Fall 2013 Pathways

PTH 101A. The Farmer (H. Pine)

Farmers combine the necessary components of the atmosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere and bring them to our plates. The farmer is a jack-of-all-trades, possessing an interdisciplinary skill set including skills in: animal husbandry, meteorology, soil science, business, botany and communication. Farmers have a unique relationship with the Earth and society. This Pathway strives to gain an understanding and appreciation of this relationship.

PTH 101B. “The Outdoorsy Type” (J. Baker)

The disciplines of literature, art, psychology, religion, sociology, physiology and environmental biology combine to help explain the way people interact with nature and identify with others who rely on being outdoors as a defining part of their persona. Motivations for belonging to this social group are examined and students broaden their understanding of how different life experiences, cultures and interests can lead to a similar drive to incorporate the outdoors into their lives.
**PTH 101C. Future Trends—What Will They Mean to You? (M. Scott)**

This course explores the concept of change in the context of major trends identified by futurists. Through discussion of each trend students are introduced to factors prompting change, elements of predictability and uncertainty in trends and the implications of potential changes for society, culture and the individual. Classes touch upon the life cycle of change and the challenges of implementing planned change.

**PTH 101D. Motorcycle Mania (L. Campbell)**

This course will expose students to the mysterious world of motorcycles. Motorcycles have been in existence since the late 1800’s and have influenced areas of society including literature and film, economics and environmental issues. We’ll begin with the history of the motorcycle and its beginning as a transportation mode and importance in different wars. We’ll review the mass appeal of the motorcycle, companies that manufacture and sell bikes and its impact on literature, film and television. Societal issues such as biker gangs and organizations and their financial support of charities will also be examined along with the motorcycle’s influence on environmental and economic issues.

**PTH101E. Mind, Body and Soul (S. Horback)**

This course will explore Eastern & Western perspectives on health, well-being, happiness, mindfulness, and the meaning of life. Students will have the opportunity to read, discuss, and write about these topics from a scholarly point of view. Students will be given the opportunity to practice mindfulness and meditation as an experiential component of this course.
**PTH 101F. I’m Not There (N. Gaffney)**

This Pathway hopes to answer three questions: Why would someone want to change their identity? How would they go about doing this? And what are the repercussions, both intentional and unforeseen? Students look at works of literature, memoir, art and film, examine public figures, and explore the natural world for examples of people who have gone out of their way to become someone else.

**PTH 101G. From Orphan to Auror: The Education and Development of Harry Potter (D. Mitchell, M. Flynn)**

In this course students will explore both the wizarding world of Harry Potter and the unsuspecting adolescent himself through the lens of practicing educators and developmental psychologists. Students will pay particular attention to the social and academic development of Harry Potter as he comes to understand schooling practices at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Simultaneously, first-year Colby-Sawyer students will apply the concepts to their own lives in an effort to make sense of their emerging identities as learners in a college setting. Weekly themes include “The Common Room to the Quidditch Pitch: Friendships & Extracurriculars”, “Potions, Transfiguration & Divination: Curriculum & Programs of Study”, and “Channeling your Inner Hermione: Motivation & Self Direction.”

**PTH 101H. Mountains (B. Steele)**

The urge to climb high mountains leads people into dangerous situations and brings out aspects of culture, ethics, spirituality, science and history. Climbing literature includes stories of incredible heroism and amazing physiological feats and allegations of stealing critical supplies and ignoring dying climbers. Students examine these and other issues: why people climb, Himalayan cultures, the impact of commercialism of climbing, and the technical aspects of climbing.
**PTH101I. Private Eyes are Watching You (K. Larkin)**

Do you have a right to privacy? Is privacy even possible in the Digital Age? Does the state or a private company have the legal and/or moral authority to monitor your e-mail, purchases, Facebook updates, etc.? This Pathway explores the shifting meaning of privacy within twenty-first century democratic states, and the impact of new technologies and security concerns on personal privacy, individual autonomy, and civil liberties in democratic and authoritarian regimes. We will focus on a variety of topics, including censorship and policing, data mining, and the balance between personal rights and the public good.

**PTH 101J. Game On (S. Beaudry)**

Today, games are invading society, from World of Warcraft and Words with Friends, to books like The Hunger Games. Why are games such an attraction? Are today’s games all that different from games throughout history? What are the design elements that make a great game? Are games just about raids and badges or can they conquer social causes and business problems? Join the quest to explore the concepts of games, fun, games psychology, game theory, problem solving, economics, politics, strategy and innovation, while you and your guild are challenged to design the ultimate game.

