



Sample May Term Course Descriptions

Financial Survival

Congratulations, you've graduated college and landed yourself an entry-level salaried position! What now? Do you have the financial savvy to make decisions on housing, transportation, food, etc. and survive the month on your income? What happens if there's an unexpected expense? How much in taxes will the government expect you to hand over first? This class will explore all of these topics and more as we use a 50-30-20 budget model to explore living independently. We will also visit a few local experts who can offer their advice and guidance. Field trips may include a car dealership (what should you look for in a used car?), rental properties (what features would you want in an apartment?), and a financial advisor (how much should you start saving?). At the end of the course you'll present your budget, highlight choices you made, and (hopefully) demonstrate your ability to not only financially survive, but also financially THRIVE!

Beings We Live Among: Prairie plants and animals

The poet Mary Oliver has written "To pay attention, this is our endless and proper work." In this class, we'll be paying attention to the natural world around us, its grasses and flowers, its ferns and fungi, its trees and shrubs, its bees and butterflies, its reptiles and amphibians, its birds and mammals. In the process, we hope to discover the joy and pleasure of that "endless and proper work." In this class, we will expand and apply our knowledge of biology, literature, and the visual arts. Field trips will be a key aspect of the course, both nearby (Scattergood campus and Rochester Cemetery) and further afield (Ciha Fen Nature Preserve, Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge). For the final project, you'll be asked to apply your knowledge of prairie biology and your writing and artistic skills to create a trading card portfolio of your favorite prairie flora and fauna.

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Danger of the Single Story: Deconstructing stereotypes through digital storytelling

Humans are storytelling animals. We each seek to provide our scattered and confusing life experiences with a sense of coherence by organizing the chapters of our lives into stories. But the problem arises when our complex reality doesn't match the neat narrative we've created, which can lead to stereotypes and a simplistic understanding of complex cultures and people. Author Chimanda Ngozi Adichie calls this phenomenon "The Danger of the Single Story," which is also the namesake of this May Term course. Scattergood students will become aware of stereotypes, "single stories," and other cognitive biases that may skew their understanding of the world. Digital Storytelling can deconstruct the "single story" we have of ourselves and of each other. Using Descript, an Artificial Intelligence Powered Video-Editing Software, students will create digital stories applied to important life questions related to identity-formation.

The Wild Twin: Myths and fairytales in the forest

Perhaps in the mirror you've met your double—or maybe just off the path in the woods by the park— you've caught a bright slip of a shadow, a silver flash disappearing around the corner, a twinkle of mischief eyes and shrieking laughter, suddenly there/suddenly gone: your wild curious other self, your uncultured magical dirty misfit self— your you-but-not-you ...

We will spend this class in search of our wild other. We will look for them while exploring myths and fairy tales from around the world; we will look for them under rocks and twigs while playing and adventuring in natural places together. In so doing, we will access the wonder-mind of childhood and the mythopoeic mindset. We will pay attention to what emerges as we co-create our class culture, and we'll try to capture a likeness of our own wild twin in the stories we create together.