

Stages of Discovery: Revolutions in Art and Science

Winter Quarter Overview

<http://blogs.evergreen.edu/stagesofdiscovery/>

Krishna Chowdary
chowdark@evergreen.edu

Andrea Gullickson
gullicka@evergreen.edu

Elizabeth Williamson
williams@evergreen.edu

FIRST REQUIRED WINTER CLASS MEETING TUESDAY JANUARY 10, 10:30 Sem 2 E3105

Winter quarter common texts:

- *Oxygen*, by Carl Djerassi and Roald Hoffman. ISBN 3527304134
- *A Number*, by Caryl Churchill. ISBN 1559362251
- *Copenhagen*, by Michael Frayn. ISBN 041377371X
- *Quantum: Einstein, Bohr, and the Great Debate about the Nature of Reality*, by Manjit Kumar. ISBN 0393339882

Tentative common reading schedule:

- Week 11: *Oxygen, Quantum* (prologue, Ch. 1)
- Week 12: *A Number, Quantum* (Ch. 2 – 5)
- Week 13: *Copenhagen, Quantum* (Ch. 6 – 9)
- Week 14: *Copenhagen, Quantum* (Ch. 10 – 13)

Winter quarter schedule:

For the first four weeks of winter quarter, all students will participate in the following required program activities:

- Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00 Lecture/Discussion
- Tuesday 3:30 - 5:00 Seminar
- Wednesday 9:00 – 1:00 Physics Lab & Writing Workshop
- Thursday 1:00 – 3:00 Lecture/Discussion
- Friday 10:00 - 12:00 Performance Workshop
- Friday 1:00 - 3:00 Lecture/Discussion

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:30 – noon Script-writing Workshop (*) Sem 2 E3105	9:00 – 1:00 Physics Lab (Lab 2 1241) Writing Workshop (Sem 2 B2105)	10:30 – noon Science Seminar (*) Sem 2 E3105	10 am – noon Performance Workshop CRC 117
1:00 – 3:00 Lecture/Discussion Sem 2 A1107		1:00 – 3:00 Lecture/Discussion Sem 2 E1105	1:00 – 3:00 Lecture/Discussion Sem 2 A1105
3:30 – 5:00 Seminar Sem 2 C 2105, 2107, 2109		3:30 – 5:00 Music Workshop (*) Sem 2 D2105	3:00 – 5:00 Faculty Seminar

(*) Students will also choose at least one of the following to participate in as their “home” workshop during the first four weeks—they may attend as many optional workshops as they choose in addition to this baseline:

Tuesday 10:30 – 12:00
Script-writing Workshop

Thursday 10:30 – 12:00
Science Seminar

Thursday 3:30 – 5:00
Music Workshop

In weeks 11 – 14, Script-writing Workshop will cover the key structural elements of playwriting (dialogue, stage directions, plot situations), with an emphasis on generative writing experiments and on analyzing sample scripts. Students who do not typically label themselves as writers are encouraged to attend: ideas developed here may inform rehearsal if not the writing process itself. More advanced work on dialogue and plot development will be offered during the Script-Writing Clinic in weeks 15 - 18.

In weeks 11 – 14, Science Seminar will devote deeper attention to the science involved with our common program readings and associated auxiliary readings. In weeks 15 – 18, the focus will shift to student-directed topics, which could be associated with your project work.

In weeks 11 – 18, Music Workshop will focus on three main areas: Music Repertoire/Ways of Listening; Music Fundamentals; and Music Composition. You will be introduced to a variety of styles and approaches to making music with the intention of expanding your ideas about music, how it works and how we listen to the world around us. We will also cover the foundational materials of music and give you hands on experience with creating melodies and shaping soundscapes. This workshop is suitable for students new to the study of music as well as those at a more advanced level.

In weeks 15 - 19, the other program meetings shift to focus support of students' collaborative research-based creative work to write and perform their "science play". During this time, students will meet as a class to report on their progress. These required meetings times will likely be Tuesday 1 – 3 pm and Friday 1 – 3 pm. Students will also continue in Performance Workshop and their “home” workshop, as described previously. Students will be able to reserve the performance space for fixed blocks of time on Thursday afternoons from 1 - 4 and Friday afternoons from 3 - 5 during this period.

In week 20, students will perform their "science plays".

Special Events:

- On Friday February 27 (week 13), we will spend the day in Seattle visiting art and science museums.
- On Monday February 13 (week 16), we will have the opportunity to go to Seattle to visit the Infinity Box Theater Project's (infinitybox.org) Galileo Dialogues. This year will host Mary Jo Salter, an artist and professor in The Writing Seminars at the Johns Hopkins University (www.maryjosalter.com) and feature a reading of her unpublished play *Falling Bodies*, a fictional meeting between Galileo and a young John Milton. We will also have the opportunity for some private time with Professor Salter before the show.
- During the week of February 20 (week 17), we will have the opportunity to work with Rick Burkhardt, a playwright and performer (www.rickburkhardt.com). Rick will have at least one dedicated session with our program and give a public performance/lecture on campus. There might also be the opportunity for smaller groups of students (likely in project groups) to work directly with Rick as well.

For new students:

This full-time interdisciplinary program is designed to introduce students to the tools artists and scientists use to investigate our ever-changing world. During fall quarter, we studied two historical periods characterized by major revolutions in scientific and artistic practice (the Renaissance and the early 20th century). We are interested in what art and science have to offer one another, both then and now.

During the first four weeks of winter quarter, we will continue our study of 20th-century science, specifically quantum physics, while reading a series of three “science plays”—these will serve as models for students’ own theatrical investigations. During the remaining weeks, students will research, write and rehearse collaborative scripts based on a scientific issue that matters to them. Our all-class meetings will decrease slightly in favor of intensive group research, writing, and rehearsal time. Faculty will provide individualized support to student groups during this period. Students may draw on their existing skill sets—including creating and playing music—to create their performances, but we do not assume any prior experience in theater, creative writing, or music. Performances will take place in the final week of winter quarter.

FAQs

Q: What do I have to do to get caught up if I choose to join the program?

A: Read 3 important fall quarter texts: Drake's *Galileo: A Very Short Introduction* (available at the program web-site), Brecht's *Life of Galileo*, and Stoppard's *Arcadia*.

Q: Do I have to be exceptionally good at math to take this class?

A: No. You do need a solid grasp of high school algebra. The program is designed to introduce key concepts in physics.

Q: Will I have to talk in front of other people?

A: Regularly. Seminar, performance workshops, and our final performance assignment will all help you develop your skills in communicating to an audience.

Q: Will I have to write a lot of papers?

A: Yes. Our focus will be on using essays as a way to think through the program concepts on a deeper level than is often possible in seminar. We will also pay significant attention to the revision process.

Q: Will I have to collaborate with other people?

A: Yes. More than half of your time will be spent working with others. Creating artistic work in collaboration is the hardest thing we will ask you to do, and potentially the most rewarding. If you are good at collaboration, we will be grateful for that skill set. If this is something you've always wanted to get better at, here's your chance.