**PTH101K. Why Run? (J. Steffen)**

Most mammals can easily run much faster than humans over short distances. Over longer distances we are unparalleled athletes, capable of outrunning almost any other animal. In this pathway we will attempt to answer a series of questions focused on running. What is running and how is it different from other physical activities? What are the physical adaptations in humans that make us exceptional distance runners? How have humans used this elite ability throughout history? What forces shape participation in running events in modern society? This course will provide multiple perspectives on the history, biology, and culture of running in modern society.
**PTH 101L. Secret Communication (S. Kilic-Bahi)**

The ability to keep or unravel secrets has had a major impact in the development of social events and scientific breakthroughs throughout history. The desire and need for secret communication and the development of communication styles and techniques are important aspects of the history of mankind. We will focus on the development of secret communication styles and codes used throughout human history from early civilizations up to the First World War. The use of music (jazz), body language, and art as a means of communication is explored.

**PTH 101M. Drawn Out (B. Yarborough)**

This Pathway examines the development of drawing from mark-making and ritualistic cave drawings to how drawing today has merged with twenty-first century technology. Students explore how mark-making and early pictographs developed into written language and how drawing influenced and shaped religion, art and architecture. Students focus on contemporary manifestations of the practice and how technology has affected the uses of drawing in today’s culture.

**PTH 101N. Food for Thought (N. Baer)**

This course uses food as a medium to explore a variety of cultural, social and global perspectives. Students work to build our understanding of dietary needs and how location and culture shape our diet. Students investigate where their food comes from and the social, economic, political and environmental considerations that can play a strong role in what we eat. Topics include food and its meaning in art, film, literature, religion, and social class structures.
What is money anyway? We’ll begin the course by discussing barter and then the development of money. By studying the history of money, we will see how it has changed over time. We will also examine how money is connected globally. Is money the root of all evil? We will attempt to answer this question. Personal experiences with money will be discussed. The course will also view how money is portrayed in songs and movies. Ultimately, we will examine the evolution of money and the role it has and continues to play in our lives.

From cave paintings to beloved pets, animals have been an integral part of the human experience. Humans use animals as symbols, science, food, clothing, companions, helpers, commodities, and necessities of existence. Animals are everywhere in our lives, yet we often fail to recognize the vital roles they play. Students will explore the complex interrelationships between human cultures and animal life, challenging their assumptions about the human-animal divide and arriving at new self-understanding by studying animals through psychology, science, art, literature and philosophy.

We live in a world that is dominated by talented people. Our society rewards people who demonstrate talent in fields as diverse as sport, music, agriculture, politics, and science. Talent is often used to describe natural ability. However, talent is measured in performance ability. In this course, we will examine how talent is defined and explore the possibility of talent development. As we explore talent development, we see to understand talent in the context of the challenges and subsequent struggles that are a component of each of our lives.
Human-animal relationships are complicated. What dictates whether an animal becomes a family pet, or an item on a menu? Why do we fear injury or disease from some animals, but we allow others to sleep in bed with us? The way we, as human beings, consider other creatures on this planet does not always seem logical and it is rarely consistent. In this course we will investigate the complex interactions between humans and animals, and compare and contrast human and animal relationships across cultures. We will explore this topic using examples from human psychology, animal behavior, anthrozoology, animal welfare, as well as veterinary medicine and public health.

This pathway will explore the life stories and histories of the United States and world leaders as we attempt to answer the following questions: Are there certain personality traits that great leaders share? To what extent is context responsible for creating leaders? We will read about and discuss the concept of leading from the middle, servant leadership, and citizen leaders.

College is the beginning of a life journey. This pathway will explore the idea of journey as pilgrimage, travel undertaken with the intention of experiencing a life-transforming event. Readings will reflect various secular and religious, medieval and modern perspectives on pilgrimage, and students will craft their own imaginary pilgrimage narrative.
PTH 101U. Paradigm Shift: Global Change from the Inside Out (J. White)

What we’re doing isn’t working. We need a paradigm shift, and what the world needs are integrated, visionary people capable of negotiating that process of change in these unpredictable and challenging times. This course looks at other progressive colleges and organizations that are transforming their infrastructure and operations to address personal wellbeing, social justice, economic fairness, and environmental sustainability. Students explore the various international movements that have emerged to respond to and shape this new paradigm.

PTH 101V-HN. Storytelling-Honors (M. Jauchen)

FOR WESSON HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS ONLY!

We live in a world saturated with narratives: television shows, historical accounts, news stories, blog archives, celebrity gossip, and on and on. In our own lives, more importantly, narrative is one of the major frameworks we use to understand our world, to make sense of the non-sensical, and to define who we are. But what is narrative exactly and how does it operate? What are the consequences of viewing the world through a narrative lens? In “Storytelling,” we’ll look at the way narrative forms shape our understanding in a variety of fields and think collaboratively about the consequences of being such story-driven animals.

PTH 101W-HN. Coming of Age-Honors (A. P. Stecker)

FOR WESSON HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS ONLY!

This interdisciplinary course is designed to introduce students in the Wesson Honors Program to the opportunities, challenges and obligations that membership in the program entails. Using selective texts from fiction and non-fiction, anthropology, and film, this course explores who and what comes of age, why, and why not. The course analyzes cultural rites of passage, separation, liminality, and reincorporation by asking what social and cultural practices invite or inhibit individuals and institutions to come of age.