

Thursdays at Four: Across the University and Beyond
CLA 1905

Fall 2007
Tuesdays 4:00-4:50 p.m., 229 Nolte Center
Thursdays 4:00-5:40 p.m., 125 Nolte Center

Dr. Susannah L. Smith, Instructor
Office: 131A Nolte Center
624-2921
slsmith@umn.edu
Office hours: Tuesdays 3-4 p.m.
Wednesdays 10-11 a.m.

Course Description

This seminar is linked to the Thursdays at Four series at the Institute for Advanced Study. Every Thursday afternoon, the Institute for Advanced Study offers a presentation—a lecture, film, performance—by leading scholars and artists from around the world and within the University. Seminar participants will attend the Thursdays at Four series and meet on Tuesday afternoons to discuss the presentations. We will do supplemental readings related to the presentations and talk with presenters as their schedules allow. This seminar will introduce you to the wide range of scholarly and creative endeavor at the University and engage you in the University's intellectual life.

Course Objectives

- to introduce you to the wide range of intellectual life at the University
- to engage you in the intellectual life of the University
- to introduce you to different kinds of academic reading and writing

Course Requirements

- attendance at all Tuesday seminar meetings and all Thursday presentations
- attendance at one University-sponsored event (not including sports events)
- completion of the readings the week in which they are assigned
- active participation in seminar discussion on Tuesdays
- completion of course assignments by the date listed on the syllabus

Exceptions to these requirements are possible only in case of illness or emergencies, or by previous arrangement with Dr. Smith.

Readings

Almost every week you will read a short (5-40 pp.) assignment related to that week's presentation. Most readings will be available online. See the schedule for each week's assignment.

Assignments

You will write three short (2-3 pp.) papers for this course. Two of the papers will be based on the Thursday presentations. The third will be a report on a University-sponsored event of your choice (excluding sports events), which you will attend outside of class.

Grading

Participation - 30%
Paper 1 - 20%
Paper 2 - 20%
Paper 3 - 20%
Attendance - 10%

Common-sense courtesy in class

Please be respectful of your fellow students, your instructor, and the presenters on Thursdays. Cell phone and pager ringers should be turned off, and under no circumstances should you engage in a phone conversation during seminar or presentation time. If you know that you will have to leave a presentation early, sit near a door and be sure to close it quietly when you leave.

Schedule of presentations, readings, and assignments

September 4

Seminar introduction

September 6

Orientation: the Institute for Advanced Study and the Nolte Center. Events at the University: where to find them and how to get something out of them. Research and creative work at the University.

September 11

Writing in this course and at the University. Introduction to Edgar Heap of Birds.
Reading: Interview of Edgar Heap of Birds by John LeKay (*Heyoka Magazine* 3 (Winter 2006), available at <http://www.heyokamagazine.com/HEYOKA.3.SCULPT.EDGAR.htm>)

September 13

Thursdays at Four presentation: **Tribal Time, Ceremony, and Public Art**
Hachivi Edgar Heap of Birds, Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma, and internationally known Cheyenne artist

September 18

Discussion about Edgar Heap of Birds presentation.
Readings: Eliza Moore Chinn McHatton Ripley, *From Flag to Flag: A Woman's Adventures and Experiences in the South during the War, in Mexico, and in Cuba*, chapters 13-19 (pp. 125-83) (electronic edition, available at <http://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/ripleyflag/ripley.html>); Matthew Pratt Guterl, "I Went to the West Indies': Race, Place, and the Antebellum South" (*American Literary History* 18 [Fall 2006]: 446-67)

September 20

Thursdays at Four presentation: **American Mediterranean: Southern Slaveholders in the Age of Emancipation**
Matthew Pratt Guterl, African American & African Diaspora Studies, Indiana University

September 25

Discussion on Matthew Pratt Guterl presentation.

