

# Summer Writing Institute 2019 Events

## Evening Lectures

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### **Yesterday and Today: What is your cultural moment?**

Professor Marshall Boswell, English. Monday, June 17 in FJ-B 7-8 PM

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.

### **Lessons in Star Gazing**

Astronomy Majors, Physics. Tuesday, June 18 meet at Lynx Statue 9-10 PM

Rain or cloud date: Thursday, June 20

Join undergraduate Physics Majors at the Rhodes Observatory for a lesson in astronomy. Specific astronomical objects' visibility varies according to the season, but some favorites are the Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, the Orion Nebula, the Perseus Double Cluster, and the Andromeda Galaxy. The observatory houses a 20" PlaneWave reflecting telescope. This large telescope is fully computer controlled, and is equipped with a robust CCD imaging system. This enables high-fidelity images of distant and dim deep-sky objects. In addition, the observatory has eight tripod-mounted Celestron 8" computerized telescopes. These mobile telescopes provide excellent views of the moon, planets, and a variety of other celestial objects.

### **Impacted by others: Understanding how our individual behaviors and beliefs change in social environments**

Professor Maddox, Psychology. Wednesday, June 19 in FJ-B 7-8 PM

Humans are fairly stable in their beliefs, actions, and emotions. However, these aspects of our behavior can change in the different social environments we navigate. In some instances, the social environment may have relatively neutral consequences (e.g., a quiet individual may get caught up in the excitement of a sporting event and may cheer along with the crowd), and in other instances the consequences can be quite severe (e.g., normal individuals may exhibit physical aggression in certain social contexts). In this session, we will examine the factors of social contexts that lead to conformity, compliance, and obedience to authority.

### **Brains for robots and robots for brains: when neuroscience and robotics collide**

Professor Blustein, Neuroscience. Thursday, June 20 in FJ-B 7-8 PM

Why do neuroscientists build robots? We use our knowledge of brain function to develop smarter robots. We also use robots as nervous system simulations to research how brains work. And in medicine we use advanced robots to help rehabilitate humans after brain trauma or disease. In this interactive workshop you will learn about the intersection of neuroscience and robotics while also getting some practice in the craft of robot building. Due to systems limitations, the first 40 students can participate, and additional students can watch.

## **Make Europe Great Again? The Rise of Radicals, Populists and Nationalists across a Continent in Decline**

Professor Zahariadis, International Studies. Sunday, June 22 in FJ-B 7-8 PM

Just like in the United States, talk of a reemergence of radical populism is rampant in Europe. A pan-European alliance of far-right parties has joined a mix of disparate radical left parties in a dozen European countries to contest elections to the European Parliament. The aim is to gain enough seats to dismantle European Union institutions from within by appealing to familiar themes of national culture, political ideology and social justice. We will compare political trends in Europe and the United States, sketch implications for Europe's future and speculate on future relations with the United States.

## **"Why is this happening to me?" High Stakes Testing in the 21st Century**

Professor Casey, Educational Studies. Monday, June 24 in FJ-B 7-8 PM

This session will focus on the 'why' of standardized testing in U.S. schools. We will discuss the history of testing, the economics of testing, and the politics of testing, with a focus on how standardized tests are increasingly being used to profit off of students and schools. There has been a great deal of discussion about racial 'achievement gaps' in testing, and controversy about assessing teachers based on their students' test scores. We will explore the complex ways the testing-regime of 21st century schooling has come to dominate K-12 education in the U.S., and conclude with discussion of possible alternatives.

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### **College Prep Workshops**

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If you are considering applying to Rhodes for college and would like to interview, you should sign up here: [Admission.rhodes.edu/SWI](http://Admission.rhodes.edu/SWI). Interviews are conducting during the lunch break and after class weekdays.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Room</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Sefton</b>	<b>Burrow Lobby</b>	<b>SignUP</b>	<b>Interviews: sign up here: <a href="http://admission.rhodes.edu/SWI/">admission.rhodes.edu/SWI/</a></b>
Tuesday	18-Jun	Starling	Buckman 108	4-5 PM	College Prep: Maximizing Campus Visits
Wednesday	19-Jun	Boswell	Buckman 108	4-5 PM	College Prep: What is a Liberal Arts Education?
Thursday	20-Jun	Hamilton	Buckman 108	4-5 PM	College Prep: Meet with an Admissions Director
Monday	24-Jun	Finlayson	Buckman 108	4-5 PM	College Prep: Writing the College Application Essay
Tuesday	25-Jun	Johanson	Buckman 108	4-5 PM	College Prep: Being Realistic about College Choices