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First Year Seminar Jamboree

Summary:

(November 17, 2003)-Over 30 classes of First Year Seminar students at the University of Minnesota, Morris will demonstrate what they have been learning this semester during the annual First Year Seminar Jamboree from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, in the Student Center. Most presentations during the Jamboree, which is free and open to the public, will take place in Oyate Hall.

“The First Year Seminar is a course that facilitates students' transition from high school to college, “ explained John Schwaller, vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean at UMM. “Each seminar section presents common information to assist students in appreciating a broad spectrum of issues that they will confront in college, as well as particular information on an academic topic. It is part of UMM's commitment to quality undergraduate education.”

From American roots music to the holocaust, from eugenics to the 10 o'clock news, students will showcase their projects through a variety of venues, including theatrical skits, live broadcasts, variety shows, displays, interactive games and more.

Here is a complete list of Jamboree offerings:

In Oyate Hall:

“American Roots Music: Experiences And Examples” Instructor: Nicholas McPhee

Explore an incredible diversity of styles and types, including (among others) blues, hillbilly and country, Cajun and zydeco, gospel, and good old polka music. Activities will begin to explore the history and sources of this diversity, as well as its impact on music and culture today.

“Imagining The Victims” Instructor: Stephen Gross

After World War II and the Holocaust, the world decided “never again.” Why, then, have we witnessed recurring genocides across the globe in recent years?

“Exploring Hominids And Their Abilities” Instructor: James Cotter

Students have created displays and interactive activities to demonstrate the characteristics and skills of pre-Homo sapien hominids. See what it's like to complete tasks as a hominid would and learn about the interactions between Neanderthals and Cro-Magnon.

“Frankenstein: The Myth, The Movie, The Icon” Instructor: Gretchen Minton

Explore the legacy of Shelley's book in movies and culture. Learn the history of the Frankenstein myth. Come tour the Frankenstein Haunted Hallway, which leads to our own laboratory, where students will be presenting on issues related to Frankenstein—prejudice, technology, creation, and the nature of life and death.

“The Ten O’Clock News Meets FYS, The Early American Republic, A Diversity Perspective.” Instructor: Roland Guyotte

A series of short skits including an interview with Tom Paine on the site of the French Revolution, coverage of the duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton, a feature on women’s roles in American Indian agriculture, coverage of a slave rebellion, and an account of Judith Sargent Murray’s views on female education in the eighteenth century.

“Eugenics Movement In The United States” Instructor: Tracey Anderson

Information on how eugenicists discriminated against different social and ethnic groups in the early 20th Century. Activities will include screening potential immigrants in our version of “Ellis Island” and games to learn whether or not participants are “fit enough” to reproduce. Activities will be supplemented with informative posters and a time-line that traces the history of the eugenics movement.

“What Does It Mean To Be Invisible In School?” Instructors: Ruth Trageser and Claudia Burns

What does it mean to be invisible? What determines your visibility? Through murals, displays, video and interactive games, we hope to open the eyes of people who can then see those they haven’t noticed before.

“The Plight Of The Poor In Developing Nations” Instructor: Chris Lee

Highlighting the plight of the poor in developing countries. The goal is to provide a graphic illustration of living conditions that many people have to endure worldwide and how these populations are disproportionately impacted by the use of chemical agents.

“The Quilted Story Of Social Justice: We Are All Connected” Instructor: Tammy Faux

Students invite community members to join them as they hand sew their class quilt. Students each designed and produced a quilt block representing their definition of social justice while discussing ideas about how to increase social justice in our society. As they are quilting the students are collaborating in a community awareness project and supporting social advocacy. This project emphasizes the need for a community to cooperate, contribute, share responsibilities, resolve differences and respect individual identities.

“Social Mobilization, Political Protest, and Revolution” Instructor: Chris Lee

A look into the social impact that music has had on several eras.

“Global Perspectives On Children’s Well-Being” Instructor: Katherine Benson

How do the nations of the world treat children today? Are kids getting a good start? What problems exist for children, and how can these be addressed? Explore these issues with us as presented in our Web pages, created for this class, and test how much you know with our hands-on quizzes. Today (November 20, 2003), celebrate with us the 14th birthday of the UN’s Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). What will the CRC do for children, and what obstacles stand in the way of its implementation?

“The Elements Of Comic Strip Art And History” Instructor: Wendel Cox

Explore America’s diversity, and its differences of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality through the art of comic strips. Consider how comic strips have exploited these themes, and how they may serve as a history of changing attitudes towards, and ideas about, diversity.

“Stories Of The Afterlife” Instructor: Viktor Berberi

Students of Journeys through Hell will be presenting projects that address representations of and ideas about the afterlife in a number of cultures. These projects will take several forms, including games, short videos, and an on-line quiz to test your place in an afterlife inspired by life in the Morris campus.

“Public Space Through The Ages: A Mini-Golf Trivia Game” Instructor: Richard Heyman

Golf through a variety of historical models of public space, answer trivia about changes in the importance and uses of public space, and try for a prize!

“UMM’s Heroes, Fools And Villains” Instructor: Thomas McRoberts

Three activities based on a survey conducted by the students. The first activity includes taped interviews with students, faculty and staff about our top heroes, fools and villains. The second activity features a poster display analyzing the results of the survey, and the third has students “dressing up” as some of UMM’s top heroes, fools and villains and answering questions as their characters.

“Lost/Found: The Journal Project And The Find Of The Week” Instructor: Jess Larson

Students will present a semester-long journal project documenting their experiences on campus using discarded materials in recycled books and a slide show of the “Find of the Week” series, a collection of random finds from across campus...some of it might be yours!

“A Live Performance Of The Shadow” Instructors: Ken Hodgson and Bill Hunt

Sections will be doing a live broadcast of an episode of “The Shadow.” It will be one half hour in length and will include the announcer’s intro and sign off, commercials and the story complete with sound effects.

“Comic Strips How Sweet! Or, Hey, Sucker! Take A Look At This!” Instructor: Wendel Cox

Explore America’s diversity, and its differences of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality through the art of comic strips. Consider how comic strips have exploited these themes, and how they may serve as a history of changing attitudes towards, and ideas about, diversity.

In Edson Auditorium:

9:15 a.m. Skits: “The Ten O’Clock News Meets FYS, The Early American Republic, A Diversity Perspective.”

10:00 a.m. “Jeripedes” Show begins at 10:10 Instructor: Jeanne Purdy

On the “Jeripedes” (Jerry Springer + Euripides) show marriage is the subject, and the couples are Zeus and Hera, Hades and Persephone, Hephaestus and Aphrodite. The rest of the class will be audience members with many questions.

11:10 a.m. “Extravaganza” Instructor: Jeanne Purdy

A variety show including poems, jokes, monologues, and skits by Greek gods.

Noon & 12:30 Performances: “American Roots Music: Experiences And Examples”

2:00 p.m. Skits: “Frankenstein: The Myth, The Movie, The Icon”

In Louie’s Lower Level—Downstairs in lower level of Student Center:

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. “Imagining The Victims”

1:00 p.m. & 2:15 p.m. “The Yin And Yang Of Diversity And Conformity” Instructor: Michael O’Reilly. Sections will be engaging in Oxford Union Style Debates.

In the TV Lounge—Downstairs in lower level of Student Center:

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. “Frankenstein: The Myth, The Movie, The Icon”

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.