This Interim course aims to cultivate cultural knowledge of various leisure activities in China and develop practical skills. The course will be organized by four themes: Enchanting Facts about China, Entertainments in China, Martial Arts Films, and Etiquette in China. The classes will feature films and media, article reading, discussions, mock performance, hands-on experiencing, guest lecturer, and students’ project and presentations.

Theme I is enchanting facts about China. Students will search and present some enchanting facts about China, and create fun trivia quizzes. Theme II is entertainments in China. Karaoke, Majiang, board games, and other entertainment frequently seen in social get-together will be included. Theme III is Films. We will watch and analyze the various styles of Martial Arts films offered by different actors and directors. We will also analyze the influence of Chinese investment on Hollywood films. Theme IV is etiquette in China and stereotype about China. We will conduct mock cross cultural communication and learn how to do things appropriately in China. We will also go over some stereotypes about China and discuss how to avoid them.

Additional expenses: $30.00

The 1970s is still remembered as one of the best decades for film. The Civil Rights movement, the counterculture, and feminism left their mark on the screen, as did a "New Wave" of European directors who experimented with new themes and presentation. With restrictions on content having loosened in the previous decade, filmmakers also pushed the envelope in terms of violence, language, and sexuality. Suspicion of government became a common theme in the post-Watergate era. Many writers also took up socially relevant themes such as working-class life, ethnic subcultures, and of course the struggles of women. The decade also witnessed breakout films by such important directors as George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. This course will explore a decade of film, using it as a lens to understand the history, politics, and culture of the era.
1660-1833 is rife with contradictions in all aspects of European society: religion, politics, science, art, and literature. In Britain, for example, the Jewish Naturalization Act of 1753 promised a new era of religious toleration, but, resulted in an outpouring of antisemitism that led to its repeal. In the 1772 Somerset Case, Chief Justice Mansfield ruled that James Somerset, a slave, could not legally be kept as a slave in England and was therefore a free man; yet, England continued to participate in the slave trade until 1807 and allow slavery in its colonies until 1833.

This course studies the history and culture of eighteenth-century Europe and the Americas through the lens of cinema. Some works, such as Barry Lyndon (1975), directed by Stanley Kubrick, are adaptations of earlier texts, in this case, a novel by William Makepeace Thackeray published in 1844 but set in the mid-18th century. Other works, such as Steven Spielberg’s Amistad (1997), Sofia Coppola’s Marie Antoinette (2006), and Nate Parker’s Birth of a Nation (2016), focus on significant events and figures. Assigned readings will enrich our understanding of these films.

Coursework includes a semester-long response journal, group selection and discussion of a film, and an e-portfolio.

In this project you will learn the basics of quilting. This will include learning to cut, stitch, and quilt a variety of block patterns. As a group we will construct one quilt together that will be donated to class identified charity. You will also make your own quilt project based on a pattern of your choosing.

In addition to developing skills as a quiltmaker, in this class we will also learn about the history of the cotton and textile industry (starting with the domestication of cotton 5,500 years ago) up to the present. We will learn how trading patterns and the industrialization of cotton production influenced the types of material available for quiltmaking and the types of quilts made. We will also explore the ways that different historical contexts shaped quilting traditions such as race, class, gender, and ethnicity. We will explore quilting as a form of art and learn about its role in the arts and craft movement in America. Finally, the last week we’ll learn about quiltmaking as a form of awareness and social consciousness. This will include an exploration of the role of quilts as expressions of patriotism, quilts commemorating war and peace, and quilts as powerful tools of activism. Along the way we will view quilts and learn patterns that represent each of these traditions.

Every college needs a mobile app. What should the Wofford app do? What should it look like? How well will it work? The goal of this project is to determine the requirements for a Wofford App, design its user interface, and implement it on mobile devices. The goal is to produce an app (or a very good prototype) by the end of a month. You will learn about teamwork, agile methods, human-computer interaction, requirements gathering, and building mobile apps (among other things). We want a team of motivated students, some who know how to code and some who don't. Go to the following link for more details, and to see how to get instructor permission to be part of this project: http://webswoffordedu/sykesda/2018/01/.
Shakespeare's plays are dramatic, beautiful, exciting, distant, and yet familiar. In this interim, we will read two of Shakespeare's most famous and timely plays, Othello and The Tempest. Both plays are about race and difference, diversity and hierarchy, passion and control, love and illusion. Both plays invite us to think about how our world is and is not like Shakespeare's. We will read these two plays slowly and with attention to the historical context of ideas that shaped them, reading primary texts about race, magic, gender, and politics. We will also consider how a contemporary reading of these plays is necessarily shaped by modern conceptions of race, gender, and political power. As we read, we will become intimately familiar with Shakespeare's language, with the poetic and rhetorical complexity of these plays. Finally, we will consider what they might have to say about the role of language itself.

