



Jestermester Course Catalog

2023-2024

Welcome to our first-ever Jestermester Course Catalog! As you read through it, pause for a moment to appreciate the amazing work that went into designing these brand-new courses. Next week, you will have an opportunity to register for your top ten Jestermesters in a process that will be much like the one we use for regular course registration.

If a course has prerequisites or an associated cost, those will be listed immediately below the description in *italics*. If you see nothing there, assume the course is for everyone and free of charge! For those courses that involve extended travel and therefore do incur a cost, students may apply for Student Opportunity Funds.

Ms. Boyajian, Mr. Calos, and Ms. Carton are all available to answer any initial questions that you may have about Jestermester. Next week, we will have our Jestermester fair, where you will have an opportunity to ask more specific questions of the teachers leading each experience.

Courses:

Afro, Now, Then & Presente!

Join a Bi-Coastal Adventure to Colombia's Atlantic & Pacific Regions on a 9-day adventure in Santiago de Cali & Cartagena, Colombia! Colombia has the 3rd largest Afro-descendant population in the Western Hemisphere, with exciting Black Cultures to learn from. In this course, students will explore Black Colombian pasts, presents, and futures by engaging with cuisine, dance, music, oral tradition, and natural spaces. This course will provide an overview on Black Colombian resistance through culture, history, and survival in a country that has benefited from Black Labor & Culture from the period of Spanish Colonization to the present. Come practice your Spanish & critical thought in Colombia.

Prerequisites: Enrollment in Spanish class; Completion of swim test by time of travel; ability to travel with minimal luggage. Students with Spanish language skills who are not currently taking Spanish may be considered, but priority goes to current students.

Cost Estimate: \$4000

Are the Winter Olympics Melting?

Winter sports are already feeling the effects of climate change. Warmer winter seasons and less natural snow have had a substantial impact on sporting events like the Winter Olympics. For this Jestermeister, students will travel to Lake Placid, the host city of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympic Games, to explore the history of the games, learn about and experience various winter sports, and delve into how climate change is affecting the winter sports season.

Prerequisites: This Jestermeister includes a significant amount of physical activity and exposure to winter weather. While students are not required to know how to ski and skate or have their own sporting equipment, they must be willing to learn how to do these sports. Students must also be willing to be outside in the cold for hours at a time.

Estimated Cost: \$1000 per student

Autobiography in Motion

Can physically embodying our personal history through dance offer us an opportunity to re-experience it? This movement-focused Jestermeister is an opportunity for students to dig into their own personal history, going through an initial artifact collection phase and choosing one of three modalities: video footage, a conversation with a family member, or a written/drawn memory from childhood. The artifact will be used in conjunction with experiences that will guide students towards creating an improvisational dance score that will be honed and eventually recorded for the Spring Showcase. Students enrolled in this

Jestermeister should have a desire to investigate their own history and turn it into movement *regardless* of their experience in dance; no experience is required! Students should be ready to move and prepared to co-create a supportive, collaborative community within this Jestermeister.

Art from Art

Your creative expedition begins with a thought-provoking exercise that sets the stage for the incredible art you will produce throughout the course. We invite you to delve deep within your soul and compile a list of questions that stir your intellectual curiosity and ignite your passions. These questions may revolve around the meaning of life, the complexities of human emotions, the mysteries of the universe, or any other enigmatic subject that captivates your mind.

In this Jestermeister, students will visit a variety of local museums and look for personal relevance and inspiration in the art that they see. Students will learn how to engage with a variety of different kinds of visual art and explore the various ways in which they can connect with it on a personal level. Students will create their own artistic product inspired by the piece that resonates most deeply with them.

Choose Your Own Adventure: Ensemble Theatre Project

This immersive project is a site-specific experience that will transform seemingly mundane locations around campus into immersive performance spaces that will inspire students to devise an original retelling of a well-known fairytale. The development of this choose-your-own-adventure re-telling of an original story will commence with a series of prompts, moving through improvisation and ending in a mad lib scripted physical theatre performance.

Cultural Fusion: Discovering Chinese Inspiration in Singapore and Malaysia

In this Jestersemester, you will embark on an exploration and experiential journey through Singapore and Malaysia, uncovering Chinese influence spanning from history to contemporary life across various domains.

