FRESHMAN SEMINAR PROGRAM

The Freshman Seminar program offers a diverse array of courses open only to freshmen and designed with freshmen in mind. Enrollment in seminars is limited to fifteen or eighteen students, depending on the nature of the course. Most seminars meet twice each week and do not, unless otherwise noted, presume any prior experience in the field. Students must apply and preregister for freshman seminars before the beginning of each term. To ensure that all applicants share an equal chance at enrolling in a seminar, students are admitted by lottery from among those who apply. Students who do not preregister may be considered for placement at the instructor’s discretion if space is available. Information regarding application procedures may be found on the program’s Web site (http://yalecollege.yale.edu/new-students/class-2019/academic-information/special-programs-placement-and-preregistration/freshman).

COURSES

* AFAM 008b / AFST 008b / HSAR 009b, Aesthetics and Meaning in African Arts and Cultures  Erica James
  The diversity of artistic production on the African continent, both historically and materially. The creative consciousness and aesthetic values of a variety of African cultures from ancient to contemporary times. Questions that arise when writing these histories without fully taking into account concepts of "African time."  HU

* AFAM 060b / AMST 060b / HIST 016b, Significance of American Slavery  Edward Rugemer
  The history of American slavery, its destruction during the nineteenth century, and its significance today. Topics include the origins of slavery, the development of racism, the transatlantic slave trade, the experience of enslavement, resistance to slavery, the abolitionist movement, the process of emancipation, and the perpetuation of slavery and other forms of unfree labor in the twenty-first century. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, HU

* AMST 010b, Islam in the United States  Zareena Grewal
  Introduction to ethnic studies and ethnographic film and writing through the study of Islam in the United States. The wide variety of Muslim ethnic and racial and immigrant groups in the United States and the new forms of religious life that develop from their interaction. Global and universal elements of Islam; elements that are specific to place and community, including what is American about Islam in America. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, HU

* ARCH 005a, Modern Architecture and the City  Karla Britton
  Issues in modern American architecture and urbanism examined through the work of prominent architects closely associated with Yale and New Haven. Perspectives on the character, development, and sociocultural consequences of building today. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  HU

* ART 002b, Paper  Elana Herzog
  Paper as a material for making art. How paper is made; myriad ways that it is used in the collections of Yale’s galleries and libraries. Creation of paper objects to explore the formal properties of sculpture, including volume, mass, line, and structure. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  RP

* ART 003a, Blue  Jessica Helfand
  The cultural and iconic history of the color blue and its role as both a method and a motive for making work in the studio. The word "blue" and its etymological core, evocative connotations, colloquial nuance, and semantic role in different languages and cultures; scientific and sociological issues; blue in film and the fine arts. Projects experiment with writing, collecting, collage, and digital video. Use of materials from the Beinecke Library. Enrollment limited to 15 freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  HU

* ART 004a, Words and Pictures  Dushman Petrovich
  Introduction to visual narration, the combination of words and pictures to tell a story. Narrative point of view, counternarrative and counterculture, visual satire, personal history, depictions of space and time, and strategies and politics of representation. Sources include illuminated manuscripts, biblical paintings, picture-stories, comic strips, and graphic novels. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  HU

* ART 006a, Art of the Printed Word  Richard Rose
  Introduction to the art and historical development of letterpress printing and to the evolution of private presses. Survey of hand printing; practical study of press operations using antique platen presses and the cylinder proof press. Material qualities of printed matter, connections between content and typographic form, and word/image relationships. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  HU

