

Evening Lecture Series Summer Writing Institute 2017

Rhodes College

Yesterday and Today: What is your cultural moment?

Professor Marshall Boswell, English. Monday, June 19. 7-8 PM. FJ-B

Much of the contemporary pop culture that we encounter these days refers directly to movies and television shows from the past. *Stranger Things*, for instance, is both set during the 1980s and refers to beloved movies from that era. Why are today's movies and television shows, from *Mad Men* to *La La Land*, so preoccupied with pop culture from the past? In this presentation, we'll explore how and why today's popular culture became so richly self-referencing.

Brain Blunders: Common Errors of Cognition

Professor Katie White, Psychology. Wednesday, June 21. 7-8 PM. FJ-B

Humans rely on perception, attention, and memory to function every day. In this talk we will explore examples of when these cognitive processes "fail," such as when we fail to notice clearly-visible objects or when we falsely remember events. These examples lead us to question whether we can ever trust our experiences.

Getting Weird with Metaphor

Professor Caki Wilkinson, English. Tuesday, June 20. 7-8 PM. FJ-B

This reading and workshop will explore the ways metaphor can make our writing fresher, more precise, and more memorable (and, yes, weirder). There will be a short reading followed by a workshop. Bring a work in progress if you'd like, or feel free to start from scratch.

Star Wars and the Monomyth

Professor Joe Jansen, Greek & Roman Studies. Thursday, June 22. 7-8 PM. FJ-B.

This lecture will explore the influence of Joseph Campbell's conception of the monomyth on the three original *Star Wars* films and the latest installment in the series, *The Force Awakens*. While the latter conforms to many of the stages of the hero cycle, the film breaks from the mold of the monomyth in some very important ways, as it tries to tell the story of a heroine compatible with the sentiments and values of the 21st century. The source of inspiration for this reimagining of the heroic quest can be found in Medieval Romance and modern novels, such as Lewis Carol's *Alice in Wonderland*.

Fiction Reading

Profs Santo and Wilson. Sunday, June 25, 4-5 PM. HARDIE Auditorium, Palmer.

Come listen to award winning novelists Courtney Santo and Brandy Wilson read from their work. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions about the writing process, publishing, and craft.

The Politics of Taste: Understanding High and Low Culture

Professor Keith Corson, Film and Media Studies. Sunday, June 25. 7-8 PM. FJ-B

This evening lecture will explore the complications and contradictions in defining high and low culture by looking at topics ranging from Shakespeare and opera to professional wrestling and exploitation films.

Nothing tastes as good as being skinny feels: Disordered eating & the drive for thinness

Professor Rebecca Klatzkin, Neuroscience. Monday, June 26. 7-8 PM. FJ-B

I can't eat that, I'm on a diet! I hate the way I look! Have you ever said or felt anything like this? If so, you're not alone. Seventy percent of 18-30 year old women don't like their bodies and over one-half of teenage girls and one-third of teenage boys use unhealthy behaviors to control their weight. In this session, we'll explore common misconceptions about eating and weight concerns and how the media may play a role. We'll also discuss how these unhealthy thoughts and behaviors can lead to eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, and binge eating disorder for both men and women.

The Afropolitan: Identity Politics in 21st Century African Literature

Professor Raquel Baker, English. Tuesday, June 27. 7-8 PM. FJ-B

Afropolitanism is emerging as a cultural discourse to express the experience of contemporary African identity. In this lecture we will define the term, identify critiques, and use Afropolitan characters such as Mel in *Nigerians in Space* to think about broader issues such as hybridity, whiteness, identity, and belonging.