

Sophomore Scholars-in-Residence Offerings  
Fall 2009-Spring 2010

1.) **“The American South in the Twentieth Century”**

Instructor: Melissa Ooten, Asst. Director, Women Involved in Living & Learning Program

*Overview:*

This course will explore the social, cultural, political, and economic history of the South in the twentieth century. Major course themes will include the rise and fall of legalized segregation, the role of southern reformers and activists, and the importance of historical memory. We will examine major events in the region from the perspectives of black southerners and white southerners, men and women, sharecroppers and landowners, Republicans and Democrats, moderates and activists. This course will also place a particular emphasis on the history of the Civil Rights movement, which was perhaps the most significant social and political movement of the twentieth century. While the fall course will offer a comprehensive survey of the twentieth century American South, the spring experiential travel component of the course will focus specifically on the Civil Rights movement, the politics of commemoration, and activism in the South today. Students will spend **an extended spring break period touring Civil Rights-related sites throughout the South** while meeting with activists and scholars of the movement. Site and city visits could include the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, TN; Central High School in Little Rock, AR; the Mississippi Delta; New Orleans; the Rosa Parks Museum and the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, AL; the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; and/or the Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial Site in Atlanta, GA.

2.) **“Civic Engagement House”**

Instructor: Amy Howard, Director, Bonner Center for Civic Engagement

*Overview:*

The Civic Engagement House is designed for students who have an interest in civic engagement, social problems, and working for social change. Students take the “Urban Crisis in America” history course in the fall, where they have the opportunity to explore social issues from a historical context and connect their learning to related activities and programs on civic engagement outside the classroom. In the course we will investigate the history and current effects of poverty, segregation, deindustrialization, public housing, suburbanization and sprawl on metropolitan regions. At different points throughout the course we will use Richmond as a case study to understand both the specific challenges the region faced as well as the problems that had an impact on urban regions nationally. In groups, we will put together short documentaries on social issues in metro Richmond, including ideas for enacting change. Outside of class we will take a bus tour of Richmond, meet with local government officials, examine downtown development plans, and discuss social issues with non-profit leaders. During spring break we will **travel to New York and Chicago** to examine and compare how leaders, planners, and activists have worked to improve their cities and to share what we have learned about Richmond.

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### 3.) “Opening Nights: The Impact of Arts Organizations in America”

Instructor: David C. Howson, Associate Director, Modlin Center for the Arts

#### *Overview:*

The program serves as an introduction into the exciting world of arts management and focuses on the role of arts organizations as cultural institutions. In the fall 2009 semester, students in the program will take Music/Theatre 310: Managing Performing Arts Organizations. Through the study of mission, artistic vision and purpose, organizational structure, financials, law and labor relations, audience development, strategic planning, marketing and fundraising, students will learn about the elements for successful operation of a non-profit arts organization in America. Though the focus is on non-profit organizations, commercial ventures such as Broadway and touring performing arts attractions will also be discussed. The program features guest speakers and experience **trips to Washington, D.C., and New York City**. Through case studies and the close examination of real-world issues and trends, students will have the unique opportunity to follow the ups and downs of America’s arts communities. Locally, the First Fridays ArtWalk, the opening of downtown Richmond’s new CenterStage arts center and the new Virginia Museum of Fine Arts expansion will give students front-row seats to study the impact of these new initiatives on their own community.

### 4.) “Global Health, Infectious Disease and Human Rights”

Instructor: Rick Mayes, Associate Instructor of Public Policy, University of Richmond  
Faculty Research Fellow, Petris Center

*Overview:* U.C. Berkeley School of Public Health

This course examines what makes us sick, what keeps us healthy, and what it would take to give good health the upper hand in developing countries. Over the past 150 years, stunning breakthroughs in public health have enabled humans to live longer, healthier and more productive lives. Clean drinking water, modern sanitation and good nutrition, along with the development of highly effective vaccines and antibiotics have increased average western life expectancy by 35 years. Unfortunately, the benefits of public health have yet to be extended to many of the poorest nations in the developing world. Meanwhile, in the past two decades, infectious diseases that had nearly been conquered, such as tuberculosis, have come surging back, while devastating new diseases such as AIDS, SARS and West Nile Virus have emerged. Microbial resistance to many modern drugs is rising, threatening people everywhere. We will study how and why we already know how to prevent or treat some of the world's deadliest pathogens. In fact, enough medical tools currently exist to deal with 90 percent of the leading diseases and, in turn, dramatically improve the quality of life and life expectancy for children and adults around the world. Fortunately, in a business and philanthropic environment that demands results and accountability, health interventions have the added advantage of being quantifiable. And public health experts are used to testing for results and can put evaluation systems in place to demonstrate concrete progress. As a “case study” of applied field research, the program includes **a research and community service trip to Peru** to both tour urban health needs in the massive capitol city of Lima and to volunteer in a remote rural health clinic high in the shadow of the Andes Mountains.