

FEIT INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINARS

Courses for Fall 2023

Wayfinding: Theory & Practice

MTH

Tuesday 11:10-2:05 (Hybrid)

Katherine Behar, Fine and Performing Arts (Video)

Alison Griffith, Communication

How do we know where we are in the world or know where we are going when we set out on a journey? What environmental cues, buildings, signage, or natural objects help us navigate a landscape, and how do they influence our bodies and minds?

Wayfinding refers to information systems that guide people through a physical environment and enhance their understanding and experience of the space. This Feit seminar explores the concept of wayfinding through a critical and creative lens. We will turn to historical examples of wayfinding, such as illustrated maps and atlases from the Middle Ages as well as contemporary technologies such as VR, AR, and digital maps. Along the way, we will look at (and try!) artistic practices that critically attend to space, place, orientation, and meaning-making.

Through readings, artworks, and our own experiments we will ask: How does technology orient (or disorient) us, and what objects, artworks, and media past and present have assisted in this process? How do we collaborate with objects in the environment—like environmental sensors or the Internet of Things—to gain knowledge of the world, and how does the data these objects emit change how we understand ourselves? How does wayfinding conjure up other meanings, such as feeling centered, safe, or on track? Students will have an opportunity to make a creative wayfinding project or explore the concept in a historical and/or theoretical framework.

Multilingual Literary Translation

ETRH

Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-3:45 (In-Person)

Esther Allen, Modern Languages

Debra Caplan, Music and Fine Arts (Theater)

Have you ever heard or read beautiful words that moved you and wished you could share them with friends who don't know that language? Translation is a performative art that brings songs, poems, plays, and stories to new audiences across linguistic and cultural differences, and, in that act of re-creation, creates something new. In this course, bilingual students of diverse linguistic backgrounds will study the history, theory and practice of literary translation, and will choose and complete their own translation projects from other languages into English. Taught by faculty from Modern Languages and Theater, this course will place special attention on theories of

translation as performance. Fluency in any language other than English, as well as in English, are the two prerequisites.

Creativity Unleashed

MWH

Wednesday 11:10-2:05 (In-Person)

Sarah Saddler, Fine and Performing Arts

Maria A. Halbinger, Management

Creativity is everywhere. Against a backdrop of unprecedented global uncertainty and change, the ability to apply imaginative thinking to decisions, ideas, and relationships is now widely regarded as one of the most indispensable skills of the 21st century.

This course invites students from all fields to unleash their creative potential through exploring practical and theoretical tenets of creativity and creative thinking from disciplines including business leadership, theater and performance, innovation studies, music, writing, photography, film, and others. Through weekly reading, case studies, guest visits, and experiential group activities including games, role-play, simulations, and more, students will explore what creativity is, the different forms it assumes across a wide array of professional paths and processes, and how it can be leveraged to fulfill opportunities in any realm of personal or professional life.

Students will be responsible for engaging in weekly participatory and embodied learning exercises, as well as incorporating ideas learned throughout the semester in a final creative project.