Additional expenses: $120.00

This project will examine magic both as an art form and as a form of entertainment. Students will learn both the mechanics of performing magic tricks as well as the art of entertaining through magic. We will study magic performers of the past in order to understand the techniques that they used to entertain. Each student will develop an onstage persona and a magic routine based on that persona. The culmination of the project will be a magic show put on by the members of the project for the Wofford community.

Additional expenses: $77.00

This course chronicles seven centuries of firearms development, reviews pivotal innovations that changed the nature of warfare, and profiles the leading figures in firearms advancement.

Jane Austen is one of England's most beloved authors. But many of us haven't read much beyond Pride and Prejudice. This deep reading interim will allow us to explore two of Austen's less well-known novels, Mansfield Park and Persuasion, and then renew our knowledge of Pride and Prejudice. Students will gain familiarity with the challenges and rewards of intensive reading through class discussion and daily writing. Students will keep a reading journal reflecting on both the novels and their experiences of reading, and will design and execute a final project that reflects some aspect of Victorian culture drawn from the readings. The goals of this course are to develop a greater appreciation for one of the most important cultural figures of the 19th century and to enhance our abilities to read deeply and at length, skills that often prove elusive in today's world.

Additional expenses: $50.00
This course explores the ways in which animals of many species perceive the world, solve problems, remember events and locations, forage for food, communicate, and interact socially with each other and with humans. We ask: How are their mental lives and abilities similar or different from ours? Students should have a strong interest in animals, but no previous coursework in psychology or biology is required. We will study a broad range of animal cognition by: (a) watching video documentaries of animal behavior, (b) reading introductory texts that survey areas of animal cognition, (c) individual projects that focus in detail on a particular topic in animal cognition, and (d) discussions in class.

Additional expenses: $70.00

Since 1995, the world has experienced the deadliest tsunami in recorded history caused by a massive Indian ocean earthquake; another devastating tsunami in Japan caused by the largest and costliest earthquake in recorded history; catastrophic flooding in Pakistan, Venezuela, Bangladesh, and central Europe; the strongest El Niño on record; a volcanic eruption that shut down international airports for more than a week; and deadly earthquakes around the world. At the same time North America has experienced deadly hurricanes in the Gulf Coast, along the Atlantic coast, and in Guatemala and Honduras; record-setting wildfires in Arizona, Colorado, Utah, and California; the worst outbreak of tornadoes in U.S. history; a record-matching series of four hurricanes within 6 weeks in Florida and the Carolinas; a paralyzing ice storm in New England and Quebec; record-setting hail in Nebraska; and a rapid warming of the climate, especially in Alaska, northern Canada, and Arizona. These events are the result of enormous forces that are at work both inside and on the surface of our planet. In this project we will study and explain these forces, how they interact with our civilization, and how we can better adjust to their effects.

This beginner Modern Hebrew class will impart speaking skills in basic real-life everyday situations as well as reading and writing abilities. This course integrates culture content as part of language instruction. Through exposure to film and music, students will learn about the ethnic and cultural diversity of Israel as well as social and political issues framed from different viewpoints.