Students enrolled in this course will have the opportunity to put their language proficiency to practical use, whether it's ordering food or negotiating prices during shopping endeavors. They will adeptly navigate new environments and cultures through interactions with locals. Engaging in self-directed research, they will investigate political and historical materials related to immigration and the Chinese impact in diverse regions. In addition, collaborative experiences with peers during travel will help them stretch their life and communication skills. Ultimately, they will showcase their grasp of insights and discoveries through multiple mediums such as journals, vlogs, posters, and more.

Prerequisites: Enrollment in Chinese class; ability to travel with minimal luggage. Students with Chinese language skills who are not currently taking Chinese may be considered, but priority goes to current students.

Cost Estimate: \$5000 per student

Create Stuff in the Makerspace

In this hands-on Jestersemester, you will design and create things in the Makerspace using a number of tools including the laser cutter, 3D printers, sewing machines, and basic woodworking tools. You will learn how to create your own laser-cutting designs in Adobe Illustrator and how to use the CAD (computer-aided design) app Onshape to make objects to 3D print. You will have a choice of many different projects including making jewelry, light-up signs, keychains, beanbags, string art, puzzles, games, toys, and other projects of your own invention.

Democracy: Yay or Nay?

The country is in crisis. A long war has just ended, and not well. A devastating plague continues to affect how we live. There has been political upheaval and even political violence. Longstanding institutions have failed. Will democracy persist? Should it? What year is this, 403 BCE or 2023 CE?

In this Jestersemester, you will become an ancient Athenian. Join the people's Assembly in a role-playing game to decide the future of democracy. In this game, you'll debate, give speeches, wheel and deal, and strategize. Outside of the game, you'll read political theory by the likes of Plato and Thucydides, watch an ancient Greek comedy about democracy, and interview present-day lawmakers about democracy.

A Different Land: Journey to Refugee Justice

Maybe you've heard on the news about refugee crises, asylum seekers, and communities that are forcibly displaced. However, it is incredibly difficult to imagine what that life-altering experience is like if you've never lived it. You may also hear on the news about the compassionate work being done by a multitude of non-profit organizations to support those who are displaced and resettled and wonder, "How can I help?" In this Community Engagement-focused Jestersemester, you will hear the voices of refugees and immigrants in the Capital Region. You will visit and work with the organizations that support their journey to this new land. You will learn about their culture through film and food. At the end, you will have the knowledge and skills to amplify the voices of refugees and immigrants and support the newest members of our community.

Diners, Drive-ins and Dives

On the Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives Jestermeister, students will explore “Flavortown” within the capital region. Students will order and review dishes at local restaurants for taste, cost, and support of dietary restrictions. Students will create a brochure/pamphlet from these reviews in order to share with visitors to Emma Willard School. Students will also explore the food cycle and food insecurity within the capital region through service work on a local farm.

Experimental Printmaking Workshop: Pushing the Boundaries of Color, Shape and Texture

In this creative Jestermeister, students will learn and experiment with various printmaking techniques, such as monotype/monoprint and collagraph processes. Using color, shapes, and textures we will explore how to build a composition through layering to achieve depth, rhythm, and movement within a two-dimensional surface. Students will explore making and remaking as part of the process of printmaking. Through a series of demonstrations, students may also be introduced to various experimental techniques such as rainbow rolls, chine-colle, a la poupée, and/or drypoint. No prior experience or artistic ability is required!

Fitness Flurry

In this fun and challenging Jestermeister course, students will experience a variety of fitness and athletic-related activities that will help them propel their personal journey as student-athletes. Fitness Flurry will encourage students to examine and actively work on improving their physical and mental athleticism through developing a holistic approach to reaching their athletic goals in their individual sports.

Students in this Jestermeister will engage in daily physical sports and mindset activities that provide examples of improving their strength, agility, endurance, flexibility, and balance. Examples of activities that are targeted to these areas are Zumba, Barre exercise, hot yoga, pool recovery, and HIIT exercises; these opportunities will be held both on and off campus. Students will also participate in sessions that help them think about their pre- and post-game physical and mental readiness. No prior experience in sports or athletics is required, but students in this course should be excited to get some sustained exercise each day.

Follower Frenzy: 3-Day YouTube Challenges to Capture the Internet's Attention

Be a YouTuber for 3 days in this big competition. The idea behind this Jestermeister is for you to reflect on the place of YouTube/YouTubers in your daily life and the impact they can have. Participants will take on three challenges, record, edit, and promote them. Then, they will reflect on their assumptions about the whole process and what it takes to be a successful YouTuber. Participants will experience the whole process as a team, from being filmed, to filming, to publishing online.

