

term	course	description
FALL 2023	Audience of Writing	How does an intended reader shape what we write and create? How do we work within a style or genre of writing to reach a certain purpose or goal? In this course, we will write to publish 3 different kinds of writing -- cultural nonfiction, journalism, and creative writing -- in partnership with 3 publications: Krewe (Tulane University), Verite (Black NOLA Journalism), and an early college network collaboration of creative writing.
	The Civil Rights Movement: Race and Politics 1865-1965	This course will explore the origins and trajectory of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States by chronicling political, social, and civic developments of American politics between the years 1865 and 1965. Through such study, students will identify the sociopolitical mutuality which interlinks the era of the Civil Rights Movement to contemporary American government and social justice initiatives.
	College Algebra	College Algebra will build on students' algebra skills in the areas of linear and quadratic equations, functions, rational expressions, and exponential and radical functions. The course will emphasize interpreting these expressions, equations, and functions and learning about practical applications. Students who successfully complete the course will be prepared to move on to more advanced math courses including precalculus. Please note that, while this description provides an accurate illustration of the themes and content central to the course, specific texts, assignments, and discussion topics are subject to change based upon expertise and availability of faculty.
	College Composition	This class is designed to meet you where you are as a writer, and accelerate you to a deeper and more meaningful relationship with your work. This semester, we will be exploring and expanding your voice as a writer. Your voice is what makes your writing unique and powerful. Development of voice as a writer is crucial; it is your personal mark on the work you do, making your thoughts clear, distinctive, and unforgettable to a reader. We will marry the idea of personal voice with the nuts and bolts of grammar and composition.
	Earth Science	Earth science is the study of the earth and the human experience. It includes all fields of natural science. This class will explore the basic processes that are new-formed and continue to form our planet and its human interactions. Earth Science and the human experience; and the science of global change. However, there are numerous examples of human interaction with the Earth that can serve as entry points for students to appreciate the nature of science. Global change is a theme that is evident in much of current, Earth Science Research. Overall, the class will explore the history and nature of science, and the interactions between earth and human society.
	Music Criticism	Music is a powerful and ephemeral experience, an experience that is often difficult to articulate into words. In this course we will develop our critical ears through listening, discussing, and reading/writing about music.
	Medical Humanities	<p>Medical humanities draws on many disciplines and fields—including history, literature, art history, media studies, philosophy, law, ethics, religion, theology, anthropology, psychology, sociology, and other arts and sciences—to study the context of medicine, the experience of medicine, the goals of medicine, and concepts in and of medicine. A common goal of medical humanities is to make clinicians, nurses, therapists, and other caregivers more “humane” or “compassionate.” Another common goal includes making healers (or aspiring healers) more “well-rounded.” Still another goal includes promoting teaching and learning in health humanities simply for its own sake.</p> <p>But what is “medical humanities”? While there’s no single answer, this much is clear: Medical humanities draws from many areas to examine issues related to the development and the practice of medicine. In this sense, it’s similar to other fields such as religious studies or gender studies—fields that use various disciplines and methods to study a particular subject. What’s different, though, is that health humanities, unlike many other academic fields, seems to require or to imply an essential practical component in relation to (1) the care of patients and/or populations; and (2) the care of healers themselves.</p>
	National Government	This course will introduce students to a concrete study of American political institutions, the political process, and major areas of American public policy. This class will examine how race, class, gender and religion influence policy actors and the policy-making process. A discussion of the key elements of the U.S. Constitution-bicameralism, checks and balances, federal supremacy, and judicial review - is included in the course. The course also analyzes and studies mass media, interest groups, and political parties-all of which play a large role in shaping and influencing Congress, the presidency, the federal bureaucracy and the judiciary. Finally, the course examines American public policy and the electoral system.
	Philosophy (Intro to)	This course introduces students to the study of argumentation through classical readings in philosophy. Arguments consist in reasons given in favor of a claim, but there are many kinds of reasons and many kinds of arguments. As a result, there are many ways to evaluate arguments. Evaluation depends on recognizing the parts of the argument and what type it is. Students will learn how to recognize and apply evaluation procedures to arguments on classical topics in philosophy, such as the nature of virtue, justice, knowledge, identity, and power.