This course will explore the myths and realities of ancient Rome’s Colosseum (home of the gladiators) and Circus Maximus (home of the chariot races), as well as of those that that competed there. The course will be a mixture of discussion, film, lecture, and student presentations. The focus of the course will be to explore and understand: why the arenas were created; what it was like to be a gladiator or chariot driver, including the training and personal lives of the gladiators and chariot drivers; who and what were the victims or other combatants in the Colosseum, along with what were the various reasons they ended up as such; and how the activities in these arenas reflected the culture and make-up of ancient Romans. Additionally, the course will examine the other public spectacles that were held in these facilities, such as mock sea battles, animal hunts, executions, re-enactments of famous battles, dramas based on Classical mythology, public games, and festivals. Finally, we will review the uses of the facilities during subsequent times and their current status.
As valedictorian at Chilton, Rory Gilmore proclaimed: “I live in two worlds, one is a world of books. I’ve been a resident of Faulkner’s Yoknapatawpha County, hunted the white whale aboard the Pequod, fought alongside Napoleon, sailed a raft with Huck and Jim, committed absurdities with Ignatius J. Reilly, rode a sad train with Anna Karenina and strolled down Swann’s Way. It’s a rewarding world.” As one half of the beloved mother-daughter duo from the comedy-drama series, Gilmore Girls, Rory pursues an ivy-league education to become a journalist like her idol, Christiane Amanpour. In 2013 Australian writer Patrick Lenton compiled a list of all 339 books referenced on the show in order to complete the “Rory Gilmore Reading Challenge.” Spend your interim in Stars Hollow and challenge yourself to read and analyze as many books from the show’s extensive list as possible. Along the way, you’ll also watch the series and reflect upon its cultural significance. Whether you’re team Dean, Logan, or Jess, there’s something for everyone on the menu at Luke’s Diner!

Additional expenses: $175.00

This interim is designed to explore and learn to play the acoustic guitar. This is a hands-on experience course and practice time will be required in addition to class time. You do NOT need to know how to play the guitar already; however, you must have a guitar (or have access to a guitar in good playing condition that will stay in tune). The ability to read music is recommended in order to optimize progress during the one-month period. The course will include discussions related to music and viewing video guitar performances. The focus will be on the classical acoustic guitar; however, students will have an opportunity to explore other styles of playing of their choice.

Have you ever zoomed in and then zoomed out on Google Maps to get your bearings? This Interim course zooms in and out on topics that look personal (“double skinny latte, please”) and actually take shape in complex global environments (that of the global coffee trade, for example). We focus in this course on developing the skills (like those for digital research and communication), attitudes (say, curiosity), and foundational knowledge (what went in to making this happen?) to better understand what we want and where it comes from. We will accomplish our goals by doing individual and collaborative inquiry about products and experiences diverse people want now, the products and experiences in demand in the past, and the ways the world gets rearranged to satisfy those demands.

In an essay on the works of Jane Austen, Virginia Woolf once wrote, “of all great writers she is the most difficult to catch in the act of greatness.” While beloved by many, most readers cannot identify the characteristics that make Austen’s novels so rewarding and special for reading and rereading. Yet, two hundred years after her death her novels, which depict everyday life for the English middle-class society in the early 19th century, are regarded as timeless classics.

In this course, we will explore four of Austen’s novels: Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, Emma, and Persuasion. Through fellowship of reading and discussion, we will analyze Austen’s characteristic style and techniques as well as gain an appreciation for the historical and social contexts of her novels.

Additional expenses: $40.00
### 1052 JAN 321 A  Inventor's Lab

**James Bednar**  
Enrollment: 15/15  
Billed Fee: $250.00  
0900 1200 MTWF  RMSC 108

We will use, adapt, and modify several current and emerging technologies in new and novel ways, both to create new things and to discover new uses of extant technology. Participants will develop their own projects using 3D computer aided design software, 3D printers, and electronics prototyping tools such as Arduino. Possible projects might include the creation of new and novel human interface devices (e.g., custom made keyboards, game controllers, and computer mouses), wearable devices, and internet of things devices.

### 1053 JAN 322 A  Exploring the American Sitcom

**Kimberly Hall**  
**Patrick Whitfill**  
Enrollment: 26/26  
Billed Fee: $25.00  
1300 1600 MTWF  OLIN 101

Although you may be familiar with the television sitcom, or situation comedy, have you ever considered how formulaic the genre is, why it’s remained so popular over 70 years, and how a show is developed, written, and produced? This is your chance to explore the different aspects of this fundamental television form and evaluate its claims to greatness by watching, analyzing and even producing a sitcom. In this interim project, we'll view and discuss important episodes of influential sitcoms and you will work in a group to write, direct, act in, edit, and screen a sitcom pilot of your own.

Additional expenses: $25.00

### 1054 JAN 323 A  (Big) Book Club

**Karen Goodchild**  
Enrollment: 11/20  
Billed Fee: $0.00  
0900 1200 MTWF  RSRCA 125

The goal of this course is to improve one’s ability to read deeply and meaningfully discuss important fiction. In groups of 3 or 4, students will choose a text, or texts, from the list provided, or suggest one to be approved, and read it together. Each book or group of connected books will total c. 700-1000 pages. After 2 weeks, student will join another group of 3-4 students, and read another book or books. Each day, one student will be in charge of leading discussion with their group on the day’s pages, posting questions to be addressed prior to the day’s meeting, and one student will post a summary of important observations. Additionally, students will keep a reading blog. At the end of each 2 week period, students will make presentations to the larger group on their text.