* ASTR 030a, Search for Extraterrestrial Life  Michael Faison
  Introduction to the search for extraterrestrial life. Review of current knowledge on the origins and evolution of life on Earth; applications to the search for life elsewhere in the universe. Discussion of what makes a planet habitable, how common these worlds are in the universe, and how we might search for them. Survey of past, current, and future searches for extraterrestrial intelligence. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, SC
* ASTR 040b, Expanding Ideas of Time and Space  
Louise Edwards
Discussions on the nature of time and space. Topics include the shape and contents of the universe, special and general relativity, dark and light matter, and dark energy. Observations and ideas fundamental to astronomers’ current model of an expanding and accelerating four-dimensional universe. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* CLCV 056b, Ancient Myth, Fiction, and Science Fiction  
Pauline LeVen
A survey of ancient Greek and Roman myths and an introduction to the prose fiction and science fiction of 2500 years ago. Crucial questions asked by Greek and Roman myths; how myths were an integral part of important ancient institutions; ways in which myths, fiction, and science fiction represented the world and the notion of “truth” in different ways. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* CLCV 057a / HIST 021a, The Age of Constantine  
Noel Lenski
The world of late antiquity explored through the pivotal figure of Constantine the Great, Rome’s first Christian ruler. Focus on the third and fourth centuries C.E. Themes of politics, religion, society and economy, history of art and architecture, warfare, administration, foreign policy, and multiculturalism. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* CPSC 079b, Digital Photorealism  
Julie Dorsey
Basic methods used to define shapes, materials, and lighting when creating computer-generated images. Mathematical models for shape, texture models, and lighting techniques. Principles are applied through the use of modeling/rendering/animation software. Proficiency in high school–level mathematics is assumed. No previous programming experience necessary. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* ENGL 010b, Jane Austen  
Stefanie Markovits
Close study of Austen’s novels, with special attention to the critique of social and literary convention. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* ENGL 011b / PLSC 025b, Lincoln in Thought and Action  
David Bromwich
An intensive examination of the career, political thought, and speeches of Abraham Lincoln in their historical context. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* ENGL 015a / AFST 015a, South African Writing after Apartheid  
Stephanie Newell
An introduction to creative writing published in South Africa from the end of Apartheid in 1994 to the present. Close readings of contemporary fiction with additional material drawn from popular culture, including films, magazines, and music. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* ENGL 016b, Literary Cities: New York, Chicago, San Francisco  
Wai Chee Dimock
An introduction to American literature, told through the vibrant lives, ethnic diversities, and innovative genres revolving around three urban centers. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* ENGL 017b, Shakespeare’s Major Tragedies  
David Kastan
Detailed exploration of Shakespeare’s Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth. What makes the plays great in a way that almost all readers and audiences have recognized. The works as plays to be performed, as drama to be read, as texts that have been constructed by the activities of various people, and as plays deeply embedded in the history of their own moment, as well as in later histories for which they are in some part responsible. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* EVST 020a / F&ES 020a, Sustainable Development in Haiti  
Gordon Geballe
The principles and practice of sustainable development explored in the context of Haiti’s rich history and culture, as well as its current environmental and economic impoverishment. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HIST 012b / AMST 012b, Politics and Society in the United States after World War II  
Jennifer Klein
Introduction to American political and social issues from the 1940s to the present, including political economy, civil rights, class politics, and gender roles. Legacies of the New Deal as they played out after World War II; the origins, agenda, and ramifications of the Cold War; postwar suburbanization and its racial dimensions; migration and immigration; cultural changes; social movements of the Right and Left; Reaganism and its legacies; the United States and the global economy. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HIST 015b, History of Food and Cuisine  
Paul Freedman
The history of food from the Middle Ages to the present, with a focus on the United States and Europe. How societies gathered and prepared food; culinary tastes of different times and places. The influence of taste on trade, colonization, and cultural exchange. The
impact of immigration, globalization, and technology on food. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HIST 020a / ARCG 031a / CLCV 059a / EVST 030a / NELC 026a, Rivers and Civilization  
Staff

The appearance of the earliest cities along the Nile and Euphrates in the fourth millennium B.C. Settlements along the rivers, the origins of agriculture, the production and extraction of agricultural surpluses, and the generation of class structures and political hierarchies. How and why these processes occurred along the banks of these rivers; consequent societal collapses and their relation to abrupt climate changes. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HIST 030a / EAST 030a, Tokyo  
Fabian Drixler

