FALL 2013 FIRST YEAR SEMINARS
(These courses are open ONLY to freshman of the class of 2017)
Students may register for only ONE First Year Seminar

ARCH 159 F1: Origins – Myth, Legend, and Archaeology at the Dawn of Civilization
TTH 9:45 – 11:35 AM
Human beings have a natural drive to explain the origin of things, and thus to find meaning in the universe. An interdisciplinary approach will be used to explore the origins of civilization in the ancient Near East as viewed through (and explained by) ancient mythology, foundation legends, and modern archaeological research.

BIO 159F1: Darwin, Science, Evolution, and You
LEC MWF 01:00PM 01:50PM
LAB T 01:00PM 03:50PM
Few works have had an impact on science as dramatic as Darwin’s the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection. Unfortunately, many don’t understand nor appreciate exactly what Darwin proposed, the context in which he formulated his theory, and the implication Natural Selection has for all science. This seminar provides a forum for the exploration, discussion, and analysis of Darwin’s theory and the reasonable applications of his thought. This course will count as a college elective or as a course in the Natural Sciences (for regular or Scholar’s distribution) but does not count toward the Biology major.

HIST 159F1: MWF 02:00PM 03:05PM
The Salem Witch Trials of 1692 are one of the iconic events in American history. Almost from the conclusion of the final trial, these tragic events captured American imagination. This class examines the trials themselves and the various ways in which contemporaries and historians have interpreted them. Largely a discussion based class; students will analyze trial records, poems, and firsthand accounts of the event. Students will also evaluate differing scholarly and popular interpretations of the trials in Salem. Through this class students will learn the historical method, how to critically evaluate texts, and be able to place the Salem Witch Trials within early Puritan New England society, culture and religion.

REL 159F1: Diggin’ Jesus? Archaeology and the New Testament
MWF 10:15AM-11:20AM
This course looks at the role archaeology can play in illuminating the cultural, historical, and geographical environments in which the New Testament texts were written. Students will learn about some of the methods used in the excavation, dating, and interpretation of material culture. They will examine some of the problems faced by archaeologists who use the New Testament as a reference guide for interpreting historical data, or Bible scholars who seek to find confirmation of New Testament events through archaeology. The course surveys numerous archaeological sites around the eastern Mediterranean and the Near East that are relevant to the study and understanding of the New Testament and early Christianity. This course will count as a college elective, a course in the Humanities (for regular or Scholars distribution), a course in the Religion major, and/or a course in the Archaeology major or minor.

SOC 159 F1:Aging & Society
MWF 09:00AM -10:05AM
This course provides an overview of the significant sociological perspectives, social issues, and social science research pertaining to the phenomenon of aging in society. The course will examine the major theories of social aging, analyze the changing demographic trends and the political economic issues facing aging societies, describe how the broader societal context affects the nature of family relationships, community involvement, and the experiences of retirement and widowhood among the elderly, and examine the current issues in health and social service delivery for care of the elderly.