



Unique Seminars Highlight Short Term at Hollins

Roanoke, Va. – Bad movies, childbirth, chocolate, women’s leadership, and mathematical knitting are just a few of the distinctive course offerings that are engaging Hollins University students during the school’s January 2009 Short Term session.

Throughout the month, while sophomores, juniors, and seniors participate in travel/study programs, internships, and independent study projects, first-year students at the university choose from a creative mix of on-campus seminars that are unlike anything they experience during the rest of the academic year. Highlights include:

- ***Bad Movies***, taught by Professor of Film Klaus Phillips, which includes “viewing and discussing catastrophic comedies, mangled musicals, horrendous horror films, woeful westerns, downright dreadful dramas, and other odoriferous offerings” in an effort “to determine whether all bad movies are created equal and what, if anything, one can learn from them.”
- ***Childbirth in America***, taught by Associate Professor of English Julie Pfeiffer, which investigates and assesses services offered to pregnant women in the Roanoke Valley, develops skills that can help families with the births of their babies, and fulfills the workshop requirement for doula certification with Doulas of North America.
- ***Chocolate***, taught by Associate Professor of Anthropology and Associate Professor of Gender and Women’s Studies LeeRay Costa, which considers chocolate from a variety of perspectives: historical, social-scientific, economic, culinary, and sensory. Tasting and cooking with chocolate are, of course, required.
- ***Expanding Horizons: Acknowledging the Continuum of Self***, taught by Professor of Psychology Randy Flory and Horizon Program Director Celia McCormick, which takes a hands-on approach to identifying leadership behaviors and effective communication skills. A significant portion of the course is devoted to identifying and appreciating the contrasting temperaments of others, and learning how to use these qualities to become an effective leader and team member.

- ***Mathematical Knitting...and More***, taught by Professor of Mathematics Caren Diefenderfer, which explores connections between mathematics and needlework. Students design and create pieces based on mathematical principles and write a paper explaining the mathematical significance of each project.

Other on-campus courses at Hollins in January cover such topics as photography, the environment, quilting, French language and culture, and the politics of food.

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