Four centuries of Japan’s history explored through the many incarnations, destructions, and rebirths of its foremost city. Focus on the solutions found by Tokyo’s residents to the material and social challenges of concentrating such a large population in one place. Tensions between continuity and impermanence, authenticity and modernity, and social order and the culture of play. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HIST 032a / EAST 032a, Shanghai  
Denise Ho

History of the city of Shanghai, with a focus on how Shanghai has been seen and what its experience reveals about modern China. Shanghai’s unique place in imagining China; its transformation in the nineteenth century from a fishing village to an international “treaty port” and China’s gateway to the West; twentieth-century Shanghai as a site of innovation, from politics and capitalism to media and fashion; the city’s vilification in the early Mao years and later reemergence as a symbol of China’s modernization. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HIST 033b / WGSS 033b, Fashion in London and Paris, 1750 to the Present  
Becky Conckin

Introduction to the history of Western fashion from the mid-eighteenth century to the present, with a focus on Paris and London. Approaches, methods, and theories scholars have historically employed to study fashion and dress. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HIST 042a, Oil and Empire  
Rosie Bsheer

The political and social history of oil since the late nineteenth century, including global trends and processes. Oil’s impact on the rise and fall of empires and the fates of nation-states; its role in war and its impact on social and cultural life. Focus on the Middle East, with some attention to Venezuela, Indonesia, and the Niger Delta. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HIST 045a, The Holocaust and Its Afterlives  
Jennifer Allen

The history and memory of the Holocaust in Germany. How the Holocaust itself unfolded, and how Germany has worked through its legacy. Guilt and complicity, the logic of the concentration camps, the limits of totalitarianism, the representations of horror, the prosecution of atrocity, Holocaust memory across generations, and Germany’s urban memory landscape. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HIST 070a, Lawyers as Rebels  
Rohit De

Examination of how lawyers have worked in illiberal and unjust legal systems. Key themes in global history of the twentieth century, such as imperialism, nationalism, apartheid, holocaust, civil rights, communism, feminism, and LGBT rights. Case studies include Gandhi, Mandela, Hersch Lauterpacht, Paul Murray, and Asma Jahangir. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HIST 072b, The History of World History  
Valerie Hansen

How the great historians of ancient Greece, Rome, China, the Islamic world, and nineteenth-century Europe created modern historical method. How to evaluate the reliability of sources, both primary and secondary, and assess the relationship between fact and interpretation. Using historical method to make sense of our world today. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HLTH 081a, Current Issues in Medicine and Public Health  
Robert Bazell

Analysis of issues in public health and medicine that get extensive media attention and provoke policy debates. Topics include vaccination, the value of cancer screening and genetic testing, determinants of a healthy lifestyle, the U.S. role in global health, and the cost of health care. Enrollment limited to freshmen with a score of 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement examination in Biology or the equivalent. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HUMS 076a / HSHM 007a, Epidemics in Global Perspective  
William Summers

Interaction of epidemic diseases and society. The response of government, medicine, and the public to the threat or actual presence of widespread contagious diseases. The notion of major epidemics as one of the key contingencies of history, critically examined through contemporary medical, political, and literary accounts. The changing responses of societies and governments to epidemics as well as the reasons for those responses. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

* HUMS 078a, Shakespeare and Music  
Judith Malafronte

The use of music in Shakespeare’s plays, from the original stagings and seventeenth-century adaptations to modern productions. Consideration of operatic versions of the plays from the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries. Includes a field trip to New York City. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.
* LING 005a, The Mental Lexicon  Maria Piñango  
Examination of the mental lexicon, a hypothesized space in the mind that is built on long-term memory and that holds and manipulates the basic building blocks of language. The structure of this space as it is currently understood; subsystems connected by the mental lexicon, including word structure, sound structure, and meaning structure; real-time word processing and bilingualism. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  SO

* LING 010b / HIST 013b, Language and Power  Claire Bowern and Alejandra Dubcovsky-Joseph
The relationships between language and power explored through the perspectives of linguistics and history. How and when languages change, disappear, and are created. Focus on the Americas and on four outcomes of language contact and their social precursors: pidgins, creoles, mixed languages, and language death. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  SO