Playwriting (Intro to)	<p>This class will focus on the academic analysis of form and structure in contemporary American playwrighting, as well as the creative process of producing original work. We will spend the first half of the semester reading different plays and analyzing them, and exploring different writing styles in our own work through several smaller projects. In the second half of the semester, the group will work together on one large project: writing a full-length script (or two one-acts) that can be performed by Bard students in the Theater Production class in the spring.</p>
Psychology	<p>How does the mind create the reality we perceive? How do experiences shape the brain, and how do processes in the brain influence thought, emotion and behavior? This course investigates these and similar questions by studying the science of the human mind and behavior. The course covers topics such as memory, perception, development, psychopathology, personality, and social behavior. A focus is on the biological, cognitive, and social/cultural roots that give rise to human experience. Additionally, the course will consider how behavior differs among people, and across situations.</p>
Religious Studies (Intro to)	<p>What is religion? It might be: Latin American priests fighting for political liberation; mothers and grandmothers organizing a bake sale in their church parking lot; Egyptian mystics retreating to the desert during the third century AD; or a digitally recorded call to prayer from a minaret in Istanbul. Scholars in the field of religious studies have come to challenge the very idea of "religion" as a concept—can this Eurocentric, modern word accurately describe thousands of years of global history and phenomena? Yet, it is still the primary lens through which many people encounter and try to understand questions about the origins of human life, consciousness, and spirit.</p>
First Year Seminar I: What is Power?	<p>This semester we are exploring an especially complex and thought-provoking question; what is power? When we pose this question, an unfurling set of secondary questions reveal themselves: where does power come from? Who has power, and how doesn't? What happens when power is used well, and what happens when it is abused? We will examine the development of power from many different angles, with the goal of increasing our ability to discuss multiple perspectives, and understanding how these perspectives came to exist, as well as their effects on our current moment in history, your identity, and our collective understanding of humanity. Your seminar class is a fundamental building block of your Bard education that you will take all four semesters during your time here. This is where your journey of developing your writing, thinking, and researching skills begins. At times, you'll be asked to stretch and grow in ways that might feel new- that's ok! In fact, that's a necessary component of your learning, and is a sign that you are growing as a thinker. More than anything, Bard is a place that is encouraging you to learn how to think in new and different ways.</p>
Second Year Seminar I: What is Power?	<p>The word "seminar" stems from the word "inseminate," as in to plant seeds in a garden. Imagine that we are cultivating a garden of ideas together (and sometimes pulling out weeds). As a multi-disciplinary course, we exploit the pleasure of not adhering to one school or direction of thought, one path of research, or one department of study. By discovering the connections and overlaps of content, we evoke ideas that are irreducible, growing in richness and diversity. Our goal is not to focus on canonical content, but a genealogy of ideas. How are things related? What ends and means do they share? Why and how are their divergences important?</p>
Spanish I	<p>Spanish I is an intensive one-semester introduction to Spanish with an emphasis on listening and speaking skills designed to quickly prepare students for more advanced study of language, literature, and culture. Students are also expected to enhance their written and oral communication, research skills, and group collaboration capacity.</p>
Sustainable Foodways	<p>This course explores the theory and practice of sustainable eating, in a local food system, and around the world. Students will learn about sustainable agriculture and food in their local area and will meet virtually with students at partner campuses in Massachusetts (USA), Taiwan, Vienna, (Austria), and New Orleans (USA). Collaboration sessions will give students access to a global perspective on food practices local food and farming practices, local food and farming, including agriculture. The course features field trips, to local farms for interactive workshops, with farmers and guest speakers. We will examine sustainable food from multiple perspectives: consumers, policymakers, and farmers' producers. The course will include oral presentations short papers and a collaborative final project.</p>
Statistics and Probability	<p>Statistics show up everywhere. In this introductory statistics course, no prior knowledge of statistics is expected but some knowledge of high school algebra is essential. Basic statistical concepts and methods are presented in a manner that emphasizes understanding the principles of data collection and analysis rather than theory. This course not only provides a conceptual foundation required for advanced upper-level classes but also helps the students become an educated data user and consumer. The first half of the course covers survey design and experiments to collect data from samples that are representative of a population and graphical and numerical representation of data using descriptive measures and relation between variables. The second half of the course focuses on inferential statistics where random samples are used to draw conclusions about the population of interest. The primary goal of this course is to help students understand the process of framing a research question, collecting and analyzing relevant data, and interpreting the results to find solutions to the posed research questions. Students will work either individually or as part of a team on a project where statistical and data analytics tools and concepts will be put into practice.</p>

	Urban Sociology	<p>Does urbanism destroy community or create it? How does the urban experience vary for different groups of people (by gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality)? What explains processes of urbanization and suburbanization? Why are businesses often located in the center of the city and residential neighborhoods outside of the center? How can we explain the rise and persistence of urban poverty and residential segregation? Who controls public space, and what is "allowed" in it? How do different cities respond to the needs of the poorest residents, and what shapes these responses? How did cities around the world come to develop and grow? These are some of the questions we will address in this course. To do so, we'll draw on several theoretical and methodological approaches to urban sociology. We will use these tools to examine neighborhoods and urban politics and policy in depth.</p>
	US History I	<p>This course is an introduction to the history of America from pre-Columbian times to 1865. Instead of a typical survey that gives you a broad account of the historical forces that shaped the creation of the American Republic, this class will focus fewer important people and events, but in much greater detail and complexity. More specifically, this course's primary focus is not only the average, "ordinary American", but the majority of America's population including American Indians, African Americans, women, poor farmers, factory laborers, etc. Winston Churchill once said "history is written by the victors." More importantly, he made the point that those who write down history are most often the people in power and have access to controlling what can be "considered" history and what is not. Therefore instead of a survey that offers you a sweeping, yet informative account of the prominent figures and events in history, this course offers you a closer look at the majority of Americans who have either been left out of the text books, misunderstood, or have received less attention than they deserve. By restoring voice and histories to the "losers" rather than the "victors" helps us understand the true cultural foundations of the Republic are not just in the elite ideas and institutions that generally get the focus. This by all means does not mean this course will exclude prominent figures in American history, but it will analyze their interactions with the majority of Americans that are often left out of the story of the Early America.</p>
	Where We Stand	<p>In this class, we will explore the political and social ramifications of difference and "othering" using Feminist Standpoint Theory and Kingian Non-Violence as tools for building empathy and clarity about cultures, identities, and opinions that are divergent from our own. The project section of this class would be to do a series of workshops for our larger student body on Weds (or whenever) to help spread these ideas. I think this is the class we should do in the fall semester so that we are primed and better ready for second semester to be the Leadership for Social Change class.</p>
	Writing Fiction	<p>We will write and read short stories and flash fiction, and workshop each other's work. Characters are compelling because of their struggles, their flaws, and their complications. How can we build stories that make us fall for these characters? What is cliché, where does it come from, and how can we both use and shatter it? There are different types of stories -- bildungsroman, gothic, magical realism, for example -- as well as different ways of thinking about how a story is written, including voice, point of view, and place. We will enjoy the pleasure of writing and creating in our imagination, and share that work in collaboration with others while learning how to brainstorm and generate material, building detail and surprise into our creative writing. This class will center literary fiction, what that means, and how it relates to other genres.</p>