Gender and Justice on and around a College Campus

Students will get a sense of life on a college campus (Colgate University) and how questions of gender and justice play out in the classroom, in an activist center on campus, through the arts and sports, and in the area surrounding campus. Students will have a chance to sit in on a Gender studies/LGBT Studies/Sociology course, interview a student, attend campus events, and take two field trips away from campus to explore 1) legacies of race, gender, and social change, and 2) contemporary reproductive justice.

Estimated Cost: \$300

Girls on Film

Are you a film enthusiast? A feminist? Both? If your answer to any of these questions is “yes,” then this Jestermeister might be for you. Students in this course will watch the films of several female-identifying writer-directors, and explore the ways in which their unique perspectives shape the films that they create. Possible films include Amy Heckerling’s *Clueless* (1995), Gina Prince-Blythewood’s *Love & Basketball* (2000), Gurinder Chadra’s *Bend it Like Beckham* (2001), Sofia Coppola’s *Marie Antionette* (2006), Jane Campion’s *Bright Star* (2009), and Greta Gerwig’s *Lady Bird* (2017).

Most of our Jestermeister week will be spent viewing, analyzing, and discussing these films. Each student will create a [letterboxd account](#) to record their thoughts on each of them, and hopefully emerge with a deeper understanding of film analysis and a curiosity to further explore film studies and all its topics that might interest them.

Great Emma Bakeoff

Welcome to the Great Emma Bakeoff! During this Jestermeister students will learn fundamental elements of baking, work in teams to create dazzling desserts, and travel to the CIA (Culinary Institute of America). There will be four days of baking, and each day will feature a type of baked good including bread, cakes, cookies, and pastry. Students will be guided through a technical recipe in the morning that will help them develop different essential baking skills. In the afternoon, students will work in groups to create a signature/showstopper bake that encourages students to use their creativity and build on the foundational skills from the morning lesson. Guest judges will taste bakes and awards will be given. On your marks, get set, bake!

John Brown: When Does Idealism Become Extremism?

John Brown was a larger-than-life 19th-century abolitionist so deeply determined to end slavery that he sought to begin a violent revolution. He was ultimately hanged after storming the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, and has been remembered by some as a martyr, by others as a lunatic, and by others as an activist confronting an evil institution. In this history-oriented Jestermeister, we will study John Brown’s life to examine how moral decisions are made. This course will begin with the traveling museum exhibit “Dreaming of Timbuctoo” from Martha Swann of the John Brown Museum, and then we will travel with Martha for three days to trace Brown’s journey to Harper’s Ferry, stopping at sites along the way and seeking answers to guiding questions like “When is violence justified, and who gets to decide?” Most importantly, we will explore why John Brown’s story is relevant today.

Estimated Cost: \$600

Look Around: The Revolution is Happening in New York

Students in this Jestermeister will have first-hand encounters with American Revolution history in New York State through site visits, conversations with reenactors and historians, and even eating some Revolution-inspired meals. Tentative locations to visit include Saratoga, Schuyler Mansion, Johnson Hall, Cherry Valley, and Schoharie. Each of these locations provides a crucial link in the story of the American Revolution in New York and will highlight separate aspects of the story, from women’s experiences to Native history to the lives of soldiers in the militias and continental armies.

Memory Remix: Cyanotype Workshop for Reinventing the Past

In this art-focused Jestermeister, you will reflect on personal experiences and memories, using photography as a medium for self-expression. Over the course of our week together, you will engage in iterative cycles of learning about alternative photographic techniques. You will begin with an experiential

lesson on the history of photography, which includes viewing a camera obscura, and physical examples of tintypes, ambrotypes, and cyanotypes. Then, you will learn how to use the cyanotype process and experiment with various methods of applying and manipulating the medium. Through hands-on experience, you will acquire proficiency in these techniques and utilize them to create their own narratives centered around the theme of memory.

Nerd Out: Explore and Write Fanfiction

Do you have a fandom you're passionate about? Do you want time to explore it more? Join "Nerd Out!" Throughout our week in Jestermerster, we will be reading, writing, and exploring different kinds of fanfiction. What is fanfiction, you ask? Fanfiction is where the author uses something, be it characters, setting, or another element from an already published work to launch their own creative product. This course is a great place to start your first fanfiction ever or to develop existing ideas. Don't worry if you don't feel that you're good at writing: this course is for everyone! All you need is to be ready to NERD OUT about your favorite fandom!