Reading: TBA

September 27

Thursdays at Four presentation: **Environmentalism and Modern Democracy: Lessons on Local and Global Governance**

Shalini Gupta, Senior Energy Associate, Izaak Walton League, and Cecilia Martinez, Environmental Justice Education and Advocacy Collaboration, Women's Environmental Institute

October 2

Discussion of Shalini Gupta and Cecilia Martinez presentation

Reading: TBA

October 4

Thursdays at Four presentation: **Unstable Genes, Cancer, and Aging**

Colin Campbell, Pharmacology, University of Minnesota

October 9

Discussion with Professor Campbell

Reading: Richard M. Lee, "The Transracial Adoption Paradox: History, Research, and Counseling Implications of Cultural Socialization (*The Counseling Psychologist* 31: 6 [November 2003], 711-44)

First writing assignment (summary) due at beginning of class

October 11

Thursdays at Four presentation: **Cultural Matters: The Role of Race and Ethnicity in International Adoption**

Richard M. Lee, Psychology, University of Minnesota

October 16

Discussion with Professor Lee

Reading: TBA

October 18

Thursdays at Four presentation: **The Public Life of History: An Argument out of India**

Dipesh Chakrabarty, History and South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

October 23

Discussion with Professor Chakrabarty

Reading: Michel Janssen, "Appendix A: Special Relativity," from Michel Janssen and Christoph Lehner, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Einstein* (Cambridge University Press,

forthcoming), available at <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~janss011/pdf%20files/appendix-SR.pdf>

October 25

Thursdays at Four presentation: **What Einstein Did to Time**

Oliver Pooley, Philosophy, Oxford University, and Michel Janssen, History of Science and Technology, University of Minnesota

October 30

Discussion of Oliver Pooley and Michel Janssen presentation

Reading: Jeremy Iggers, “Is Journalism Dead?” unpublished paper, used by permission

November 1

Thursdays at Four presentation: **Is Journalism Dead?: What’s Happening to Newspapers, What it Means for Our Democracy, and What Citizens Can Do About It**

Jeremy Iggers, Twin Cities Media Alliance

November 6

Discussion of Jeremy Iggers presentation

Reading: Ahmad Y. al-Hassan, “Al Jazari and the History of the Water Clock,” available at www.history-science-technology.com/Articles/articles%206.htm

Second writing assignment (analysis) due at beginning of class

November 8

Thursdays at Four presentation: **Simulations of Time and Life in Medieval Automata: Islamic Symbolism, Teleological Mechanisms, and Ontological Difference**

Ayhan Aytes, Visual Communication Design, Instabul Bilgi University

November 13

Discussion of Ayhan Aytes presentation

Reading: David L. Russell, “*Pippi Longstocking* and the Subversive Affirmation of Comedy” (*Children’s Literature in Education* 31 [2000] 3: 167-77)

November 15

Thursdays at Four presentation: **Astrid Lindgren at 100: Women’s and Children’s Literature and Culture, Past and Present**

Ulla Lundqvist, author, children’s literature specialist, and storyteller; and Eva-Maria Metcalf, University of Mississippi

November 20

Discussion of Ulla Lundqvist and Eva-Maria Metcalf presentation

November 22

Thanksgiving break – no class!

November 27

Short presentations on the outside event you attended

Third writing assignment (outside event) due at beginning of class

Reading: Chapter TBA from Rosemary Hennessy and Martha Ojeda, eds., *NAFTA From Below: Maquiladora Workers, Campesinos, and Indigenous Communities Speak Out on the Impact of Free Trade in Mexico* (Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, 2007)

November 29

Thursdays at Four presentation: **Bio-deregulation: Bodies, Jeans, and Justice**
Rosemary Hennessy, English, Rice University

December 4

Discussion of Rosemary Hennessy presentation
Reading: TBA

December 6

Thursdays at Four presentation: **Performance by Jorja Fleezanis**
Jorja Fleezanis, Concertmaster, Minnesota Orchestra; and Michael Cherlin, School of Music,
University of Minnesota

December 11

Discussion of Jorja Fleezanis and Michael Cherlin presentation, final thoughts