



Summer 2010

Pre-College Programs for High School Students

Studies in Humanities*

The School of American and International Studies at Ramapo College of New Jersey offers dynamic summer programs for entering high school juniors and seniors, and graduating seniors. The five courses offered provide hands-on experience supplemented by Wednesday field trips to New York City, all under the direction of expert Ramapo College faculty.

Students may select one course from the Morning and/or one course from the Afternoon. Three of the courses offer **credit options**** (Cultural Enrichment & Literacy, Yoga Philosophy & Practice, Non-fiction Narrative Writing).

Two-Week Programs: July 5-16
Three-Week Programs: July 5-23

Students select **one** morning and/or **one** afternoon course.

<p><i>Morning Options</i> <i>9-11:30 a.m.</i></p>	<p><u>Cultural Enrichment & Literacy**</u> <i>Instructor:</i> <i>Peter Scheckner</i></p>	<p><u>Graphic Novel</u> <i>Instructor:</i> <i>Edward Shannon</i></p>	<p><u>Yoga Philosophy & Practice**</u> <i>Instructor:</i> <i>Kathleen Shannon</i></p>
<p><i>Afternoon Options</i> <i>1-3:30 p.m.</i></p>	<p><u>Drawing a Visual Story</u> (School of Contemporary Arts Option*) <i>Instructor:</i> <i>Jacquelyn Skrzynski</i></p>	<p><u>Non-fiction Narrative Writing**</u> <i>Instructor:</i> <i>Peter Scheckner</i></p>	

Morning Courses

Cultural Enrichment & Literacy (3 weeks, July 5-23, college credit option)

Professor: Peter Scheckner, Ph.D.

Description: Students are introduced to cultural literacy in terms of the arts, but also to a different cultural literacy--world and domestic news. This course addresses this basic question: What minimum knowledge should graduating high school students know about the arts, science, and world events? Through field trips to cultural centers students gain an appreciation of traditional and modern influences. A subscription to *The New York*

Times prompts discussion that provides an appreciation of what is happening in international and domestic events and in the world of science. The *Times* is an excellent vehicle for awareness and, equally important, develops critical reading skills. The course requires writing a number of reaction papers.

The Graphic Novel (2 weeks, July 5-16)

Professor: Edward Shannon, Ph.D.

Description: The Graphic Novel studies the rise and development of what some consider a “new” literary form: the graphic novel (or graphic narrative, or sequential art, or *comic book*). This “new” art form is at least a century old. In this course, students consider the graphic narratives primarily as literary texts. But of course, graphic narratives are also works of visual art. Comics are filled with pictures, but these are not illustrations in the traditional sense—they are part of the language of the form. Students will learn to negotiate both symbol systems—cartooning and language—and examine how they work together to create meaning. While many think of the graphic novel as an American form, it has become an international phenomenon. Students will read comics from around the globe and consider them in cultural, historical, and literary contexts.

Yoga Philosophy & Practice (3 weeks, July 5-23, college credit option)

Professor: Kathleen Shannon, English Adjunct Professor and Certified Yoga Teacher

Description: This course introduces students to the philosophies of ancient India that led to the development of the practice of yoga. Yoga is more than physical postures (asana); it is a system of physical exercises, breath work, and meditation designed to help the practitioner achieve union with what the ancients called The Self. By reading texts such as the Bhagavad Gita and The Upanishads, students will become familiar with the theories that led to later writings like The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali. The class will engage in short yoga practices in order to illustrate the theories described in the texts. Students in this class become familiar with some of the sacred and secular texts of ancient India as well as contemporary commentary on yoga. Reading the texts will involve some instruction in the Sanskrit language, which some scholars say is the root of many modern Western languages. We trace the development of various traditions of yoga, from Hatha to Bikram, sacred to secular. We also discuss how the philosophies of India have influenced Western thought, and how ancient Indian “anatomies” have influenced modern alternative medical practices. Students respond to class discussions with short papers using primary sources.

Afternoon Courses

Non-Fiction Narrative Writing (3 weeks, July 5-23, college credit option)

Professor: Peter Scheckner, Ph.D.

Description: Non-fiction narrative writing (NFW) can be described as literary journalism, literary nonfiction, narrative nonfiction, or narrative journalism. Almost always, the writer, is a part (if not the central part) of this piece of writing. This course concentrates on personal essays, memoir, and literary journalism. A variety of exercises—reading and writing assignments, and the active participation in the workshop aspect of the course—give the student the structure to work creatively and improve writing in a forum used by professional writers. Whatever NFW is, it is *not* an

academic piece of writing, *not* scholarship, *not* a research paper, though it may indeed involve research on the student's part. And though it is factual, it is also highly creative. The writer and the writer's reactions are clearly and interestingly portrayed. The story is true when the student becomes the storyteller.

Drawing a Visual Story (2 weeks, July 5-16) [School of Contemporary Arts Option*]**

Professor: Jacquelyn Skrzynski, MFA

Description:

This studio art course will explore various ways of creating a visual story with drawing. Each week, students will create artwork based on their own stories using visual narrative conventions that are demonstrated in class. The first week will focus on emulating works from history that depict stories from mythology and folklore. The second week will focus on creating mini-graphic novels using techniques from various contemporary artists.

Course Information:

For further course information, please contact the professor(s) for each course as listed on the Web site "Faculty bio" link.

General Information:

For general information about Ramapo College's *Pre-College Experience* Programs administered through the Center for Innovative and Professional Learning, please contact:

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