Additional expenses: $30.00

### 1055 JAN 324 A  In Europe: Travels Through the 20th Century

**Aikaterini Andrews**  
Enrollment: 20/20  
Billed Fee: $50.00  
0900 1200 MTWF  MAIN 304

Using the fascinating book “In Europe: Travels Through the Twentieth Century” by Dutch journalist, Geert Mak, we will travel in space and time to learn more about the cities and people of Europe. From Sarajevo, to Amsterdam, Austria, Barcelona, Rome, Athens, Paris, London, Bone, Berlin, Moscow and others, we will take a look at the people and events that shaped Europe in the 20th century. Through the lives of the people portrayed in the book, and in related documentaries and films, we will see hope amidst war, migration, cruelty, & regret.
As the title makes clear, the objective of this course is to chronicle the legal and sociopolitical principles that shaped the course of the civil rights movement in the U.S. between 1945 and 1980. Major principles will be addressed individually in 14 readings (as well as in the Spike Lee film "School Daze"), and each concept will be brought to life through the experiences encountered by the three generations of the African-American family we shall follow in "Seven Laurels". Class time will be devoted to an intensive exegesis of every event and relationship that are portrayed in the novel, particularly as they may relate to the required preparatory readings which we will have carefully dissected before embarking on the 336-page novel.

This interim will examine historical traditions of meditation and mindfulness in an experiential manner and through the reading and discussion of ancient texts. We will meditate together, practice mindfulness exercises, learn some yoga postures, and discuss books from diverse traditions that stress heightened awareness through introspection, including the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, The Bhagavad Gita, and the Dao De Jing. In addition, we will discuss the recent craze in mindfulness and scientific discoveries related to motivation and self-discipline.

Did you know that the craft of knitting is over 1,000 years old? Did you know that men used to dominate the world of knitting? Would you like to learn a fun craft? In this course, students will spend a month learning about knitting. For many people, knitting is a meditative and therapeutic activity. In addition to casting on and binding off, students will learn to knit a variety of stitches. We will also learn about knitting terminology and reading patterns. By the end of the course, students will have completed four knitted projects. Other coursework will include assigned readings, blog entries, and a final presentation. Each student will complete one knitted project to be donated to a local charitable organization. As a class, we will visit the organization and see firsthand how our hard work is appreciated by our neighbors-in-need. We will also visit a local farm and yarn shop to learn more about different fibers and fiber farming.

Love acting, singing, (or lights, PR, costumes or set construction), but can't fit it into your busy college schedule?

If so, you should audition (or sign up) for Pulp Theater's next Interim Production. Here is your chance to shine on the stage during the month of January! If you like musicals The Rocky Horror Show, Reefer Madness, Hair, and The Evil Dead, you're sure to love (whatever the heck Pulp Theatre is doing)! With a cast of thousands, dancing bears, and an actual ring of FIRE (whatever the heck Pulp Theatre is doing) is sure to be the best Pulp Theater production yet!

There are a plethora of positions to be filled (including an orchestral!); we are looking for both cast and crew members, so don't let stage fright stop you from sign up. Participation is contingent upon an audition and/or interview with the student director and the faculty sponsor. We look forward to seeing you there!
The Beatles were arguably the most influential and innovative musical group in the history of popular music. They were one of the first groups to write and play their own music (ushering in the era of the "self-contained band"), and practically every one of their albums broke new ground. This course will take you on a magical mystery tour of The Beatles starting from their earliest days in Liverpool, moving through the excitement of Beatlemania, the rush of psychedelia, and the maturity of Abbey Road. We will also go beyond their breakup to investigate their solo careers and the lasting impact they left on the world.

Intense listening and analysis of music will comprise much of this course, along with the viewing of Beatles documentaries and the Beatles' own films. Topics students will investigate include the music, lyrics, recordings, personal and public lives, production techniques, career strategy, social ramifications, and technological impact of The Beatles. By the end of the course, you will fully understand why the names John, Paul, George, and Ringo are permanently engraved in history.

