

Fall '08 Sophomore Roundtable Descriptions:

SYE 250-01 Artful Awareness

David Grey Friday 1:00-4:00

What fuels your creative actions? What is the nature of your experience? In particular, where is the experiencer? Is it in your head? Your brain? Your heart? Your hands? Asking these questions, and many more, we will spend a semester exploring the art making process as an expression of our personal storylines. Buddhist philosophy explains that our experiences are a result of the 5 Skandhas - form, feeling, perception, formation/emotions, and consciousness. As one's mind settles, a sense of illuminated clarity can emerge and a deeper appreciation for the creative process is possible. At this point, we can begin to better understand why we make what we make.

Students will engage in a series of creative exercises including visual art making, creative writing, auditory explorations, and contemplative wandering. Readings will consist of excerpts from "Maps of the Imagination", "Wabi Sabi", "A Field Guide to Getting Lost", "Hare Brain, Tortoise Mind – How Intelligence Increases When We Think Less", and "The Five Wisdom Energies". A variety of basic meditation techniques – sitting, walking, breathing, and contemplation – will be introduced and practiced regularly as support for our explorations.

SYE 250-02 Documentary: Truths, Fiction, & Facts

Carole Evans Friday 9:00-12:00

How does the reality constructed for a documentary film compare to the constructed reality of a fiction film? What truths are there to be found in fiction, what fiction in truths? This course will answer these and other questions as we examine the complex issues related to the representation of reality in both historical and current documentary practice.

We will study documentary film as text, analyzing a cross-section of films that explore social, political, cultural, experimental, personal, anthropological, and agitprop realities. Examples of films to be screened, or excerpted, include *The Drifters*, *Kino Eye*, *Triumph of the Will*, *An American Family*, *San Soleil*, *Thin Blue Line*, *Chronicle of a Summer*, and *Daughter Rite*. Printed texts will include *Representing Reality* by Bill Nichols, and *New Challenges of Documentary*, by Allen Rosenthal and John Corner. The course will engage students in a variety of projects related to the documentation of reality and culminate in a self-directed or small group documentary project.

SYE 250-03 Clothing as Metaphor

Cheryl Odom Friday 9:00-12:00

This is a course in fashion theory, which takes a look at social and historic events that have impacted fashion. Some of the events we consider are the Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution, the two World Wars, the 50's and the 60's. Students choose a final research project which culminates in a

Powerpoint presentation. Research techniques and logical thinking will be emphasized as well as methods of presentation and public speaking styles.

SYE 250-04 The Constitution and the Bible

Brother Donald Mouton Wednesday 9:00-12:00

This Roundtable investigates the question of how ancient codes, the Constitution and the Bible, continue to play a decisive role in shaping the world in which we live and explores answers to the following questions:

- What should I know about the Constitution and the Bible?
- How can centuries-old codes be relevant to contemporary events and problems?
- What are the principles of ongoing interpretation of texts (hermeneutics)?
- What are the analogies in the history of the interpretation of the Constitution by the Supreme Court and the Bible by the Christian Church?
- What are some important Supreme Court cases and Church decrees in the history of interpretation of the Constitution and the Bible

SYE 250-05 Imaging Ideas: Philosophy in Film

Anais Spitzer Friday 1:00-4:00

This course will use film as a medium through which to engage philosophical ideas. Both foreign and domestic cinema will be used to illuminate the philosophical texts and extend them beyond their traditional frameworks. Please note that this course requires a lot of reading, all of which will consist of primary sources—the philosophical works themselves. Although these texts are challenging, they offer—along with the films—rich opportunities for engaging enduring human concerns. Some of the philosophic themes that will be explored include the nature of knowledge, faith, identity, and existence, love, otherness and the uncanny. Readings will consist of philosophic texts from both Eastern and Western traditions, ranging from *The Bhagavad Gita* to Plato, to the existentialists (to name but a few).