome life's challenges in order to create a meaningful and happy existence. Critical reflection on selected readings, films, and music will cover a range of topics, such as happiness, discipline, compassion, humor, balance, suffering, power, conflict, love, & grace. Students will critically reflect on their own lives, & relate their experiences to class material.

Art of the Uncanny

DR. ELIZABETH RICHMOND-GARZA
#35235, T TH 200-330P, PAR 306

Although some art claims to represent the world as it really is, this course traces the ways in which the bizarre and the unexpected feature in the art, music, literature, and film of the last hundred years or so. From Bram Stoker's *Dracula* to the nightmares of Freud's patients, from Moscow devils to Parisian hallucinations, we will look at the theory and the practice of "creepiness" and pair each of the older texts with a newly alarming one. Oscar Wilde will meet Nine Inch Nails and Salvador Dali will spend time in "The Matrix."

Aviation History

DR. GLYNN HARMON
#35240, TH 300-500P, SZB 464

The objectives for this seminar are to develop a general appreciation for aviation, to consider aviation as a vocational and avocational endeavor, and to develop writing skills through the exploration of this topic. The course covers aviation history in terms of evolutionary and revolutionary progress in a number of key areas, such as aerodynamics, airframes, powerplants, instrumentation and software, weather, navigation, air traffic control, regulation, airports, flight safety, and airline, freight, and military aviation. Aviation pioneers and career options will be explored. Study materials and sources include encyclopedias, books (including novels), journals, yearbooks, government documents, educational television, video cassettes, Web sites, interviews, flight simulators, field visits, and primary aviation experiences.

Career Development

DR. RAY EASTERLIN
#35245, M 1000-1200P, WCH 1.110