

DEPARTMENT: English

NAME OF COURSE: Seminar in Issues and Literature

General Description of Course

Seminar in Issues and Literature, affectionately known as PigLit, provides an interdisciplinary extension of the Participation in Government and Economics courses required of seniors. This course promotes further integration of the Social Studies and English curricula, and provides seniors with a college seminar experience. Students read and write in areas meant to further their appreciation of contemporary debate and reflection about gender, class, and race. The course is not unlike what students would find in Columbia's Contemporary Civilization program or in the Social Studies program at Harvard College.

Major Topics

The course offers instruction organized around four broad issues – gender, social class, race and economic relations. Students spend time with a social studies teacher examining social and historical implications of an issue. During the next period, with an English teacher, the students examine the manner in which contemporary and traditional authors treat that same issue. Readings and discussions encompass perspectives. Students will create a policy journal, and will conclude the year with an honors thesis project.

Literature

Beloved

The Merchant of Venice or Henry V

A Raisin in the Sun/Clybourne Park

Short readings and poetry focusing on class, gender

Persepolis

and race

Film

Roger and Me

Boys Don't Cry

Do the Right Thing

Requirements

Compositions, critical commentaries, reports, projects and individual or group seminar presentations are employed as they coordinate with units of study.

Grading Procedure

Grades depend on major papers, projects, class participation and homework.