Additional expenses: $75.00

How has the past informed the culinary scene in South Carolina today? Through the exploration of the South’s agricultural and culinary history, we will examine the continuity, discontinuity, and effects upon today’s culinary scene, especially the current farm-to-table movement. The course will include a three-day trip to Charleston, SC, to see first-hand the plantations of the past, as well as explore the current world-wide culinary attention through cooking tours. In Spartanburg, we will also have the opportunity to take three cooking classes to explore South Carolina’s culinary traditions. Along the way, we will also incorporate volunteer work and service learning opportunities in order take an active role in addressing hunger and nutrition education in our society.

Additional expenses: $25.00

Slave narratives, or books by former slaves describing their hardships and paths to freedom, is a quintessential American form of literature. In this interim, we will explore the experiences of slave authors in four major works: Frederick Douglass’ The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs' Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl; Sam Northrup's Twelve Years' a Slave; and compare these to an even more famous work of pure fiction, Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom's Cabin. Students will gain familiarity with the challenges and rewards of reading works in depth. One work will be read in each week (in the order above), accompanied by 2-4 critical essays/popular reviews of each book, and excerpts of presentation of each work in other media. Each book is chosen to represent different critical facets of slave’s experiences, from forthright conflict with authority (Douglass), evasion (Jacobs), kidnapping and abrogation of rights (Northrup), and to Christian redemption (Stowe). Of course, the selection also allows students to explore a variety of other themes, including gender, differing concepts of freedom, authority of text (what we might call today ‘street cred’), and racially constructed writing styles.

Are you interested in a career in journalism, education, government, or law enforcement, and want to have the chance to reflect on different aspects of such a job? Or, are you interested in discussing major issues facing our country? Or, do you simply like watching good TV shows? If your answer to any of these questions is "Yes," then this interim is for you. For the month of January, we will be watching and talking about The Wire, one of the most praised TV series of all-time. The show, which focuses on life in inner-city Baltimore, deals with a number of major social issues, and the attempts by people in various vocations to deal with these problems.

Additional expenses: $100.00
Those of us who love the outdoors want to understand it and feel at home there. To do that we need to be able to recognize the signs and sounds we find in nature. In this interim we will learn to identify mammal tracks, scat and other sign, the calls of common birds, and relate them to those animals’ behaviors. From field trips, some lasting all day, extensive reading and live trapping of small animals, we will learn that there is more going on in the Carolina upstate in winter than we ever imagined.

Additional Expenses: $156.00

Join us as we explore yoga, meditation, and natural healing. Through daily yoga/meditation, students will practice a variety of yoga traditions such as Hatha, Iyengar, Anusara, Asthanga, and Vinyasa. We’ll complement our daily practice with discussions of philosophy and natural healing, such as hands on experience with acupuncture, herbal remedies, and aromatherapy. We will seek to create a philosophical and practical framework for students to better understand the relationships between our selves, our bodies, and the natural world.

Our planet is poised at the brink of a severe environmental crisis and there is overwhelming evidence that human activity is to blame. Our current way of life is unsustainable and will have irreversible consequences if continued unchecked. Environmental awareness is an integral part and the first step to making the necessary changes toward progress. Throughout this course, students will learn about the major environmental issues we face as a society today and what we can do to promote public awareness. We will examine both historical and current patterns to determine the seriousness of these issues. Students will learn about the relationship between visual imagery and pro-environmental viewpoints and how to use visual imagery to promote awareness of environmental issues to influence public perception in a way that stimulates changes in behavior that are necessary to work towards solutions. The final project will focus on creating an avant-garde ‘experimental film’ using open source software, images, video, and music.

Would you enjoy learning about your family history and documenting it with photos and journal writing? In this project, we will use family photos to create digital scrapbooks of your family history; you will interview your parents and other family relatives in order to uncover the stories that make up your personal heritage and will add interest to your scrapbooks through journaling. No prior knowledge of digital scrapbooking is required; we will begin by learning to convert printed pictures into digital files and to edit images using the free software program GIMP.
Water is one of Earth’s most valuable resources. Our planet might seem like it has plenty of water for us all, but less than 1 percent is available for human use. Living in the United States, we often take access to clean drinking water for granted. Yet, the global water crisis is one of the most critical issues facing our world. In this course, we will examine issues in water conservation from a local and global perspective. At the local level, students will explore our watershed on field trips (including a float on the Pacolet River) to learn where our water comes from in Spartanburg, and where water goes once it leaves our campus and homes. Students will learn how to conduct various water quality measurements and what the results tells us about our water supply. To learn about water conservation at the global level, students will read and watch documentaries on historical, ecological, environmental, cultural and political water conservation issues from areas as diverse as Las Vegas and the Middle East. Finally, we will learn about revolutionary solutions to combat the global water crisis, and work together as a class to propose ways we can participate in that solution.