* MB&B 004a, Topics in Cancer Biology  Sandy Chang
Introduction to cancer as a genetic disease, with a focus on major discoveries in cancer biology that offer mechanistic insights into the disease process. A brief history of cancer; influence of the genomic revolution on cancer diagnostics; molecular defects underlying specific cancers; current and future cancer therapeutics. Patient case studies highlight specific molecular pathways and treatment strategies. Enrollment limited to freshmen with a strong background in biology and/or chemistry, typically demonstrated by a score of 4 or 5 on Advanced Placement examinations. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  SC

* MUSI 012b, One Thousand Years of Love Songs  Anna Zayaruznaya
History of the love song in Western culture from the twelfth-century troubadours to contemporary popular hits. Music and the shifting social constructions of desire over the past millennium. The song repertory’s engagement with ideas and movements such as courtly love, humanism, romanticism, sexual libertinism, and the LGBT rights movement. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  SC RP

* MUSI 065a, Shape-Note Traditions of the United States  Ian Quinn
Introduction to the folk-song process known as shape-note or Sacred Harp singing, a unique tradition of community a cappella music-making. The tradition’s roots in colonial New England, growth in the southern states between the Civil War and the World Wars, and influence on later musical genres such as bluegrass and gospel. The history of American music, religion, and print culture; exploration of a way of relating to music that is fundamentally different from the performer-audience relationship; concepts of oral tradition. Includes a field trip to New York City. No singing experience or music-reading ability required. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  HU

* NELC 001b / ARCG 001b, Egypt and Northeast Africa: A Multidisciplinary Approach  Staff
Examination of approximately 10,000 years of Nile Valley cultural history, with an introduction to the historical and archaeological study of Egypt and Nubia. Consideration of the Nile Valley as the meeting place of the cultures and societies of northeast Africa. Various written and visual sources are used, including the collections of the Peabody Museum and the Yale Art Gallery. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  HU

* RLST 017a, Authenticity  Noreen Khawaja
The origins of personal authenticity in Western thought and the impact of this idea on modern notions of truth, sincerity, and identity. The “true” self as a historical idea and as a social performance. Readings in philosophy, literature, and religious thought from antiquity to the present. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  HU

* RUSS 023b, Storytelling and the Russian Tradition  Bella Grigoryan
An introduction to modern Russian literature via the genre of the short story. A sustained examination of the relationship between various modes of storytelling and modern literature. Emphasis on the aesthetic and ideological uses of storytelling in masterpieces of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian prose fiction. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, HU TR
* SCIE 030a and SCIE 031b, Current Topics in Science  Douglas Kankel
A series of modules in lecture and discussion format addressing scientific issues arising in current affairs. Topics are selected for their scientific interest and contemporary relevance, and may include global warming, human cloning, and the existence of extrasolar planets. Credit for SCIE 030 only on completion of SCIE 031; one course credit is awarded for successful completion of the year’s work. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  SC  ½ Course cr per term

* SOCY 018a, The Sociological Imagination  Julia Adams
Introduction to the linked study of sociology and modernity. Topics include the dramatic rise of capitalism; colonialism and empire; the advent of democracy and bureaucracy; the world-historical invention of the individual; and the contested role of religion in modernity. Readings from classical and contemporary authors.  SO

* THST 099a / FILM 045a, Dance on Film  Emily Coates
An examination of dance on film from c. 1920 to the present, including early Hollywood pictures, the rise of Bollywood, avant-garde films of the postwar period, translations of stage choreography to screen, music videos, and dance film festivals. The impact of industry, circulation and audience, aesthetic lineages, and craft in the union of the two mediums. Students develop an original short film for a final class project. No prior dance or filmmaking experience necessary. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, HU

* WGSS 032b, History of Sexuality  Staff
Exploration of scientific and medical writings on sexuality over the past century. Focus on the tension between nature and culture in shaping theories, the construction of heterosexuality and homosexuality, the role of scientific studies in moral discourse, and the rise of sexology as a scientific discipline. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, HU