English 114 Sections, Spring 2015

“You must change your life” (Section 1, Cornelius; MW 9:00-10:15) ian.cornelius@yale.edu
What is a way of life? How and why do people try to change their own lives and those of other people? In this seminar, we study logics for governing life, confronting the course title with a series of questions. Who is speaking? To whom? What provokes this demand for change and how will it be implemented?

Everything Is a Remix (Section 2, Hayman; TTh 2:30-3:45) emily.hayman@yale.edu
Remixes, adaptations, and translations are fundamental to our world, and yet we often assume that they are less valuable than the ideas or works from which they originate. In fields ranging from art to economics to biology, this seminar explores our assumptions about authenticity, originality, creativity, and difference.

Authenticity and the American Imagination (Section 3, Hunter; MW 1:00-2:15)
matthew.hunter@yale.edu
To be American, it is often thought, is to be authentic. Looking at past and present connections between authenticity and American identity, this seminar will treat subjects ranging from the Constitution to advertising and presidential debates.

Faking It (Section 4, Johnston Gordon; TTh 9:00-10:15) rona.gordon@yale.edu
“Just fake it!” Fakery can seem the easy way out, but a good faker is an artist, and a good fake is a masterpiece. And every fake needs its audience, able – even eager – to be deceived.

On Beauty (Section 5, Jones; TTh 11:35-12:50) rosemary.jones@yale.edu
What shapes our definition of beauty? Does beauty matter? In this seminar we will explore whether society’s desire for certain kinds of beauty may obscure or distort the potential of beauty to represent or suggest a concept of truth.

Where the Action Is (Section 6, Jump; TTh 1:00-2:15) daniel.jump@yale.edu
It has long been thought that the capacity to act sets apart the human species from others. But what does it mean to act, both as individuals and in groups? What makes action possible?

Childhood, Self, and Society (Section 7, Klemann; MW 11:35-12:50) heather.klemann@yale.edu
What is childhood? What does it mean to have or not have a childhood? And when does it end? Keeping our own experiences of childhood in mind, in this seminar we investigate the concept through a variety of disciplines.

Digital Childhood (Section 8, Klemann; MW 2:30-3:45) heather.klemann@yale.edu
What is childhood for so-called born digital generations? This course explores how developments in technology and communication reconfigure cultural constructions of and dearly held beliefs about youth.

A Republic of Science (Section 9, Templanza; TTh 2:30-3:45) j.antonio.templanza@yale.edu
Who decides what counts as real science, and on what authority? How can non-scientists intelligently evaluate political claims expressed in scientific rhetoric? Examining topics such as objectivity, culture and ethics, this seminar considers the role of science in a democratic society.
Global Capitalism and the Future of Democracy (Section 10, Komorowski; MW 11:35-12:50)  
michael.komorowski@yale.edu  
Do free markets go hand in hand with democracy? We’ll look for some answers to this big question by asking how the recent financial crisis altered global capital markets and liberal democracies.

U.S. Sports and Media (Section 11, Wiedenfeld; MW 1:00-2:15) grant.wiedenfeld@yale.edu  
Through the effects of mass media, no athlete is only an athlete, and no game is just a game. We will study how newspapers, radio, television, and cinema shape the meaning of sports in America, with special attention to the origins of football at Yale and to women in sports.

Power, Persuasion, and Paranoia (Section 12, Silverman; TTh 1:00-2:15) j.silverman@yale.edu  
Examining the culture and rhetoric of paranoia, this seminar analyzes how writers attempt to persuade their audiences. Course materials will include primary and secondary texts (e.g., movie clips, popular music, art). The goal will be to help you identify and employ the strategies and techniques you will need to write powerful – and ethical – arguments of your own.