This interim examines the growing and production of cotton in the American South and South Carolina. The course will emphasize the contradiction between a) the historical shame of slavery and other forms of oppressed labor, and b) the contribution of cotton production from the American South for the Industrial Revolution that laid the basis for the prosperity of the modern world. The course will include day trips to South Carolina museums, guest speakers, and films.

Through hands on experience we will explore the craft of hand building and wheel throwing pottery with emphasis on the creative process that transforms functional pieces into works of art. We will investigate the cultural significance of pottery making in local and global communities through videos, visits with artists, and individual demonstrations.

This interim is designed for those students who are totally new to the game of golf and the changing roles it has played and continues to play in American culture. The fundamentals of the game will be presented, explained, discussed and implemented. We will also conduct research into the historical significance of golf as well as biographies of professionals and significant amateur golfers. Past and current professional golf instructors and their methods will be compared and evaluated. Golf club fitting, maintenance and repair will also be presented and discussed. Students will spend time on a driving range and a par 3 course to hone their golfing skills. We will also practice on local 18 hole facilities. This interim is suitable for beginning golfers only.

Water Conservation

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<td>Lori Cruze</td>
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Cotton: The Shame & Unknown Gift of the American South

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<td>William DeMars</td>
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Functional Beauty: The Art & Craft of Pottery

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Golf for Beginners in American Culture

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This interim will explore the world vertically, encouraging students to discover themselves (and some new muscles!) between rocks and hard places. Students will begin by learning about rock climbing gear, safety, climbing knots and belaying procedures in the Climb Upstate indoor climbing gym in Spartanburg, 10 minutes drive from campus. The class will also take two day trips to climbing sites in the Upstate; these two day trips will be all-day trips, so students should be prepared to attend during the morning and the afternoon. On alternate days when the class isn't climbing walls, bouldering, or rappelling, we will explore: broader history of human attraction to climbing, the evolution of rock climbing from early mountaineering to the contemporary sport as we know it, climbing ethics, the influence of Yosemite first ascents, the contemporary art of climbing in urban spaces, and the different philosophies of people who climb.

What makes us happier in life? What can you do now to cultivate gratitude for yourself, your friends, family and the world you live in? Are diet, exercise, and daily practices related to a happier life? Some experts say that you are what you eat. Others believe that nutrition, spending time outside and humor positively impact our mood and our bodies. To explore this, we will have conversations with a nutritionist, a life coach, a health coach, an herbalist, and other experts on these topics. Students will practice Zumba, yoga, meditation, various dance styles, and other forms of exercise such as martial arts to connect our exploration with our practice. We will adopt some daily routines that have been proven to increase levels of happiness. We will also have day trips to parks for walking-meditation, drumming, and to participate in community engagement activities. [Note: Participants are expected to participate in physical activities at least four times per week].

Sri K. Pattabhi Jois, an Indian yoga teacher who developed the popular vinyasa style of yoga wrote, “The most important part of the yoga practice is eating a vegetarian diet.” In this class, we will examine the ethical and spiritual connections between the practice of yoga and veganism. This course will allow students to experience on some level what it means to live as a vegan yogi. The course involves physical activity (yoga), documentaries, group presentations, discussion on regular readings, and cooking classes. Additional Expenses: $195.00

During Wofford's first Interim in 1968, students and faculty undertook a detailed study of the Battle of Cowpens. This January, fifty years later, we'll take another look at that January 1781 battle, regarded by many American military historians as the turning point of the Revolutionary War in the South. We'll study the battle as it relates to history of the American Revolution in the South and its place in local history, We'll examine the influence of that campaign and battle on military strategy and tactics. And we'll look at the questions of battlefield preservation and memorialization. Additional Expenses: $55.00
This course will explore the intersections of health, wellness, and fitness, and examine the role that community and social factors play in lifestyle choices. We will primarily use one group exercise program—CrossFit—to improve our own fitness, and will also spend 1-2 days a week doing restorative yoga. Throughout the course of interim, students should expect to engage in physical activity 4+ days per week, though no prior exercise experience or current level of fitness is required. Students will be required to have their own transportation to reach CrossFit Spartanburg, where they will be taught the foundational movements of CrossFit during the course of the class and have a semester long membership after the foundational movements have been covered. We will have some classroom lectures from guest experts focused on CrossFit, Yoga, nutrition, physiology, and other factors that influence physical and mental well-being, and students will be required to choose one topic on health and prepare a classroom lesson as well as keep accurate food and exercise journals. The month will conclude with a local trip to big air Spartanburg and a day trip to the ropes courses at the USNWC in Charlotte, NC that will allow us to test and enjoy our newly improved fitness.

