



Alumni College Course Descriptions



SATURDAY, JUNE 7
9:15-10:15 a.m.

What are the "things" in "How are things?"

Marvin Bram, professor emeritus of history



We spend our lives in a world full of objects. Is that a trivial thing to say? Is there something about those

objects, all of them, that can make the difference between a stimulating life and an unstimulating life? Have we been fooled somehow about objects, and if so, can we stop being fooled and head toward that stimulating life?

Richard Upjohn and Gothic Revival Geneva

Michael Tinkler, assistant professor of art



Hobart's St. John's Chapel, an excellent example of 19th Century Gothic Revival architecture,

will serve as the centerpiece for considering how people decide what style to build in. We will look at St. John's in real life and then study some other local examples digitally.

Stop by Reunion Headquarters for the complete schedule of Reunion events.

Modern American Conservatism:

Iva Deutchman, professor of political science



The upcoming presidential race is an important one, not only for the Republican

Party but for the conservative movement, which has controlled the Republican Party for 30 plus years. Senator John McCain (R-Arizona), the presumptive nominee, is not a popular candidate with a variety of conservatives. Indeed, there is some talk among (some) fundamentalist Christians about just staying home. Of course, if enough of them did that, and Obama or Clinton are elected, presumably either of them would do more harm (from a conservative's point of view) than McCain. At any rate, this is the first time in recent history that so many conservatives have been so upset with their own party in terms of their nominee for a presidential election. We'll discuss the history of conservatism within the Republican Party and what the current debates might mean for the 2008 campaign and election.

Living and Dying in the Fourteenth Century.

Laurence Erussard, assistant professor of English



The 14th Century should have been the heir to the newly invigorated medieval growth of the High Middle Ages. During these three centuries, the population doubled; Europe ceased to be economically underdeveloped, intellectually derivative and passive; and it witnessed the birth of universities and philosophical movements. However, the 14th century was

marked by the Black Death and the Peasant Revolts. During this class, we will try to imagine what it meant to be alive during this long and painful century.

Treasure Hunt for HWS's Unique Trees

Sarah Meyer, community outreach coordinator and Nathan Burch, GIS specialist, Finger Lakes Institute



In 2003, 26 trees were identified by the Campus Greens and the Alumnae Association by name and displayed for their significance to the campus's natural environment.



Participants in this course will use global position system (GPS) units to orient themselves around campus, finding the unique trees, learning their identifying features and natural history. The team which completes the treasure hunt first will be rewarded! (No prior experience with GPS needed.)

Twenty-First Century Challenges to the Finger Lakes: Linking Research and Viable Communities to Long Term Protection

Marion Balyszak, director of the Finger Lakes Institute



The 11 Finger Lakes of New York State provide an ideal scientific laboratory for research and education. Communities surrounding these bodies of water are experiencing unprecedented growth and development which directly corresponds to water quality of these freshwater resources. Water-

based recreation, sports fisheries, wildlife habitat, and a diverse industrial and agricultural sector, including a renowned winery industry, are important economic, social and ecological attributes for this region. However, the 21st century will pose some significant challenges to the long term protection of these lakes as they are increasingly subjected to a variety of environmental stresses. The session will look at how the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges is meshing research, education and outreach with economic viability to foster sound decision-making in regional communities for water quality protection as well as sustainable and economically viable communities. The session will provide an overview of ongoing scientific research on the lakes and how it is translated to academic and regional settings through education and community outreach.

How New York City Became the Nation's Largest City, and Why It Matters to Us
Clifton Hood, professor of history

In 1800, New York City was the nation's second largest city, after Philadelphia. By 1850, it had become the largest and most economically important city in North America. By 1900, it was the second largest city in the world, after London; its population was nearly sixty times greater than it had been

100 years earlier; and Wall Street had become a major international financial center that was both reviled and envied.

How did New York's rise happen? What does it mean for our understanding of American history and of cities today? I'll review a few explanations that earlier scholars have given and consider what their analyses say about their approaches to urban culture. Then I'll offer an explanation that's part of a book I'm writing about New York City's economic elites. I'll end by discussing the kind of city that New York became, a quintessentially American city devoted above all to the pursuit of profits.

Classes of 1973 Forum: Part I

Grant Holly, professor of English and Dan O'Connell, professor of English



This special Forum will commemorate the unique experience surrounding the late 1960's and early 70's in the context of the history of the Colleges and our nation. This class will involve a lively discussion about



the events that unfolded on campus and beyond it - from politics and the war to social and cultural shifts. In four years, members of the Classes of 1973 went from house mothers and closed dorms

Haven't registered for class yet? Stop by Reunion Headquarters for available seats.