New York City: What Works

We love New York City – but why? To answer this question, our group will spend three rich days in New York City walking the streets, seeing the sights, and, yes, attending a Broadway show. We will look carefully at what makes the city wonderful, and we will pay attention to what doesn't work and how it might be improved. By the end, you will have a better idea of why cities are our greatest invention. And maybe, like us, you will fall a little more in love with this great city.

Estimated Cost: \$700

Our Stories, Our Voices

There was once a girl who thought she was a storyteller. She loved her imagination, the way it brought characters into her life. But it was hard to find her own story. "Our Story, Our Voices" is a collective practice of unearthing our own stories and receiving the stories of others. In our week together we will investigate the purpose of storytelling, with a special focus on spoken stories. How does sharing our story aloud impact us and our audience? Beginning with an intention to build trust and space for vulnerability, we will get messy and be risk-takers in how we share and hear stories. Our time together will culminate in a family-style dinner, where we will each share a work-in-progress short story.

Sewing 101: Sewing and Sustainability

In Sewing & Sustainability 101, students will learn about how fast fashion harms our world and the impact of their clothing purchases. They will also learn about brands and innovators working to do good and about how they can make a difference through individual choices. Alongside these conversations, students will learn the basics of hand and machine sewing, creating felt dinosaurs and tote bags. They'll also learn about how secondhand clothes can be altered, embellished, and mended to give them new life.

Sports Journalism

Students enrolled in this course will be asked to examine sports through a critical lens for quite possibly the first time. They will explore statistics, game analysis, play-by-play, and the people behind the game through both written and audio/visual media. Students will discover why sports matter, how they bring people together, why we cover them, why we share athletes' stories with the world, watch games, speak with professionals in the field, and ultimately produce a piece of sports media.

Students' experiences will range from finding meaningful examples of sports stories, profiling the impact of journalism on the lives of specific athletes, visiting local media outlets, and speaking with professionals in the field (TV sports analysts, newspaper, college sports information, etc.), and watching live sports to then report on.

Unleashing the Senses: An Experiential Journey into the Visual Arts and Music

"Unleashing the Senses" is an experiential class that will dive deep into the realms of visual arts and music and will take you on a journey of creativity, imagination, and self-discovery! Whether you consider yourself an artist or not, this course will help you tap into your innate creativity and artistic potential; prepare to unleash the hidden talents you never knew you had! Through experiential field trips and hands-on activities, you will gain an in-depth understanding of how our senses and emotions inform our art and vice versa. Get ready to embark on a journey where the arts will ignite your senses, inspire your soul, and fuel your imagination. "Unleashing the Senses" is not just a class; it's an adventure of self-discovery and creativity. Let's make this an extraordinary Jestermeister filled with colors, melodies, and boundless creativity!

Voyage En Guadeloupe

Join us on a 10-day journey to Guadeloupe, a butterfly-shaped island in the French Caribbean. Explore the island's past at the Memorial ACTe (a museum offering historical exhibits on the Caribbean's slave trade and indigenous people) and encounter its future at a local elementary school. Learn about biodiversity and sustainability on the island's beaches and in its rainforests. Taste the food, see the sights, and speak the language!

Requirements: Level III or above proficiency in French (at the discretion of program leaders); Completion of swim test by time of travel; Ability to travel with minimal luggage.

Cost Estimate: \$2000

The Writer's Retreat

This Jestermeister will give you the opportunity to step away from your regular Emma life and enter the world of words and your imagination. Over the course of the week, you will write in community and on your own, sharing responses to prompts and drafts of whatever you are working on in a supportive community of fellow writers. Students in this course can write in any genre or in multiple genres. They will craft and revise a single piece or work on several short pieces over the course of the week. We will also take a bookstore & coffee shop field trip and visit with a local writer.

Yoga and Meditation Retreat

Do you need to slow down and take a step back from your everyday stresses? Are you interested in yoga and meditation? In this Jestermeister, we will take the time to foster a calm and contemplative atmosphere as we explore common yoga asanas (poses), the fundamentals of yoga philosophy, and basic practices and frameworks of mindfulness meditation. You can expect to spend time in a technology-free setting moving and meditating, reflecting in creative ways, discussing your experiences with your peers, and building community through games and other fun activities. We hope that you will be able to use this week to experiment with lots of different ideas and techniques so that you can incorporate the ones that resonate into your everyday life. Any level of experience is welcome in this Jestermeister, including experienced practitioners and those who have never tried these practices before!