Learn how to organize and implement different social and business affairs. Initial discussions will focus on resumes, networking, communication skills (both written and verbal) and interviewing. Additionally the course will include many facets of social planning, including etiquette (both domestic and international), attire, decorating, music, and dining.

In this interim, you’ll explore how information has been organized, preserved in physical form, and transmitted through the years. In order to do this you will get up close and personal with rare materials from Wofford’s library, from a 16th century manuscript to Civil War diaries, to letters and other historical objects and memorabilia. The second part of this interim will give you the opportunity to take an important local history collection – testimonies from Spartanburg citizens in the Reconstruction era – and design an online digital exhibit. In preparation we’ll talk about the fundamentals of the digital liberal arts, and each class period will have workshop time where you’ll explore digital tools like Omeka, HistoryPin, and Voyant. In the end, you will have produced a digital project that puts digitized historical materials into a broader context that can be shared with the world.

Most of us have to suppress the geekier aspects of our personalities to fit within the mainstream culture. But what if there was a magical geek sanctuary where you could let loose and celebrate all the cool geekisms that make you unique? This interim project aims to be that place by engaging students in a plethora of geeky readings, films, discussions, games and activities. The course will be loosely based on four geeky themes: Games (I need more mana), Science Fiction (I’m the Doctor), Fantasy (my precious... my precious), and Japanese Anime (to obtain something, something of equal value must be lost). If your dice have more than six sides; if you find yourself lost without your sonic screwdriver; if your car has a bumper sticker that reads "My other car is a Firebolt.", then this interim project might be for you.
This course will revolve around readings of authors from or currently living in Spartanburg. Students will also work on a social media project that mimics Humans of New York, which will capture the stories of citizens of Spartanburg through the ethnographic method: interviewing and participant observation. Students will also learn historical lessons about the city. Students will spend time in the classroom discussing the city and spend several days exploring the city and finding their interlocutors (interviewees.) Students will be asked to curate the social media page with personally produced videos, photos, and ethnographic quotes. The themes covered in this interim will be religious life, historic neighborhoods, area authors, the ethnographic method, and community public spaces.

Additional Expenses: $60.00

The ESPN film series "30 for 30," commissioned in 2009 to celebrate the network's thirtieth anniversary, has consistently explored prominent moments and personalities at the intersection of sports and culture. With subject matter ranging from the personal life of Bo Jackson to the trial and acquittal of the Duke University men's lacrosse team, the series has been received positively by audiences and critics alike. Now in its fourth season, and having spawned a series of shorter films known as "30 for 30 Shorts," the series has won an International Documentary Association award, a Producer Guild award, a Peabody award, and an Emmy. In this interim, students will observe and investigate a representative sample of "30 for 30" films, inquiring into the cultural issues raised by the films and accounting for their artistic and commercial success.

In this projectc students will explore the historical, cultural, and aesthetic appeal of four luxury comestibles: chocolate, coffee, cheese, and wine. One week will be dedicated to each item. During each exploration, students will study the overt and subtle complexities that underpin our continued fascination with those products. In the context of the historic-cultural foundation, students will have the opportunity to see the preparation of most of these goods. At the end of each week, they will also be able to taste varieties of these products (except wine). The ultimate goal will be for students to develop a deeper and more sophisticated appreciation of these items.

Nihon Goshin Aikido integrates techniques from Aikido, Jiu-Jitsu, Judo and Karate. Sensei John Wyndham, Yon-Dan (4th degree black belt) and chief instructor at the Spartanburg dojo, will teach us a series of self-defense techniques that include throws, strikes, joint-locks and grappling, along with traditional forms of Aikido. In addition to training at the dojo, we will learn the history and philosophy of Aikido in its various styles. All are welcome -- no experience with martial arts is necessary -- Aikido is practiced by people of every background, shape and size. That said, interested students should be able to perform strenuous physical exercise. For more information about Aikido Academy of Spartanburg, see www.aikidoacademy.com
Ding. Ding. Ding. "From parts unknown.... Combined weight unknown.... Holders of Wofford's Faculty Tag-Team Championship Belts.... It's La Grande Orange (Dr. Cathey) and Mr. Canada (Dr. Mathewson)!" [Wild applause as LGO & Mr. C run down the aisle, climb into the ring and grab the ring announcer's mic.] LGO: "Well you know, wrestling enthusiasts, Mr. Canada and I have been saying our prayers and eating our vitamins and we've dreamed up this little Interim project on pro wrestling." Mr. C: "Mr. Canada like wrestling. Mr. Canada like to teach wrestling." [LGO pats Mr. C on the head tenderly...] LGO: "That's right, Mr. C, we're gonna take you little Wofford wimps and train you thoroughly in the culture and history of professional wrestling. We're gonna see what demographic watches wrestling and why. We're gonna make you develop your own wrestling characters and even take you to pro wrestling school a couple times each week so you become pro wrestlers. And then you'll perform in your own pro wrestling show on campus at the end of Interim." Mr. C: "Mr. Canada don't like when LGO talk too much. Mr. Canada ANGGY!" [Mr. C delivers a forearm smash to LGO's chin. Chaos ensues. The crowd goes wild.]

Additional expenses: $25.00

In this course, we will examine contemporary and historical ideas associated with leisure in the United States, especially in regard to theme parks and the related visual culture. In so doing, we aim to develop more nuanced understandings of what Veblen called conspicuous consumption as well as perceptions of the American Dream. We will also explore related intersections of socioeconomic class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, accessibility, as well as the production of nature. We will spend the first part of the course researching, reading, and discussing theories and visual culture related to leisure studies and theme parks and the second part working collaboratively and creatively to reimagine, critique, by developing individual art project to showcase model amusement parks.

FIRE! is modeled on professional certification workshops for wildland firefighters. Students will learn the fundamentals of fire ecology, fire behavior, fire weather, and fire effects. In the second week of the course, students will be trained in and receive certification in Wilderness First Aid. These topics will be explored in relation to both wildland and prescribed fire. Students will model governmental and private firefighting organizations and the international, national, regional, and local networks they form. The interim period is divided in half, with 10 days dedicated to studying in the classroom and 10 days devoted to doing fieldwork at burn sites located within a hour or two of campus. Students will learn an array of practical firefighting skills, including how to use handheld suppression tools, Kestrel Weather Meters, Garmin GPS receivers, and online decision support programs. Students from across disciplines are welcome to enroll, especially those interested in environmental studies, ecology, botany, anthropology, sociology, outdoor activities, and those interested in exploring natural areas in Upstate South Carolina and Western North Carolina. If you enroll in this course, you can expect to explore state land, national forests, and other protected areas. You will have the opportunity to meet land managers, park rangers, and firefighters. You will acquire an appreciation for fire and an awareness of its role in local ecosystems.

Students will work in teams to either bring a business idea to life or to develop a social innovation. Based on a shared interest, teams will gain a deep, empathetic understanding of the needs of a population they wish to serve. From the needs they uncover, teams will go through a creative process, which utilizes non-linear thinking in order to generate innovative solutions. Teams will develop prototypes of these potential solutions, and then solicit feedback from their target population. Based on this feedback, teams will make updates to their solutions. This process will continue until they reach a point where they have designed something that is truly innovative and beneficial for the population they wish to serve. Once they have reached this point, students will develop a number of real-world market experiments that will help them validate their findings.
Too many people miss out on wonderful literature and art because they don't know how to read comic books or don't realize the rich variety of high-quality stories and art produced in this medium. Students in this course will first study sequential art and how to read comic books (with Scott McCloud's Understanding Comics). Students will then read comic books and graphic novels across genres, including crime/suspense, superhero, autobiography, fantasy, post-apocalyptic, and historical. Students will choose their own books to read throughout the course, but each student will read a selection from multiple eras and genres. Each student will participate in small discussion groups, keep a reading journal, and complete a final project reflecting on the month of reading. The goal of this course is to help students develop reading skills and lifelong love of literature, especially comic books.

Additional expenses: $25.00